



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church & Christian Preschool
Rev. Russ Leeper, Pastor
Melanie Johanningmeier, Director of Music

May 17, 2020: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Prelude: "Praise Him! Praise Him!" with "I Sing Praises" Tornquist

Welcome

Announcements

Radio Broadcast: Sue Baron & family in memory of Bob Baron

*Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires know, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: "Come Now is the Time to Worship"

Refrain:

Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship.

Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

One day, ev'ry tongue will confess You are God.

One day, ev'ry knee will bow.

Still, the greatest treasure remains

for those who gladly choose you now. **Refrain**

Apostolic Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Response: **And also with you**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Music: "Ho Ho Ho Hosanna"

Reading: **Acts 17:22-28**

22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring."

Gospel Acclamation:



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John 14:15-21



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

15 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

18 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

P: The Gospel of the Lord...

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Russ Leeper

Hymn of the Day

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Hymnal #631

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

The Creed

The Apostles' Creed
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord, who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

The Prayers (P): Lord in your mercy,
Response: **hear our prayer**

Please keep the following in prayer:

Dan Carey	Sylvia Frascht
Norma Jean Ihle	Randy Kreger
Alan Farmer	Sandra Link

Please pray for all serving in the Armed Forces & their families: Alex Buenger, Kim Hall, Dalton Schutjer, Robson Shankland

The Prayer List: Names will be kept on the list for 3 weeks. Family members can request a name be left on longer. The office number is 228-3397.

Special Music:

“You Already Know”
Annemarie, Kylie, MaKenna, and Janae Hansen

J.J. Heller

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory
forever and ever.
Amen**

The Benediction

P: Let's hold each other in prayer & stay safe!

Closing Hymn

“Great and Mighty”

Great and mighty is the Lord our God
Great and mighty is He.
Great and mighty is the Lord our God
Great and mighty is He.

Lift up your banner let the anthems ring,
Praises to our King
Great and mighty is the Lord our God.
Great and mighty is He.

Postlude

“Holy is the Lord” with “We Bow Down”

Tornquest



A message from Greg Buenger, St. John Church Council President:

In response to the current COVID-19 situation, the St. John Lutheran Church Executive Committee and Church Council are recommending that the church remain closed until at least June 1, 2020. We feel this is an appropriate response to help minimize the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and well-being of our congregation. Our bishop and other church leaders in Iowa are urging congregations to refrain from restarting in-person church gatherings too soon. We will continue to evaluate how things develop over the next four weeks and make further decisions about church activities in late May.



From Pastor Russ: We will continue our radio and online worship services until it's safe for us to worship in person again. Let's continue to hold each other in prayer and know that God is with us right where we are. *Peace be with you!*

Though the St. John building is closed to the public, you can call the office with any questions or concerns. When staff is there your call will be answered, otherwise leave a voicemail for Kathy. When you call the office after the announcement there is a short pause and then her voicemail. Kathy can check her voicemail from home. You can also reach her by emailing khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com.

The May Good Newsletter is available! You will be able to view it online at www.stjohncharlescity.org, there is a link to the website on the E-skinny, & copies of the newsletter will be in the outdoor mailbox in the afternoons!



GRADUATION SUNDAY - MAY 24TH

St. John will have a special service & recognition
for our graduates!

Our guest Preacher will be Bishop Steven Ullestad

A member of the St. John congregation has 2 iPads that she is willing to lend to someone who would like to watch the Sunday morning service on YouTube. She will clean and sanitize them, deliver to you, and pick them up. If anyone is interested in one call the church office at 641-228-3397 and leave a message

**Your offering can be mailed to St. John
Lutheran, 200 S Main St,
Charles City, IA 50616**

OR...

**If you would like to sign up for Simply
Giving, the program that allows you to
give to the church through electronic
transfer, call Linda at 228-3397 & look
in the May newsletter for the form to fill
out and send to St. John**

**Offering from the week of
May10, 2020**

General Receipts	\$	12,487.65
Designated offering		45.00

*General receipts of \$9,757.00 are needed weekly to meet the
approved budget*

Volunteering Opportunities...

We would like volunteers to call some of our members during this time of isolation. We would like to make a list of people that would like to call and also those that would perhaps enjoy that call.

Another volunteer opportunity would be a "errand group" to help those of you that are older or more health compromised that might need something picked up at the grocery store, etc. We have a member who works in Mason City and has volunteered to run errands to and from there Monday – Thursday.

To volunteer or to have calls and errands done for you call the church office at 641-228-3397 and leave a message for Kathy. You can also email her at khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com

Also happening...

- The Synod Assembly in June has been postponed. The 2020 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly will be held August 22 at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Please note change of location. Due to the unknown duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, updated registration forms will be mailed to congregations on June 22. Registration forms will also be available on the synod website. The Synod Council and staff will continue to monitor restrictions on large gatherings. If we need to cancel/postpone August 22, a decision will be made by July 15. The alternate date of August 22nd has been selected for the main purpose of electing a new bishop.
- Music at St. John: due to the extension of the "Social Distancing" recommendation of April 30th by the federal government, all St. John choirs will not reconvene until the Fall season. However, Melanie asks that if you have a favorite hymn or song that you would like to be part of our electronic worship service or summer worship service when we can come together again as a congregation, to let her or Kathy in the office know. You can reach the office at 641-228-3397 or email Kathy at khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com