

Welcome to Worship at  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI  
Pentecost 6 - July 12, 2020

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

**Hymn #459 - "O God, My Faithful God"**

**O God, my faithful God,  
O Fountain ever flowing,  
Who good and perfect gifts  
In mercy are bestowing,  
Give me a healthy frame,  
And may I have within  
A conscience free from blame,  
A soul unhurt by sin.**

**Grant me the strength to do  
With ready heart and willing  
Whatever you command,  
My calling here fulfilling,  
That I do what I should  
While trusting you to bless  
The outcome for my good,  
For you must give success.**

**Keep me from saying things  
That later need recalling;  
Grant that no idle words  
May from my lips be falling,  
But then, when in my place  
I must and ought to speak,  
My words grant pow'r and grace  
Lest I offend the weak.**

**Lord, let me win my foes  
With kindly words and actions,**

**And let me find good friends  
For counsel and correction.  
Help me, as you have taught,  
To love both great and small  
And by your Spirit's might  
To live in peace with all.**

**Confession of Sins:**

**P:** Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C:** **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

**P:** Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**First Lesson: Jeremiah 28:5-9**

Then the prophet Jeremiah replied to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the House of the Lord. He said, "Amen! May the Lord do that! May the Lord fulfill the words you have prophesied and bring back the vessels of the Lord's house, and may he bring all the exiles back from Babylon to this place. Nevertheless, listen now to what I have to say in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets from ancient times, who came before you and me, prophesied war, famine, and plague against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, only when the word of the prophet actually comes true will that prophet become known as someone whom the Lord has truly sent." (EHV)

**Psalm 89:**

**Refrain: At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.**

**I will sing of the LORD's great love for'ever;  
I will make your faithfulness known through all gener'ations.**

**I will declare that your love stands firm for'ever,  
That you established your faithfulness in heav'en itself.**

**The heavens praise your won'ders, O LORD,  
Your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the 'holy ones.**

**Refrain: At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I  
sing for joy.**

**O LORD God Almighty, who 'is like you?  
You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness sur'rounds you.**

**Blessed are those who have learned to ac'claim you,  
Who walk in the light of your pres'ence, O LORD.**

**They rejoice in your name 'all day long;  
They exult in your 'righteousness.**

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son  
And to the Holy 'Spirit,  
As it was in the be'ginning,  
Is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

**Refrain: At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I  
sing for joy.**

### **Second Lesson: Romans 6:1b-11**

What shall we say then? Shall we keep on sinning so that grace may increase? Absolutely not! We died to sin. How can we go on living in it any longer? Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him by this baptism into his death, so that just as he was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too would also walk in a new life. For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united with him in the likeness of his resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, to make our sinful body powerless, so that we would not continue to serve sin. For the person who has died has been declared free from sin. And since we died with Christ, we believe

that we will also live with him. We know that since Christ has been raised from the dead, he will never die again. Death no longer has control over him. For the death he died, he died to sin once and for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way also consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (EHV)

**Verse of the Day:** Alleluia. If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Alleluia.

**Gospel: Matthew 10:34-42**

“Do not think that I came to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man’s enemies will be the members of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward. Whoever receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man’s reward. Whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink because he is my disciple - Amen I tell you - he will never lose his reward.” (EHV)

**The Apostles’ Creed:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn #466 - *“Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose”*

Though thoughtless thousands choose the road  
That leads the soul away from God,  
This happiness, dear Lord, be mine:  
To live and die entirely thine.

In Christ, by faith, I wish to live,  
From him my life, my all, receive,  
To him devote my fleeting hours,  
Serve him alone with all my pow'rs.

Christ is my everlasting all.  
To him I look; on him I call.  
He will my ev'ry want supply  
In time and through eternity.

Soon will the Lord, my life, appear;  
Soon shall I end my trials here,  
Leave sin and sorrow, death and pain.  
To live is Christ; to die is gain.

Soon will the saints in glory meet,  
Soon walk through ev'ry golden street  
And sing on ev'ry blissful plain,  
“To live is Christ; to die is gain.”

**The Sermon:     Matthew 10:34-42**  
**“Completely Committed To Christ”**

On September 20, 2001, President George W. Bush addressed a joint session of congress and the American people. It was only nine days after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon; and the country was still in shock. In his speech, the President described the **kind** of terrorists that were behind those attacks. He then drew a line in the sand for all the nations of the world saying, “You are either with **us**, or you are with the **terrorists**.” The war against **terror** had begun, and the President wanted the **world** to know that there was **no middle ground** in this war. In our Gospel for today, Jesus applies this same kind of thinking to the **spiritual** war that is raging in the world, between those who follow the King of kings - **Jesus**; and those who follow the prince of **this** world -

**Satan.** Jesus wanted His disciples to see that being on **His** side would take **commitment**, even in the face of **persecution**. It's our prayer that we **too**, will be able to remain **Completely Committed To Christ**.

The first words of today's reading might sound a little bit surprising. We don't expect Jesus to say, "*I did **not** come to bring **peace**, but a **sword**.*" What about the song the angels sang at Jesus' birth which proclaimed that now there was, "***Peace on earth?***" What about the **name** the Prophet Isaiah gave to Jesus - the **Prince** of Peace? How can Jesus say that He hasn't come to bring **peace**? His disciples were probably pretty surprised and **disappointed** by those words too. They had the idea that Jesus had come here to the earth to usher in an era of **peace** and **prosperity** for the children of Israel. They agreed with the commonly held view that the Messiah was going to be an earthly **king**, and that He would bring earthly **peace**. But, that was **not** the role which Jesus came to fill. Jesus **did** come to bring **peace**, but it wasn't the kind of peace people were **expecting**. Instead, **Jesus** would bring **spiritual** peace - an **inner** peace - the kind of peace that comes from having the forgiveness of **sins**, and being reconciled with **God**. Jesus **didn't** come to bring **earthly** peace. In fact, He tells us that His coming would mean **conflict** and **division** between the **followers** of Jesus, and the **enemies** of the Gospel.

Jesus wanted to make sure that His disciples had a clear **understanding** of this truth, because the strife that would result from following Jesus would even have an effect on their **closest** relationships. Jesus said, "*I came to turn a man against his **father**, a daughter against her **mother**, and a daughter-in-law against her **mother-in-law**. A man's **enemies** will be the members of his own **household**.*" That doesn't sound very **pleasant** does it? But it's the **truth**. The disciples of Jesus would be **alienated** from some of their closest **friends** and **family** members just because they had chosen to follow **Jesus**.

The expectation of our Savior is **simple**, and it is **clear**. **He** is to come **first** in our lives, even ahead of **family** members. That's what the **first commandment** is all about. Jesus explained it to His disciples this way: "*Whoever loves father or mother **more** than **me** is not **worthy** of me; and whoever loves son or daughter **more** than **me** is not **worthy** of me. Whoever does not take up his **cross** and **follow** me is not **worthy** of me. Whoever **finds** his life will **lose** it, and whoever **loses** his life for my sake will **find** it.*" There were two **paths** facing the disciples. Following **one** path - by **denying** Jesus - would mean an easier **life** for them here on the earth, but in the **end** they would lose their **souls**. Following the **other** path involved **denying themselves** and facing **persecution**, but in the **end** they would receive the

rich reward of **eternal life**. It's pretty obvious that the more **difficult** path was the **better** choice - the path of **Complete Commitment To Christ**.

Those words of Jesus still apply to us **today** as His followers. We never **like** to do things the **hard** way, so it would be **nice** to think that following Jesus would always be **easy**. It would be **nice** if there were no such thing as having to take up a **cross** for the sake of the Gospel. But that's simply not **reality**. Following **Jesus** means facing **opposition** from the world around us. There may not be a **state sponsored** persecution of Christians going on in our country, although that may not be very **far off** either. But at any rate, there is **certainly** persecution of our Christian **beliefs** going on. It's all **around** us. When we hold on to all the teachings of the Bible, we are accused of being **non-inclusive** and **politically incorrect** and completely **out-of-touch** with reality. The great majority of people in our society **mock** us, and make **fun** of us for our beliefs. And, sadly enough, that persecution may even come from members of our own **family**, or close **friends**, just like Jesus **said** it would happen.

There is a **part** of us - our sinful **flesh** - that wants to **avoid** all conflict over spiritual matters. It's **easier** to stay **quiet**, or to agree to **disagree**, for the sake of outward **peace**. But that's **not** the path which Jesus wants us to be following. He asks for **Complete Commitment To Him**. In other words, if following Jesus means facing **persecution**, so be it. We know that the trials and troubles we face in **this** life are **nothing** compared to the reward which is waiting for us in **heaven**. Of course, carrying through on that thought is easier **said** than **done**. Let's face it. It's **hard** to be the person who gets **picked** on, or **alienated** from seemingly **everyone else** because of our beliefs. But **thankfully**, our God hasn't left us without **help**.

Jesus told His disciples that even though the great **majority** of the world would be **against** them, there would **also** be **some** who were **on their side**. Jesus said, "*Whoever **receives** you receives **me**, and whoever receives **me** receives him who **sent** me.*" It must have been a **comforting** thought for the disciples to realize that there would at least be **some** in this sinful world who would **welcome** them, and who would **receive** them with Christian **love**. It's the kind of comfort and encouragement they would **need**, as they carried out their mission of proclaiming the Gospel in the face of constant **opposition**.

Jesus went on to tell them that in those times when they were **welcomed**, something **wonderful** would happen. There would be a **double** blessing. The interaction would bring a benefit both to **them**, and to the ones who **welcomed** them. He said, "*Whoever **receives** a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a*

*prophet's reward. Whoever receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. Whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink because he is my disciple - Amen I tell you - he will never lose his reward."* The **disciples** would receive God's **blessing** through those who **welcomed** them, and the ones who **welcomed** them would be blessed by God **too**.

It's comforting for **us** to know that we are also **not alone** as we commit ourselves to following **Jesus** as the **highest priority** in our lives. We know that Jesus is **on our side**. So in those times when we're **overwhelmed** by the troubles of life, or when we're filled with **guilt** over how far we've fallen short of **Complete Commitment To Christ**, we know that we can turn to our **Savior**, and He will **be there** for us. Jesus has completely committed **Himself** to **us** - giving up His **life** in order to **rescue** us from damnation. Think about it - Jesus **never** gave up. No matter how **difficult** His path might be, Jesus **never** turned back. He knew how **difficult** it would be to **walk** the road that led to the **cross**, but He walked it **anyway**, for **your** sake and for **mine**. Jesus did **everything** that needed to be done in order to bring us **spiritual peace** - not **earthly** peace - not **physical** peace - but **spiritual** peace - peace with God the **Father** - the **peace** of knowing that our **sins** have all been **washed away** in His blood. That's the peace which enables us to have **Complete Commitment To Christ**.

And just as with the **disciples**, we **also** have other people in our lives who are able to give us **encouragement**. It's found in our brothers and sisters **in Christ**. As fellow **Christians**, we can build each other **up** and **encourage** one another in ways that no one else can, because we **base** our encouragement on the truth of the Holy **Scriptures**. One place we do that encouraging is right here in our **church**. The **primary** reason we come here is to worship our **God**, as He **blesses** us and nurtures our **faith** with His Word and Sacrament. In response to **His** love for **us** we bring Him our hymns of **praise**, and our **prayers**, and our **offerings**. There is something very **encouraging** about seeing a church **filled** with people - hearing them **speaking** the liturgy, and **singing** the hymns. These are **vital parts** of our Christian **fellowship**, as we read the **Word** together, and **pray** together, and apply **God's Word** to our individual and collective **problems**. The **encouragement** we receive from our fellow Christians is **priceless**.

But we live in a world at **war**. We live in a **country** at war. Not only are there **territorial** wars and **political** wars being waged all **around** the globe - not only is there a war against a **global pandemic** - but there is also a world-wide **spiritual** war going on - a war against **Satan** and the forces of **evil**. **Some** people

are on the side of **Jesus** in that war, but **many** are not. So we will continue to wage our spiritual **battles** day after day, and as we do, may God give us the **strength** and the **encouragement** we need, to continue to have **Complete Commitment To Christ**; so that when the **Last Day** comes, and our spiritual battles come to an **end**, we will finally be able to **lay down** our spiritual weapons, and **rest** in the eternal joys of heaven. Amen.

### **Prayers:**

Most merciful heavenly Father, we come to You in the name of our Savior, **Jesus**, truly **thankful** for the privilege of speaking to You in **prayer**. Teach us to **avail** ourselves of Your abundant goodness and blessings by **using** that privilege day and night. Our souls are **weary**, and our hearts **ache** from the **sins** that afflict us and the **temptations** that assail us each and every hour. Give us a **courageous** faith which **boldly** lays all the burdens of our hearts and lives before **Your** throne of grace. Teach us that as **afflictions** increase in our lives, we are to pray more **often** and more **fervently**. Since prayer is an activity of **faith**, help us in our prayer life by deepening our **trust** in You. May our prayers always proceed from **contrite** hearts, truly **sorry** for our sins - and from **believing** hearts, trusting Your **forgiveness** through the blood of Jesus. May our prayers always find **acceptance** at Your throne of grace. Make the Bible the **treasure** of our hearts, and cause us to be guided in our prayers by the **counsel** and **promises** that it gives.

Father, we know that our prayers are acceptable only because Your **Spirit** is working in our hearts. Therefore, in accord with Jesus' invitation we ask You to bestow on us the **gift** of the Holy Spirit. Cause Him to dwell in us **richly**. May He not only increase our **faith** and teach us to **pray**, but may He also **intercede** for us with groans, which words cannot express.

Father, on behalf of us all, **forgive** our sins for Jesus' sake. **Relieve** the burdened, **cheer** the sorrowful, **strengthen** the weak, **recall** the erring, **heal** the sick, **release** the suffering, and **fulfill** the wants of the needy. Replenish our **love** when it grows **cold**, and **rekindle** any dying **embers** of faith. How **blessed** we are, that we can lay claim to Your promises, and rest in the knowledge that You always **hear** and **answer** our prayers. Amen.

### **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.**

**Hymn #476 - *"Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower"***

**Thee will I love, my strength, my tower;  
Thee will I love, my hope, my joy.  
Thee will I love with all my power,  
With ardor time shall ne'er destroy.  
Thee will I love, O Light divine,  
So long as life is mine.**

**Thee will I love, my life, my Savior,  
Who art my best and truest friend.  
Thee will I love and praise forever,  
For never shall thy kindness end.  
Thee will I love with all my heart -  
Thou my Redeemer art!**

**Oh, keep me watchful, then, and humble;  
Do not allow my steps to stray.  
Uphold me when my feet would stumble,  
And keep me on the narrow way.  
Fill all my nature with thy light,  
O Radiance strong and bright!**

**Thee will I love, my crown of gladness;  
Thee will I love, my God and Lord,  
Amid the darkest depths of sadness,  
And not for hope of high reward,  
For thine own sake, O Light divine,  
So long as life is mine.**

**P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of**

all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in  
the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**The Blessing:**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

**Hymn #469 - *“Take My Life and Let It Be”***

**Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice and let me sing  
Always, only for my King.  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold;  
Not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use  
Ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will and make it thine;  
It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart - it is thine own;  
It shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for thee.**