



Perley Lutheran Parish  
June 6th 2021  
Time after Pentecost



Gathering Hymn: Bind Us Together

*Refrain:*

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together

With cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord,

Bind us together in love.

There is only one God, there is only one King,

There is only one Body, that is why we sing:

*Refrain*

You are the family of God, You are the promise divine;

You are God's chosen desire, You are the glorious new wine.

*Refrain*

Welcome and Announcements

- Nora Council tomorrow night at 6:30
- Newsletter out – if you don't get it you can find it on the church website or contact the office and we can mail it out to you.
- Pastor Phil and Abby
- Where's Michele
- Sunday June 20<sup>th</sup> – Willing to help with service please let me know
- Food shelf/prayer needs

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**Amen.**

God, our provider,

**Help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, +the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen**

Prayer of the Day

**All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Psalm 130 (Read Responsively)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. **Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!** If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? **But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; **my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.** O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. **It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.**

#### First Reading Genesis 3:8-15

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

#### Holy Gospel according to Mark 3:20-35, **Glory to you O Lord**

and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit." Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

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

#### Children's Message

Good morning, boys and girls. What do you think of my new piece of clothing? (Let them answer.) It's pretty strange looking, isn't it? I might wear this one time and get away with it. If I wore this all the time, you might think I was strange. My family would become pretty concerned about me. What do you think would happen if I wore this every day for one week? (Let them answer.) I think I know what would happen. My family would probably sit down with me and have a long talk about how I've changed. They would ask me if something were the matter with me. They would then suggest that I get some help from someone about my problem.

Even though I like this (name the object), I think I'll take it off. I want to tell you a story about someone else who did something that made his family very concerned. They wanted to talk with him also. This person was Jesus. Can you believe that? When Jesus started his ministry he began going from place to place healing people. He soon became so popular that people followed him everywhere. Soon his family became concerned. They went to talk to him. He was in a house when someone told him,

"Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside asking about you." They were worried about him. They didn't understand his mission from God. Here's how Jesus replied to them. He said, (point to the children and the congregation) "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Jesus was saying that our family is larger than we think. He was saying that anyone who does what God says to do is your brother or sister. This week I want you to think about this. We all have families that you came to church with. You are also part of God's larger family. God's family members are those around you this morning in church. All people who do what God tells them are your brothers and sisters.

### Message

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

Our Gospel today comes to us in two scenes and I'm not sure if you noticed but it actually begins mid-sentence so I think it's important to get a little bit of back story as to what was going on prior to the start of our passage. Put things a bit more in context to help us. Jesus had been in the Galilee area healing the sick and casting out demons. As he was doing so the crowds and followers were getting gathering and the crowds were getting larger and larger. Word was getting out and people were starting to follow him to see what was going on and see what miraculous thing could happen next.

Jesus, needing a break from all those following him, sneaks off in a boat and goes to the other side of the sea. We're told that he climbs a mountain and spends time praying and praying – contemplating about all that is happening – and eventually were told he comes back down from the mountainside. He heads home to Capernaum and this is where our Gospel for today picks up.

The crowd all migrates right back to him – surrounding Jesus and the disciples. So much so that none of them can even eat our passage says. Now we don't know exactly how the crowds kept them from eating – our Gospel doesn't give us that specific detail. Perhaps it was because the followers wouldn't leave Jesus alone, wanting to talk to him, touch him or ask him for help. We've all seen scenes where someone famous is surrounded by crazy fans who long to be near them. Or could it have been that they couldn't even hear themselves think from all the noise that was being made by those gathered – the pure chaos made it impossible? Maybe there was nowhere to even make their meal because there was just no space with all of the people around. I know – it maybe was that they just had good manners and didn't want to eat in front of everyone. HA HA. We don't know for sure but we can guess that it obviously was not just a big crowd that was gathering but really a BIG, BIG, crowd and therefore all those people were getting underfoot and in the way of having a meal.

As our Gospel states, Jesus had been casting out demons and this comes to a head with not only one group but two groups in the area in that they take issue to what Jesus is doing. First of all the news of his actions is spreading like wild fires and people from home – Nazareth – are hearing the claims and truly start to wonder if Jesus hasn't lost his mind. They are concerned about what people are saying and they set out to bring him home. And then there are the scribes of Jerusalem. We aren't exactly sure why they have ventured out of Jerusalem to Capernaum – it is about 120 miles apart – but they too have been hearing about Jesus' demonic exorcisms and being pretty smart and religious people, they too feel the need to set things straight.

The scribes aren't going to attempt to discredit Jesus' work by saying they are miracles and such. They are quite aware that people are seeing the healings and deliverances. Instead, they attempt to twist things by claiming that Jesus himself must be possessed by demons and that it is the power of the Arch-enemy that He is casting out demons from others.

Family to the rescue. Mary, Jesus' mother, and Jesus' brothers all show up – they don't go into the house where Jesus is at but rather call out to him by sending someone in after him. They send someone in with a message that "your mom and your family is here, come out because we want to talk to you". I think that was pretty self explanatory – mom and brothers have come from miles away and they wish to talk.

Obviously they don't want to have a conversation about what is going on in front of a bunch of strangers or they would've just gone into the house. Perhaps they didn't go inside because Capernaum was Roman - with soldiers and tax collectors there – and not strictly Jewish town. Maybe they didn't go in because they've heard the claims by the scribes that Jesus himself is possessed and that too concerns them. And finally, if they had indeed come to take him back home they most likely didn't want to cause a scene or a struggle inside.

So one would think that Jesus would surely make his way out to visit with his family. Especially when he's been told his Mom is out there – brothers, perhaps you could ignore them – but your mother?? This was his family and family meant everything. Family WAS everything in those days and they have come from a far to talk to him and save the family from embarrassment with all that crazy stuff he is doing. Clearly one doesn't want to wreck the family name and therefore they need to talk and set things straight. This is a family affair after all – something family needs to do together.

Our passage tells us that Jesus indeed DOESN'T go out to meet them though. In fact he does something unspeakable and says "*Who are my mother and my brothers?*" Wow! Now you may pretend to think that Jesus has amnesia or something. That way you won't have an initial feel that he is disrespecting his mom. But he doesn't have amnesia – he know what he's saying and is making that statement to really point out the fact that they are not his ONLY family.

Those outside looking for him – they were his flesh and blood family – and in the Jewish religion blood did matter. Jesus however is changing things up a bit. Remember when we talked about the Holy Spirit coming down to them on Pentecost a couple of weeks ago? How the disciples were speaking in tongues and how Pentecost was a remembrance of God making them (the Jews) his people? God was extending HIS family to include every tribe and nation and tongue. Jesus is doing the same. Including all those – not just those born in the flesh of this family outside – but all who believe into his family.

It's important to stress that Jesus doesn't denounce his beloved family outside. He doesn't say they aren't his family. What he does say though is important in that he looks around at all those that have gathered with him and says "*Here are my mother and my brothers!* <sup>35</sup> *Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.*" He doesn't throw his family out but rather brings others, the crowds in. And who is now his family? Well those that are with him. Those that are around him. Those that are sitting and listening to him speak at his feet. Those who believe in Him. Those just like you and me who are gathered right here – in this church and watching - today to hear what he is telling us.

So in the kingdom of God, who will be the family of God? Not just those who were born of Jewish blood but those born of Jesus' blood. Those who are filled with the Holy Spirit. We are his mother and his brother and his sister for we do the will of His father by believing in Jesus. Note here that I didn't say that we are just born into this family because our parents and our grandparents believe or simply because we have belonged to this church or that church our entire lives so we must be grandfathered in by association.

No, church is a family affair indeed, but not a family made out of lineage but rather a family, you, me, all of us, who are brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus has said so – we are not just a member of his church but rather the "family" of God. Are we always going to be a perfect family – is there even such a thing as a perfect family? Of course not but we do have unity in Christ because

Christ has declared that we have it. We trust him, we do his will and we believe in Christ and live in his love. His love that is perfect even though we aren't. We abide in his love as His family. And we do so by serving Him. Serving others. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing  
Our Helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe  
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate  
On earth is not his equal

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also  
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still  
His kingdom is forever

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**.)

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

God of wholeness, we pray for believers all over the globe. Unify us in service of the gospel, that we may work together as beloved sibling to share you love with all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of the cosmos, we pray for creation: the gardens, fields, waterways and creatures near to us and divers forms of life that remain unseen. Lord especially this week with all of this heat we pray for the skies to open and shower us with much needed rain. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of all people, we pray for harmony among the nations. Cast out from us unclean spirits of greed and fear that we may work in solidarity with one another for the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of mercy and grace, we pray for those are oppressed and those in need. Encourage those who have begun to lose heart. Strengthen and renew us with your spirit. Lift up those who are lonely and sick, those who continue to struggle with their health and those who need your presence now more than ever. We lift up this morning, Margie and Marlis, Sonya and Roger, Terry and Jeff, Evonne and Kirk, Byron and Whitney, the Hett family and my seminary family who mourn the loss of Pastor Phil, and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts..... Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. 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*

### Invitation to Communion and Offering

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

### After Communion Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen**

### Blessing

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, +be upon you now and forever. In the Name of the Father, and the +Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

### Sending Song: We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;  
Sing praises to His Name; He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;  
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
Thou, Lord, were at our side, all glory be Thine!

Dismissal – Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

### Mark Your Calendars:

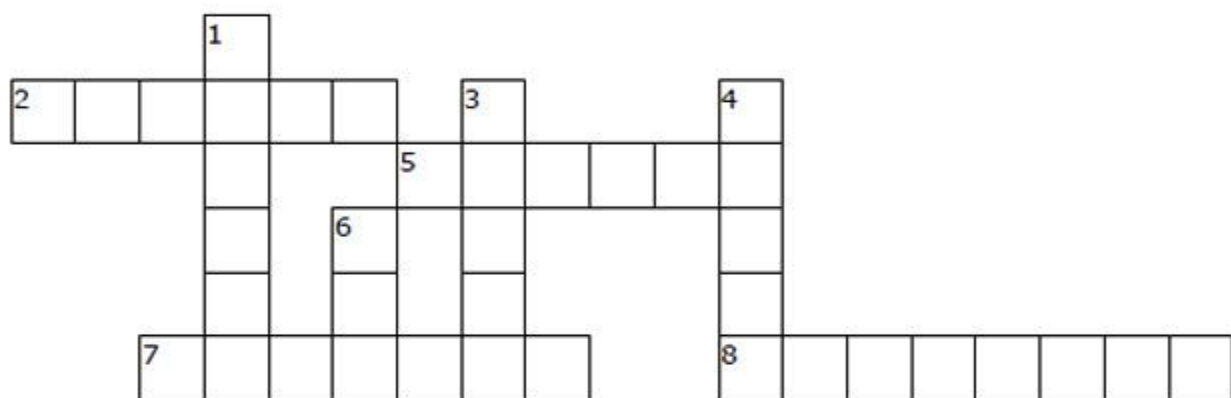
- Sunday, June 13th – Services at 9am at Kirkebo. (live streamed and in-person)
- Sunday, June 20th – Services at 9am at Nora. Outdoor. (live streamed and in-person)



# We Are Family

"Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."  
Mark 3:35 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Mark 3:20-35



## ACROSS

2. Parents and children; people descended from a common ancestor
5. A woman who has given birth to a child
7. A male with the same parents as someone else
8. A follower of Jesus

## DOWN

1. A female with the same parents as someone else
3. A dwelling that serves as living quarters for one or more families
4. A large number people gathered together
6. To take in food

MOTHER	DISCIPLE	EAT	HOUSE
FAMILY	CROWD	BROTHER	SISTER



# We Are Family

"Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."  
Mark 3:35 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Mark 3:20-35



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

FAMILY  
LAW  
HOUSE

CROWD  
EAT  
BROTHER

CIRCLE  
MOTHER  
SEATED

JESUS  
DISCIPLES  
TEACHERS

DIVIDED  
KINGDOM  
GOD