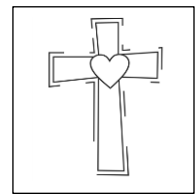


Perley Lutheran Parish
May 24th
7th Sunday of Easter



Welcome and Announcements

- Devotions happening on Wednesday evenings at 7pm
- Continue to monitor the COVID crisis and watch for implementation of our Re-Opening Plan
- No service next Sunday, May 31st –Service Sunday-find something fun to do for another in your house/family/neighborhood etc...safely though!!!
- Met with graduates
- 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

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgement in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalms 104:24-35 (Read Responsively)

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. **Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it. These all look to you to give them their food in due season;** when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. **When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.** When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground. **May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works—** who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. **I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.** May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD. Let sinners be consumed from the earth and let the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!

First Reading Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with

the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Holy Gospel according to John 20:19-23, **Glory to you O Lord**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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

Children's Message:

Introduce your children to the Hebrew word *Shalom*. *Shalom* is traditionally used as a greeting. *Shalom Aleichem* means "Peace be with you." Although many people use the term casually, as we would say "hello" or "good-bye," the word *Shalom* has a much deeper meaning.

Explain that *Shalom* is a sense of wholeness and well-being that exists when we are at peace with God and others because we have allowed God to forgive our sins and replace our sinful human nature with His new nature (**Romans 8:5-8**). Everyday circumstances occur that require us to ask God to send His Holy Spirit to bring *Shalom* into our lives. **Philippians 4:6-7** says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." It is wanting things "my way" or our sinful nature that tempts us to want to repay evil for evil, to be first and to have the biggest and the best for ourselves. But Jesus tells us that the first will be last. He teaches us His way: to share what we have, to give generously and to forgive others readily. Following our sin nature fosters discord, but Jesus' way promises peace.

Through familiarizing your children with the significance of this word, you can expand their vocabulary and their understanding of God's role in bringing peace into our lives. For younger children, you may want to complete these activities over the course of a few days. If you prefer, these activities can be done using the word *peace* instead of *Shalom*.

- Begin by asking your children to imagine that they are in the Garden of Eden. Pretend to be walking around together, looking at all of the wonderful plants and animals God created. Point at butterflies flying by, pet an otter and perhaps go for a ride on a tiger. Highlight what a privilege it would be to walk and talk with God as Adam and Eve did. Emphasize the reverence and awe you would experience being in the presence of God. Tell your children that because Adam and Eve had not yet sinned, they were able to be in God's presence and experience complete *shalom*.
- Ask your children if they know how Adam and Eve ruined the peace that existed between themselves and God. Liken this to a child sneaking a cookie. A child who has taken a cookie without asking permission does not want to be seen by a parent.
- Pretend to be Adam and Eve hiding from God. Explain how the snake tricked you into doing it and tell God how sorry you are for eating the fruit He asked you not to eat. Dramatize crying after God asks you to leave the garden. Sit down and pretend to pull weeds and dig up the hard dirt outside of the Garden of Eden. Illustrate that just as we hate weeds in our garden, so God hates sin. While continuing to pull the pretend weeds, explain that in order to bring restore peace between God and man, God chose to send His Son, Jesus, into the world to die for our sins. Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. He did this so that anyone who asks can have their sins forgiven and find peace through having a relationship with God (**John 3:16, John 14:6** and **1 John 1:8-9**). Read aloud Jesus' promise from **John 14:27**: "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."
- Next, encourage your children by explaining that when we choose live with Jesus' attitude in our hearts we experience the peace He promises.

Close by pretending to bring out a large, beautifully wrapped gift. Have your children guess who the amazing gift is from. After the guesses have been completed, explain that gifts usually do come from people who love us. Ask if they know who loves them more than anyone else. Explain that God's love is bigger than the sky (**Psalm 108:4**) and that Shalom is such a great gift, only God can give it to us. Make it clear that it is God's Holy Spirit living in us, which can bring peace to our lives (**Galatians 5:16-26**). Tell them the good news that God is delighted to give us Shalom (His peace) when we ask Him to. Pray together and ask for the good gift of the Holy Spirit to bring peace to your family.

Children's Prayer Moment

Jesus, helps us to remember that we should live by your way rather than our way. Help us to remember that your peace will protect our hearts and minds. Help us to share the peace you have given each of us with others so that we may all be feeling love and peace. In your name we pray. Amen.

Message:

Grace and peace to your from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

Our Gospel this morning is a continuation – a part two you could say - to our last week message about the Holy Spirit. Last week we discussed the promise that Jesus gave to the disciples and to us that we were not going to be left alone. Although he would be ascending to heaven, Jesus reassured them that they were not being abandoned – that he was sending the Holy Spirit to take over where he left off and be among them once he was gone.

Our story continues this morning with the disciples still locked away – hidden in their homes perhaps behind barricaded doors. Although they had recently heard the news of the tomb being empty, they still weren't really clear on what was happening and who was looking for them. The day was wearing on and their nervousness and anxiety is growing and growing. Here they are all tucked away in their home trying to avoid danger.

Hmmmmmmm, sounds a little familiar doesn't it? Here we are 2,000 years later and once again we are sheltering in our homes and trying to stay safe. The disciples have hidden themselves away – they were in fear of danger and that's really quite similar to what we are doing these days. We too are fearful from all that is going on and around us right now – none of us want to be exposed to this virus, none of us want to get sick or get our loved ones sick, no one wants to lose a battle with this illness and let's be honest, none of us want to lose our lively-hood because of what our economy is going through right now. It's a viscous circle right now – businesses don't want to lose their companies, workers don't want to lose their jobs and all of us wonder how we can continue to make ends meet. ALL of this clearly brings anxiety into our lives these days and let's also be honest that us being home – seeing the news and the doom and gloom – clearly doesn't help. There really is no escaping the anxiousness in our lives right now – some are essential workers putting themselves in harms way every time they go to work, some are attempting to work at home, some are parenting and teaching children at the same time as attempting to work. It's a crazy busy and anxious time for all. All of this can help us to understand what the disciples were thinking and going through in our gospel too.

Things change for them when Jesus appears behind their locked door. Things change for them when Jesus with them peace – peace from a risen Lord. Things change for him when he brings the Holy Spirit to them. I am reminded when I read this passage of times when I would babysit while in high school. There were times when I would start playing with the kids and we'd be having a wonderful time – while of course the parents had snuck out for a while. It was fine until the all of the sudden realized that they were no longer there. The

kids would panic – sometimes there were tears, often times there was some intentional reassuring and usually there was anxiousness about how to proceed without mom and dad being around. There also was always a moment of relief – whew, they came back – when the children would see their parents pull into the driveway. That a bit like what the disciples were feeling when Jesus appears to them.

Jesus was their peace – when he was with them there was peace and anxiety just melted away. Think about your own life – there are people in our lives that can walk into a room and bring a sense of peace, reassurance and a presence of calmness. We also may have people in our lives who walk into the same room and everyone around finds themselves tensing up and anxiety mounting. Jesus is the one who brings the calmness – the peace – to his followers that day and can continue to do that for us. He is the Word made flesh – all things have come into being because and through him. We would be and have nothing without him. Nothing would exist if were not for Jesus- he is the beginning and the end.

He also is peace because he himself has been through it ALL. He has done it all – rejection from those who were his closest and dearest friends and condemnation from those he came to teach and love, whipped and taunted and tortured. He's done it or had it done to him. He has carried the weight of all of our sins and sorrows. He has hung in pain on a cross, laid to rest in a grave, overcome death and overcome it all.

This is the Jesus who enters into the room in our passage this morning. This is the Jesus who greets his disciples with “Peace be with you” and this peace is not just lip service or a kind gesture of simple words. This peace passes all human understanding – this peace that Jesus shares is peace in an anxious time. Jesus has a new life, he has overcome death and is victorious and his peace with it all is now our peace. In this peace we can cast all of our cares – all of our anxiety and fears – on him.

How then can we take our Gospel this morning and connect it and use it in our lives today? We are in a time of growing anxiety and we too can really use the peace that Christ passed along to them and to us that day. Let us try to remember right now to be present in our days. We all worry about the future and especially now when there is so much uncertainty and it's nearly impossible to plan what is coming and what will not be coming. Peace can however exist in the day – if we focus on today and work to get through this day in a manner that allows us peace and reassurance. Be present and aware of this day and these moments. This indeed is the day that the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it. God's blessings come to us each day. In our here and now – if you look around you will see all kinds of signs of God and peace can be found then in knowing that God is near. Remember to dwell in the present and in today rather than worry about what's to come.

We also can find peace in our anxiety and worry if we acknowledge it and accept that it is real and happening. As you live with those fear and worry, remember that God has promised to be with us through it all – until the end of time. Remember that long list of what Jesus went through – all that he conquered and know that he is near in all that we too are going through. Even when the time comes for us to leave this world – he WILL be there with us. That is again a great gift and promise of peace that we are given.

Finally, you and I and those disciples that day are all embraced and filled with the peace of Jesus, he lives within us. We become carriers of that peace and we too can give it and share it with others who are dealing with anxiousness in this world. Jesus told them “as the Father has sent me, so I send you” and you and you and you. He's filled us with peace so we can share it with others wherever our lives lead us.

In this world today there are surely those that are filled with anxiousness and fear in their hearts right now. In this world today there is surely those like Thomas who wonder and doubt and question where God is and how he really can be with us always. In this world today there are surely those who need hope in their lives. We as Christians, filled with peace and the Holy Spirit can be those who can help others to not walk alone. We can share the peace of the risen Lord with others because that peace is within us. May that peace of Christ be with YOU and fill YOU with hope for today and for the future. Peace be with you! Amen.

Hymn of the Day: O Holy Spirit

O Holy Spirit, enter in and in our hearts your work begin, and make our hearts your dwelling.
Sun of the soul, O Light divine, around and in us brightly shine, your strength in us upwelling.
In your radiance life from heaven now is given overflowing, Gift of gifts beyond all knowing.

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

O God, call your people to be one, as you are one. Unite your church in the truth of your gospel, the love of our neighbor, and the call to proclaim your reign to all people. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Breathe life into your creation. Guide your people as we explore the mysteries of the universe. We pray for the work of scientists right now as they work to do all we can to care for and protect us from this pandemic. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Come to the aid of your children. We pray for those engulfed in grief, those without supportive families, for those who are isolated, powerless, or afraid that all may rest their anxieties in your care. We ask you to be with those who are currently dealing with loneliness and illnesses and those who we now name in our hearts..... Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Today Lord, we raise up those who are graduating. Whether it's today or in the coming weeks – be with those that are finishing one journey in their lives and are heading off to a new and exciting adventure. We remember those in our prayers and pray that you continue to guide and watch over them in whatever comes next. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

As we remember those on this Memorial Day weekend who gave of their lives for this amazing country that we live in. We give them honor and remembrance for what they sacrificed and ask that you be with all of those who have served or are currently serving this country as well. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. 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: Spirit of Gentleness

Spirit. Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit. Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
Then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
And over the eons you called to each thing:
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.”

Spirit. Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit. Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

Dismissal:

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

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Peace of Mind and Heart

I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. John 14:27 (NLT)

Based on John 14:23-29



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

WORDS
TEACHING
GREATER

HEARTS
FATHER
AFRAID

SPIRIT
LOVE
WORLD

HOME
OBEY
PEACE

GLAD
HOLY
COME