



Perley Lutheran Parish
May 9th, 2021
Sixth Sunday of Easter



Gathering Hymn: 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.

Finish then thy new creation, pure spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory, til in heaven we take our place,
Til we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Welcome and Announcements

Council after service this morning
Newsletter out – make sure to look through all that's going on
Fun outdoor "Old Time" services coming
Dr. Harold & Marillyn Hanson – 96 from Nora
Reach out
Food Shelf

Confession and Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, in the Lenten season we heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving peace of reconciliation. On this day let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor and enter the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord with God and each other.

Most merciful God,

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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us live together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen**

Prayer of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 98 (Read Responsively)

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. **The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.** He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.** Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. **With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.** Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. **Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy** at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

First Reading Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Holy Gospel according to John 15:9-17, **Glory to you O Lord**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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

Children's Message

What kind of day are you having today? Are you happy, (Show the smiley face.) or are you sad? (Show the sad face.) What are some of the things that make you happy? Here are some things I thought of that might make you happy

- A sunny day
- A party
- A new toy
- A puppy
- An ice cream cone
- A balloon
- Spending time with a friend

What are some things that make you sad?

- Falling down and skinning your knee
- Making a bad grade in school
- Feeling all alone

- Losing your favorite toy
- Having an argument with your best friend
- When someone says something that hurts your feelings
- When you miss someone

When you think about things that make you happy and things that make you sad, it is pretty simple. When something good happens, you are happy and when something bad happens, you are sad. Do you think Jesus wants you to be happy? Listen to what Jesus said in our Bible reading for today, "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!" (John 15:9, 11 NLT) Does that mean that nothing bad will ever happen in your life? No, of course not, but even when you are sad, you can still have joy in your heart because you know that Jesus loves you.

Heavenly Father, we know that you love your Son and that your Son loves us. Help us to remain in his love so that we will be filled with joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Message

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

Happy Mother's Day. It's a time where we show our appreciation and love to our mothers, wives, grandmothers, aunts and all of the women in our lives. They do after all do so much for us and we are grateful for that and for them.

Our Gospel this morning finds Jesus nearing the end of his time here on earth. He has had the disciples with him now for the past three years and they have watched all that he has done. Casting out demons, healing the sick and raising the dead, giving sight to the blind, calming of the storms, feeding thousands with little... the list goes on and on. Such amazing, amazing experiences and Jesus has taught many things about life, about God, about the world and yes, about themselves. Our Gospel this morning attempts to wrap ALL of it into on little package. Everything that has gone on can be summed up with one word and that one word is love.

Think for a moment about love, or perhaps even the lack of love. It's a very powerful part and force in our lives isn't it? We hear all about it every time we turn the radio on, read books, watch shows and movies – it's really everywhere. We all crave love and need and want it in our lives. We also know that love is very fragile. One can easily lose or ruin love by being hateful or prejudice, judgmental and unforgiving. There are times when it is so very difficult if not almost impossible to love someone when they have hurt or offended you so deeply too. Those wounds run deep and we have a hard time knowing and feeling the love for those that have harmed us. But even in the midst of those struggles – do I forgive them? Can I still love them? - Jesus not only reminds us of love's importance but he gives us instructions on how to keep love central in our lives.

First of all, in order to be centered in love we need to look at verse 16 of our Gospel. Jesus says "*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit.*" Remember we talked about bearing fruit last week – not apples and oranges fruit but rather kindness, generosity, faithfulness. We are chosen to do this – each and every one of us have been chosen by God.

How many of you remember when you were part of a school yard pick. Thankfully I don't think they do that anymore – I remember my grandson talking about how people are numbered off so it's a bit more random. We all remember a time however when you were going to play a game and two team leaders took turns picking their team. I will tell you truthfully, I was ALWAYS one of the lasts to be picked in gym and out on the playground. I'm not fast, I'm not strong, I'm not athletic period and all though I knew that I wasn't any of those it didn't make me feel any better when every person was picked one by one BEFORE me. For me it wasn't a big deal, I knew I excelled in other areas but for

some that being picked last is painful. Especially if it happens over and over in many different areas and situations. It can leave a mark on one's life. And being chosen? Well that IS an exhilarating moment to know you are wanted and chosen.

We can know that same feeling of love with Jesus in that we too have been picked and chosen too. God's actions aren't based of course on all the good things we've done but rather just a gift for being His. We don't know why, we can't explain it and yet he has chosen and loved us no matter what. We are forever blessed.

Let listen again to verses 9 & 10, "*As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.*" We hear the word abide again – we talked a lot about that last Sunday. Abide, remain, continue, stand, and persist, in my love. We are invited to enter into God's love and take up our lives in that love. Remaining in God is hard to explain but perhaps if we think of it in another way it will help. Think of how the love and support of spouses, family or friends enables us to face whatever challenges come our way. Or how about when we send our kids off to school and college or we watch our children walk down the aisle – they remain in our love even when they are no longer with us day in and day out. Even when we are separated by miles and miles the love of others is a part of our lives. Love keeps us going and God's love works just like that.

If we dwell in the love of God it can bring us peace and contentment because we can sense God's hands upon us and know that He is living in us. When we feel things crashing down around us and face challenges that seem just too much to bear it is God's love that gives us strength and determination to get through it. Therefore, when we question God's love for us, peace and contentment can come into question as well. Not seeing or feeling God's presence in our times of grief and pain can slip us even deeper into despair and hopelessness. Our situations change in our lives but we are transformed by them when we rediscover God's love for us and we abide in that love.

Jesus tells the disciples about his love for them and that they are chosen so that they can find joy in all that they have seen, lived and loved with him. If they remain in God's love they can live each day in the reality of God's love and the peace, contentment and joy that it brings to their lives. And sharing that love with others – that allows us to experience an even greater and deeper sense of joy in our lives. He has chosen them. He has chosen us to bear fruit – good fruit. A fruit that is filled with love – love that inspires, love that motivates us to use all the gifts we were given and abilities that we possess to serve and love others. Loving others, sharing the Word, and observing how it changes our lives in a positive manner can bring great joy.

Finally we find in verse thirteen Jesus tells them "*No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*" Clearly he is giving them a glimpse of what is ahead for his life on Earth. He is also telling US that an essential part of life is giving of yourself – giving up your lives for others – rather than living for ourselves. I'm not telling you that we have to die, literally give up our lives for someone – surely that's not what Jesus is saying to them or to us. We may however give up our own dreams, or our own goals, our own lifestyles, or even our time or treasures for others. Parents make those types of sacrifice for their children all the time, don't they? Friends often times will sacrifice something for their friend. Strangers give their lives to serve our country and others help those in need in far-away places.

If you think about it – the times when you have sacrificed or given up something for another often times result in times of great joy. I have given up my plans for the plan of another person on occasion because they could no longer drive and needed to get out of the house. You have changed your plans to go out for dinner with friends because your child has a sore throat. Another may have decided to not purchase that new outfit but rather make a donation to their food shelf when supplies are needed. Despite the loss that you give up and feel, there is a sense of relief and peace in

knowing that you did for others. You gave of yourself in order to be there for another and that is what Jesus is talking about. *“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”*

Love is one of the greatest creations that our Father made. As impressive as any mountain range or rolling meadow, shimmering sea or green, green forest – while all of those things are amazing – they are in no way a comparison to how great God’s creation of love is. Love is our gift and just as the Father loves the Son, eternally and unconditionally, so does Christ love us. We live IN His love and His love lives in and through us. By His love we love one another. But it is not our love, but rather His. For we are the branches, bearing fruit of faith and waiting for the time when we will be rejoicing again with Christ. Amen

Hymn of the Day: I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, Of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, because I know it’s true; It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

I love to tell the story; I’ll sing this theme in glory and tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best. Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, Ill sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. I love to tell the story; I’ll sing this theme in glory and tell the old, old story of Jesus and his 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: (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love...

Loving and creating God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches and praise your name for all of creation. Fill the earth with you love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

Faithful Savior, You conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plan your word in the hearts of those nations’ leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

Caring healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering. Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. We lift up those within our congregation and those that have reached out to us for prayers, Margie and Marlis, Sonya and Roger, Terry and Jeff, Evonne and Kirk, Byron and Whitney and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts.....

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Meal

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Words of Institution and 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

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat, and be satisfied.

After Communion Prayer

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witness, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

Sending Song: Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high his royal banner, it must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory his army shall he lead,
Till every foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed.
Stand up, stand up for Jesus,

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the strife will not be long;
This day the noise of battle, the next the victor's song.
To those who vanquish evil a crown of life shall be;
They with the King of Glory shall reign eternally.

Dismissal – Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!** Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Mark Your Calendars:

- Sunday, May 16th – Services at 9am at Nora (live streamed and in-person)
Senior Service & Reception – Nora council meeting to follow reception
- Sunday, May 23rd – Services at 9am at Kirkebo (live streamed and in-person)
- Saturday, May 29th – Nora Fifth Sunday project. 9am. Bring yard gear and cleaning supplies to do some work around and in the church.
- Sunday, May 30th – Kirkebo Fifth Sunday project. 10am. Bring yard gear and cleaning supplies to do some work around and in the church.

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

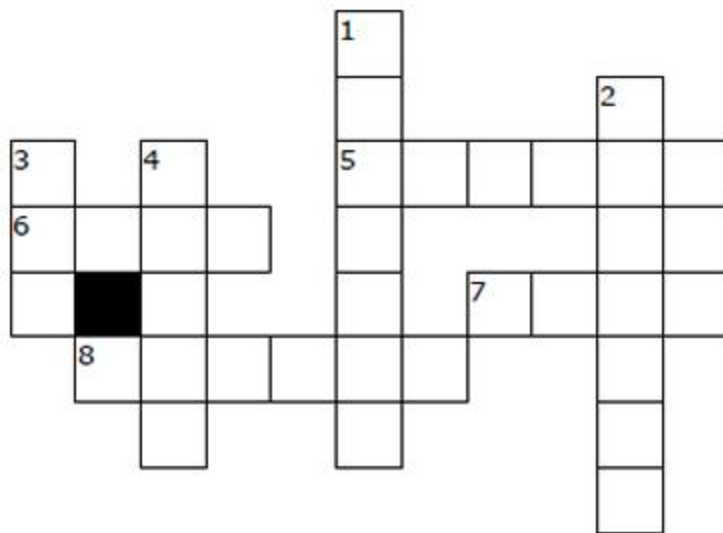
Loving Each Other



A Heart Full of Joy

"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:11 (NKJV)

Puzzle is based on John 15:9-17



ACROSS

5. One who has authority over another person
6. To do what you are told; follow the rules
7. To hold dear, to like or desire greatly
8. A person that you like very much

DOWN

1. An order which a person is expected to obey
2. Someone that performs duties for a master
3. A state of happiness or delight
4. To gain knowledge, skill, or understanding

JOY
MASTER

OBEY
FRIEND

LOVE
LEARN

SERVANT
COMMAND

A Heart Full of Joy

"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:11 (NKJV)

The puzzle is based on John 15:9-17



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

COMMAND	MASTER	LIFE	DOWN	SERVANT
JOY	REMAIN	GREATER	LAY	FRIENDS
LOVE	OBEY	CHOSE	FRUIT	FATHER

A Heart Full of Joy

"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:11 (NKJV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



V	A	Q	P	Y	N	K	B	U	D	L	J	O	R	S	M	C	Z	W	I	H	T	E	X	G	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 11-13-1-23 _____
- 14-23-16-2-20-6 _____
- 12-13-5 _____
- 26-14-20-23-6-10-15 _____
- 15-23-14-1-2-6-22 _____
- 16-2-15-22-23-14 _____
- 26-2-22-21-23-14 _____
- 17-13-16-16-2-6-10 _____

LOVE	JOY	FATHER	COMMAND
REMAIN	SERVANT	FRIENDS	MASTER