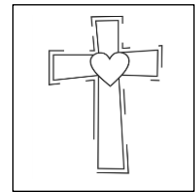


Perley Lutheran Parish
May 17th
6th Sunday of Easter



Welcome and Announcements

- Devotions happening on Wednesday evenings at 7pm
- Both congregations met on Monday to create a “Re-opening Perley Parish” plan – attached
- We will have service on Sunday, May 24th but not on Sunday, May 31st – (5th Sunday – Service Sunday-find something fun to do for another in your house/family/neighborhood etc...safely though!!!)
- Working on a plan to connect with our graduates so you will be hearing more soon
- Continue to send in your offerings
- Keep in touch – if you need something please reach out
- Invite friends to watch!

Opening Responses:

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen

C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

C: **We give you thank, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus’ wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace and love. Satisfy the thirsty and give us the life only you can give.**

P: To you God, be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen

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.

Psalm 66:8-20 (Read Responsively)

Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, **who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.** For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. **You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;** you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place. **I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows,** those that my lips uttered, and my mouth promised when I was in trouble. **I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.** Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. **I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.** If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. **But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.** Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

First Reading Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 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. 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, 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. 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, 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. 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.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Holy Gospel according to John 14:15-21, **Glory to you O Lord**

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 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.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 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."

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message:

Children's Sermon (John 14:15-21) The Holy Spirit

Hello, children of God! Have you ever spent time away from someone you love? Maybe you had a sleepover, or a trip where you weren't in your home. You might miss the people that you're separated from in those circumstances, right? It's challenging.

Have you ever taken something with you to remind you of those loved ones? Or, if you've gone away from home, have you taken something that felt like home? Perhaps you have a special blanket or stuffed animal that does this job, comforting you and reminding you of things and people you love (*hold up my stuffed animal and son's bunny*)

Sometimes having a little something with you helps, because it makes you think of what has been left behind, and it lets you rest assured that you'll be together again sometime.

(Describe how those items bring comfort when you miss someone or something you love.)

So even though you might not see your family or home for a little while, these items give you a little part of them, and bring you peace because you know they still care for you. Did you know that Jesus did something similar for us? Before He died, He told His disciples that He was going to send them a special helper. He said that He would be physically gone, and they wouldn't see Him, but that He wasn't leaving them forever. Jesus said He would give His spirit to comfort.

That message was not just for the disciples, but it's for us, too! We don't see God with our eyes, but we know that His Spirit lives in us, and we can feel that. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray, guides us, and comforts us. We know that God is present always. We also know that we can experience God when we continue to pray, read our Bibles, and participate in worship services. He is always at work in our lives, and He will come back one day!

For now, we will take the comforting reminder that He never leaves us. We can also show evidence of having that Holy Spirit within us. As we demonstrate love to one another, and as we follow God's rules and commandments, we prove that the Spirit is alive and working everywhere, and we prove our love for Jesus. Let's share that today, and every day! What a blessing to be thankful for. Why don't we say a prayer to our great God for that?

Children's Prayer Moment

Thank you for all of the words of Jesus
Thank you for the comfort of your Spirit
Help us to remember what that means
And to live always in your presence
Thank you for your love
We love you, God!
In Jesus name, Amen!

Message:

Grace and Peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

Our Gospel today is all about the Holy Spirit. If I were to ask you about the Trinity – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit I can probably guess that you may squirm a bit in what and how you answer. As I did when we talked about the Holy Trinity in our confirmation course, I will be the first to admit that it's hard to explain and therefore clearly to understand how 3 can be 1.

We can most likely explain and understand the Father – God the Father who watches over us and promised us amazing things by believing. God the Son who came to dwell among us, he lived and died and rose to take away our sins. That's perhaps the easiest of the three to understand. When it comes to the Holy Spirit however, it can get a little sketchy. It's not something easily described, it's not something that we can truly compare to anything else and it's not something that we often times even really want to admit or talk about in our lives.

When I think about Holy Spirit I always find my mind first finding itself thinking of High School sports events. How one side would holler at the top of their lungs "We've got spirit, yes we do! We've got spirit, how 'bout you?" and then the other side trying to top the noise level and holler right back "We've got spirit, yes we do! We've got spirit, how 'bout you?" Back and forth the banter would go and it pulled everyone in to be excited and rejuvenated in being together, being supportive and being present in the moment. That might be a good understanding of what the Holy Spirit is in our lives.

Our Gospel today really is broke two parts – two themes of promises. First of all, Jesus promises to care for each and every one of us. What a wonderful feeling to know you are cared for, right? We all want to be loved and cared for – that's human nature and Jesus is promising that we will be. He knows however, that he is not going to be here too much longer. Our Gospels the last few weeks have had him on the road to the cross, washing the disciples feet at the Last Supper and his showing us how to be disciples ourselves. He knows that

he will be leaving soon and it is with this passage – these words from his mouth – that he is reassuring us that we won't be alone even when he is gone.

He promises that he will give us another Advocate – or as other version of the Gospel say “counselor” “comforter”. Jesus was promising that God was going to send us the Holy Spirit. Jesus was preparing them – after all they were going to soon see him hung on a cross and die. He knew they would be confused, feel betrayed, and feel lost and he wanted them to know that even then, even when he would ascend to the Father, they were not going to be left alone. Jesus cared for them and he was going to let them wonder or worry about how life would be without him.

When you look at the original Greek word for this passage – the word counselor – or “Paraclete” as is the word in the Greek language – the meaning of that word means one who walks along side of you encouraging and instructing. A person who cares for you. I think that pretty much sums up God's care and concern for us, doesn't it? That's what the Holy Spirit does for us in our lives, it comforts and guides and protects us. Jesus knows that we can't work our way into heaven – remember we don't get for because of our good works. Jesus is sends the Holy Spirit to remind us that we can't do it alone – that we need God in our lives to get there – he tells the disciples who are gathered and he tells us.

This is a promise that he keeps – a promise that the Holy Spirit will be with us when we live our lives of sin and that the Spirit will help us to turn ourselves toward Christ as it is only through Him that we can be forgiven and saved. It's almost as if the Holy Spirit is holding a mirror in front of us to remind us that we cannot do this ourselves – to see our sinful selves – we must be reminded of who can take them away. It's only when we find ourselves alongside our neighbors – willing to put Christian love into practice – that we can truly feel the Holy Spirit filling our hearts. He moves to love one another just like we are loved by God. In this way, we are obeying the commandment and will find the love through our willing response to the Holy Spirit at work in our hearts.

The second part or promise of this Gospel is that Jesus promises to BE with us. Jesus makes that clear when he says “You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in ^[c] you.” The Holy Spirit is with us and in us and it didn't just show up. The Holy Spirit has been with us – drawing us to Jesus – for much longer than we ever knew. Martin Luther points that out in his small catechism when he wrote “I believe I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the one true faith.” We didn't create the relationship with the Holy Spirit – it was the Holy Spirit who came to find us and make his home within us. He did this through the Word, the gospel of the Lord, and through the salvation in Christ.

We don't often times give the Holy Spirit the credit that it's due. We have our faith because of the Spirit, we continue to live in Christ because of the Spirit, we accept the commandments we are given because of the Spirit helping us and we are reminded of God's promises for us all because of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit reminds us – when we hear the Gospel and God's word and when we partake in the sacraments. It reminds us that have a caring and faith God who loves us so very much that he died for our sins. A God who loves us to very much that he rose again so that we may have eternal life.

I find this neat analogy when I was doing some research for my message and thought it not only made a lot of sense but was something that we could all relate to. Think about a time when you have been in our car and you suddenly hear an old and favorite song on the radio – one you perhaps hadn't heard for ages – and yet the sound of it truly just made you smile. Why? Well when we don't hear those favorites for a long time, we find our minds being filled with so many other things that the old and favorite and familiar songs seem to get forgotten. That's what can happen to our faith. We can find ourselves filling up on other things – fill our minds with worldly things rather than that of the Gospel. We can find our attention being pulled to things of worry and fear, question and doubt that our hearts can be filled with them rather than the promises Christ

gave to us. But we don't have to deal with this alone remember. Jesus keeps his promises by continuing to send the Spirit to remind us of what's important. To remind us of the old and favorite Words of God. It's the Holy Spirit that leads us to know and be reminded that the gifts of forgiveness, the gifts of hope, the gifts of life and salvation are all ours. He promised.

When you have those moments or when you worry and wonder if "you've got spirit, yes, you do" like the old school chant – remember that your faith in God says you do. The Holy Spirit reminds us of the simpler things of faith and it's all right there laid out in the Word of God. So listen to God. Accept the amazing gift of grace that God has promised and simply believe. After all, YOUR God promised it. Amen

Hymn of the Day: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love, divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Never-more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, Glory in thy perfect love.

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 Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the people: (Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**)

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed, speak truth to power through your prophets and help us to heal the lands and people. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for our world Lord as this pandemic crushes our livelihoods and our spirits. We pray for all those who suffer in any way. We ask that you lift up those who are lonesome, those who are dealing with health issues. God there are so many dealing with so many illnesses we ask that you be with Alana and Rick and Jeff and all those that we now name in our hearts.... Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Your commands are good and merciful. Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless and free the oppressed in body, mind or spirit. Continue to remain with us always, O God, as your kingdom has no end. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your external care; through Christ our Lord and be with us now as we say the prayer that Jesus taught to us....

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.

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

Blessing:

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

Sending Hymn: Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me this I know

For the bible tells me so

Little ones to him belong

They are weak but he is strong

Yes, Jesus loves me

Yes Jesus loves me

Yes, Jesus loves me

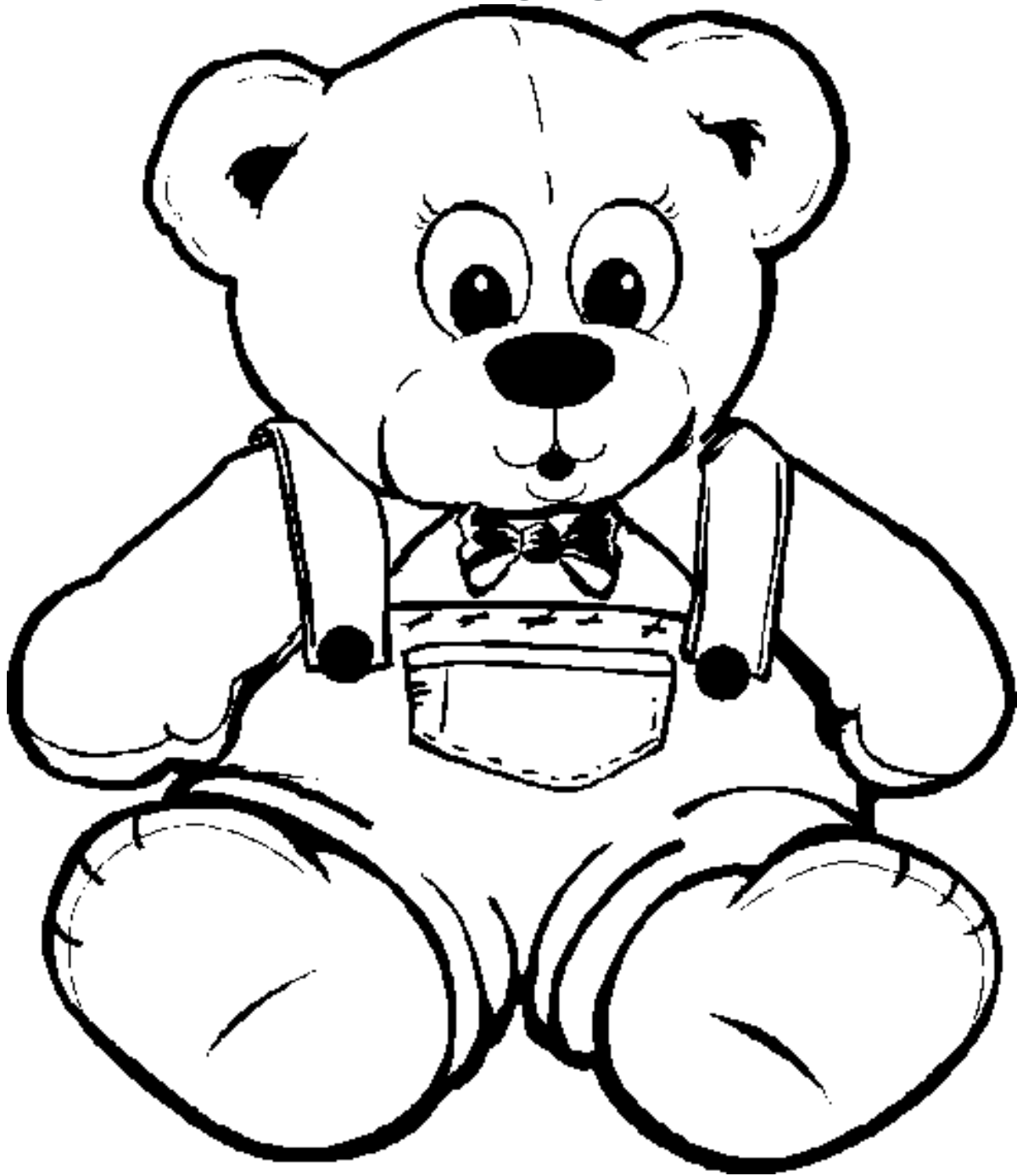
For the Bible tells me so

Dismissal:

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Pastor Intern Michele Jenson: Phone: 701-261-0998 Email: mjenson001@luthersem.edu Web Page: www.perleyparish.org Email: perleyparish@gmail.com

**The Comforter (Teddy Bear)
Coloring Page**



Jesus promises the Holy Spirit

John 14:15-21

"I will ask the Father. And he will give you another
Friend to help you and to be with you forever. "

John 14:16 (NIRV)

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit



John 14:16

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever." John 14:16 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 14:15-21 (NIV).

B L L A D W G C L A I A X R N
D X S L S G N C O S A M I O O
Q N R H P K Y O I M H S A I K
N O R M I O L E R S M O K A X
W I U K R A C C E P T A W B K
H F Y U I E M O B G H Z N E A
H J T G T V C C V V B A S D J
G W N H N I N O Q W G D N S E
F X S L D M Y U K H Q F P S F
R C T K I H Y N C T H O G M R
Z Z G L O V E S R G L R T Y D
F A T H E R E E P A B E R S Y
M U R O P S O L I E T V U E E
K O O B E Y V O M Z M E T L O
H C Q N E I P R Z B F R H F U

FATHER	WORLD	OBEY	COUNSELOR	SHOW
ASK	COMMAND	LIVE	SPIRIT	LOVE
FOREVER	ORPHANS	MYSELF	TRUTH	ACCEPT

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever." John 14:16 (NIV)

Unscramble the letters and write the word correctly in the space provided.



John 14:16

1. OBYE _____

2. LVOE _____

3. ISPTRI _____

4. SWHO _____

5. UESSJ _____

6. OWRDL _____

7. TRUHT _____

8. RTAFEH _____

FATHER	OBEY	JESUS	TRUTH
WORLD	SHOW	SPIRIT	LOVE