

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Pentecost 4 - June 28, 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 #7 - "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
At midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth, as he approaches,
With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
The Bridegroom is at hand.**

**You saints, who here in patience
Your cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever
When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
The Lamb you shall behold;
In triumph lay before him
Your shining crowns of gold.**

**Arise, Desire of nations;
O Jesus, now appear,**

**The Hope and Expectation
Of ev'ry Christian here.
With hearts and hands uplifted
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption
That sets your people free.**

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: Exodus 19:2-8a

After they set out from Rephidim and came to the Wilderness of Sinai, they camped in the wilderness. Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and to tell the people of Israel: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you will carefully listen to my voice and keep my covenant, then you will be my special treasure out of all the nations, although the entire earth is mine. You will be my kingdom of priests and my holy nation.' These are the words that you are to speak to the Israelites." Moses went and summoned the elders of the people, and he set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. All the people answered together, "Everything that the Lord has said, we will do." (EHV)

Psalm 100:

Refrain: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new song.

**Shout for joy to the LORD, 'all the earth.
Worship the LORD with 'gladness;**

**Come before him with 'joyful songs.
Know that the 'LORD is God.**

**It is he who made us, and 'we are his;
We are his people, the sheep of his 'pasture.**

Refrain: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new song.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his 'courts with praise;
Give thanks to him and 'praise his name.**

**For the LORD is good and his love endures for'ever;
His faithfulness continues through all gener'ations.**

**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: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new song.

Second Lesson: Romans 5:6-11

For at the appointed time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly. It is rare indeed that someone will die for a righteous person. Perhaps someone might actually go so far as to die for a person who has been good to him. But God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, it is even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, it is even more certain that, since we have been reconciled, we will be saved by his life. And not only is this so, but we also go on rejoicing confidently in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received this reconciliation. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 9:35 - 10:8

Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were troubled and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out workers into his harvest." Jesus called his twelve disciples to himself and gave them authority to drive out unclean spirits and to heal every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. Jesus sent these twelve out and commanded them, "Do not go among the Gentiles, and do not enter any town of the Samaritans. Go instead to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near!' Heal the sick. Raise the dead. Cleanse lepers. Drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. (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 #733 - "Rejoice in God"

**Rejoice in God! Let trumpets sound
In witness to the world around,
His faithfulness proclaim;
Who led his people by the hand
And brought them to their promised land**

**That all the earth should understand
The greatness of his name.**

**Rejoice in God, the God of grace,
And come with thanks before his face
For all his tender care;
Whose mercy meets us in our need,
Whose Word of Life is life indeed,
On whom, in Christ, our spirits feed,
Who loves to answer prayer.**

**Rejoice in God whose only Son
A fallen world's salvation won
And broke the sinner's chain.
He came in love to seek and save
When for us all his life he gave,
And then from cross and death and grave
Triumphant rose again.**

**Rejoice in God and for him build
A living temple, Spirit-filled,
Of everlasting worth;
A church united, true and strong,
Where all who love the Lord belong,
And find in him their strength and song,
The joy of all the earth.**

**Rejoice in God! Your voices raise
In honor, blessing, love, and praise
To his eternal throne;
That ev'ry heart, with one accord,
And ev'ry tongue may tell abroad
The loving kindness of the Lord
And make his glory known.**

**The Sermon: Romans 5:6-11
 "Rejoice! God Has Done Much For You"**

If a total stranger would peek in the door of our church today, what do you think he would see? Would he see people who are **happy** to be here - people who

are **happy** to be members of God's family? Of **course** he would. But unfortunately, he might not **realize** that all of us really are **happy**. Have you ever looked at **yourself**, or at some of the people **around** you, and wondered if perhaps there was something **wrong** with showing that you are a **happy** Christian? Quite often we look pretty **gloomy** and **serious** on the outside; and we tend to blame our stern, sober faces and blank stares on our predominantly **German** heritage, or more recently on all the **problems** that are manifesting themselves in the world around us. But let's set the record straight. Our predecessors and our environment are not to blame if we appear to be sad and glum. **We** are to blame. And worse than that, we have **no reason** to go around looking like a bunch of "sad sacks." God has literally **poured** out His blessings upon us - not in a slow and steady **drip**, but in an abundantly flowing **stream**. So, **Rejoice! God Has Done Much For You.**

The Apostle Paul begins to point out these rich blessings from God with the fact that we have been **justified** by faith. In order to understand why Paul must start **there**, it is important that we understand our **natural** status. We know that we are **sinful** by nature. Sin has caused a **separation** - a virtual **chasm** between God and man. Because of sin, we are at **war** with God - constantly **battling** against **Him**, and against His **laws** - the 10 Commandments which He has provided for our own **protection**. Because of sin, we are **unwilling** and **unable** to come to terms with God. We have no **bargaining** power. We are unable to **bridge** the gap which our sinful condition has brought about. If any progress is going to be made in resolving the differences which exist between God and man, that progress must come **apart** from us. And it **has**! Jesus, the Prince of Peace, has taken upon **Himself** the responsibility of resolving the differences between God and man. He is our **Mediator** - our **go-between** - the one who has **bridged** the gap created by sin.

Paul says that we have been justified by **faith**, not by our **works**. God has given us this justification by **declaring** that we are righteous, in much the same way as a **judge** would declare (or announce) that a defendant is **not guilty**. Because the **guilt** is gone and the **separation** has been removed, we now have **peace** - peace of conscience and mind - **inner** peace - **spiritual** peace. This is **not** an **earthly** peace, as Jesus Himself pointed out. He told His disciples, "*Do **not** suppose that I have come to bring **peace** to the **earth**. I did **not** come to bring **peace**, but a **sword**.*" Jesus also said, "*I have told you these things, so that you may have **peace** in **me**. In this **world** you are going to have **trouble**. But be **courageous**! I have **overcome** the world.*"

Along this line, **Luther** made a couple of interesting comparisons. On the one hand, he said, a **righteous** person has **peace** with **God**, and **tribulations** with the **world** - because his life is **spiritual**, not **worldly**. On the other hand, a person who is **unrighteous** has **peace** with the **world**, but has **anguish** and **tribulation** with **God** - because his life is **worldly**, not **spiritual**. That makes a lot of **sense**, doesn't it? The **second** important comparison which Luther observed, was that since God is **eternal**, so is the **peace** which He provides. And since the present world is only **temporary**, so also is the peace which **it** offers. God has given us **spiritual** peace through faith in Jesus - peace which will last **forever** - therefore, we have cause for great **rejoicing** in our lives.

But there is **more!** Since we have **peace** with God, we also have **access** to Him. As I said before, in Jesus, God has **bridged** the gap between Himself and man. Nothing lies between us to **hinder** our approach to Him. All the **obstacles** have been **removed**. We call this access to God - the privilege of **prayer**.

And what a privilege it is! Prayer allows us to talk with the Almighty God at any **time**, from any **place**, with any **message**. I don't think that we always realize how **convenient** that is for us. Perhaps I can illustrate it for you in this way. I grew up in a very old house. In almost every room there was only **one** electrical outlet. So, it seemed like no matter which room of the house you were in, you could never find an outlet to use. The **short-term** solution was either to find an **extension cord** which could be plugged into an outlet in another room, or to find and use a multiple plug **adapter**. Unfortunately, both of those items were **also** quite **rare** in our house - and they were extremely **difficult** to **locate** - except of course when you didn't **need** them. The **long-term** solution was to **upgrade** the electrical service, and install more **outlets**; which over a period of time, we **did**. Now, compare **that** to **prayer**. Without making any **changes** in ourselves, without any **upgrading**, without any **searching** or **delays**, we have the privilege of plugging in to the power and strength of **God Himself!** God's limitless help and power is available to us **immediately**.

It should be quite easy for us to see why having **peace** with God and **access** to God are reasons for **rejoicing**. But just **prior** to our text, Paul entered into an area where it **isn't** so obvious. He said, "*We also rejoice confidently in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces patient endurance, and patient endurance produces tested character, and tested character produces hope.*" In our human minds, **suffering** and **rejoicing** seem to be mutually **exclusive** ideas. Almost without exception, when God allows **sufferings** and trials and tribulations to enter our lives, we end up feeling **let down** and **persecuted**.

Generally, we also end up **blaming God** for our negative feelings. We say things like, “God **makes** me so **angry** when He sends sufferings to me. He **makes** me impatient and irritable. I **fight** with my wife, **yell** at my kids, and even **kick** my dog - and it’s all **God’s** fault.” But what we fail to realize is that neither **God** nor our **sufferings** have made us angry, or impatient, or irritable. God has simply **used** sufferings to **magnify** the fact that we **are** angry, impatient, and irritable **by nature**. Suffering shows us “what we are **made** of,” and how **frail** we really are. Perhaps that’s why we **don’t** rejoice in our sufferings. We don’t like to have our faults, and weaknesses, and warts **magnified** so that everybody can **see** them. We like to keep those things as **quiet** and **hidden** as possible.

Yet, God sees much **benefit** in showing our **sinful nature** exactly as it **is**. It’s important for us to realize how weak **we** are, and how strong **God** is. God wants to teach us the same lesson which He taught the Apostle Paul through his *“thorn in the flesh.”* He told Paul and us, *“My grace is sufficient for you, because my power is made perfect in weakness.”* At the times when **we** are **weak**, it’s crystal clear to us that we can’t depend on **ourselves** - and that’s when we turn to **God**, just the way He **wants** us to. It may take some **time**, but when we have learned the lesson **well**, the whole process will finally make **sense**, and we’ll respond just as **Paul** did by saying, *“I will be glad to boast all the more in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may shelter me. That is why I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For whenever I am weak, then am I strong”* - strong because of the power of God.

It is **no** mere **coincidence** that Paul told the Romans, *“For at the appointed time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly.”* God’s timing was **perfect**. Through this most **unusual** event, God chose to show His **love** - a love which goes far **beyond** human love or understanding. And because of the **timing**, there could be absolutely **no doubt** about whose **power** was making it happen - it was through **God’s** power **alone**. Paul goes on to say that everyone **sympathizes** with a person who has been **condemned**. Nobody wants to see the **ungodly** to be **lost** for all eternity. But at the same time very **few**, if **any** would actually offer their **own** life in **exchange** for them. Yet, that’s what **Christ** did. He died for the **ungodly** - for **sinners** - for those who rightfully **deserved** to be **condemned**. He died for **us!**

Knowing that Jesus has **saved** us from God’s wrath through His own substitutionary death on the **cross** should lead us to be the most **joyful** of all people. Dear friends, let your hearts be **glad** because God has **delivered** us from

the guilt and punishment of our **sins**, and has given us an **eternal home** with Him in **heaven**. Let your hearts be **glad**, and let your gladness **show** itself, through a **smiling** face, a **cheerful** voice, and a **helpful** hand. **Rejoice! God Has Done Much For You.** Amen.

Prayers:

Heavenly Father, we are constantly assailed by the forces of **evil** which seek to destroy our souls. In his bold attacks, Satan not only tries to make us **ashamed** of the Gospel, and too **timid** to confess our Savior; but his objective is to **rob** us of our faith altogether. With deep **guile** and **cunning** he tries to snare our hearts with **worldly** cares and subtle schemes for **happiness**; and to **cloud** our minds with **doubt** and **confusion** regarding Your Word. He never seems to **tire** in his wily efforts to lead us away from the godly path of **righteousness** to the ways of **sin**. As the father of **lies**, he delights in sowing seeds of **discord** and **suspicion**, especially among us believers.

Lord Jesus, in Your **Word**, You promise that if we **resist** the devil, he will **flee** from us. You have admonished us to take up the shield of **faith**, with which we can **extinguish** all the flaming arrows of the evil one. We implore You to bless our hearts richly with Your **grace** through the Holy Spirit, giving us a **strong** faith, and an overwhelming **love** for our Savior. Only **then** will we be able to **rout** Satan from our lives, and **turn away** his temptations from our hearts. **Protect** us at all times, lest Satan **snatch** the Word of salvation from us, and bring us to **unbelief** and **despair**.

By Your Holy Spirit, keep us all **steadfast** and **true** to Your Word, causing us to search it **diligently** in our private study, and also to give prayerful attention to it when it is publicly **preached** and **taught**. Nourish and strengthen our faith by Your **Word**, and cause the **instruction**, the **guidance**, and the **encouragement** it brings to produce rich **fruits** in our lives. Forgive the times when we **lost** the good fight, and fell into sin. **Renew**, **strengthen**, and **sustain** us, until we finally enter the Kingdom of Glory in heaven. Make Your Word **effective** wherever it is proclaimed, that more and more souls may be won for **You**, and rescued from **Satan**. 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 #540 - *“Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng”*

**Rejoice, O pilgrim throng!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ, your king.**

**(Refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice!
 Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

**With voice as full and strong
As ocean’s surging praise,
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old,
The psalms of ancient days.**

**(Refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice!
 Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

**With all the angel choirs,
With all the saints on earth
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss,
Sweet music, noblest mirth.**

**(Refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice!
 Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

**Still lift your standard high,
Still march in firm array,
As pilgrims through the darkness wend
Till dawns the golden day.**

(Refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

**At last the march shall end;
The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their homes at last,
Jerusalem the blest.**

(Refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

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 #233 - "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

**All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with fear; his praise forthtell;
Come ye before him and rejoice.**

**Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make.
We are his folk; he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.**

**Oh, enter then his gates with praise;
Approach with joy his courts unto.
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord, our God, is good;
His mercy is forever sure.
His truth at all times firmly stood
And shall from age to age endure.**

**To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heav'n and earth adore,
From us and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.**