

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

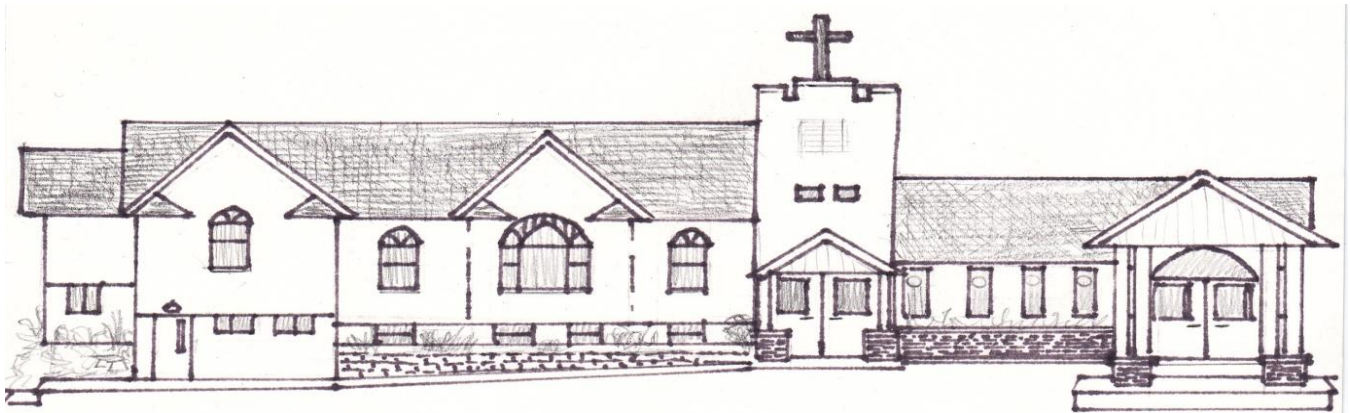
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Pastor Raymond Barclay



Sketch drawn by Alice Diver

Sunday, May 26, 2024

HOLY TRINITY

1st Sunday of Pentecost

PRELUDE: ORGAN / CLAVINOVA

[*] REQUESTS YOUR RISING IF COMFORTABLE

CALL TO WORSHIP By OUR CHURCH BELL

GREETINGS

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY:



Introduction to the day

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

*GATHERING SONG *Holy, Holy, Holy* (LBW 165)

Holy, Holy, Holy

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye made blind by sin thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

***INVOCATION (WOV p. 46)**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

P You are the treasured people of the LORD,

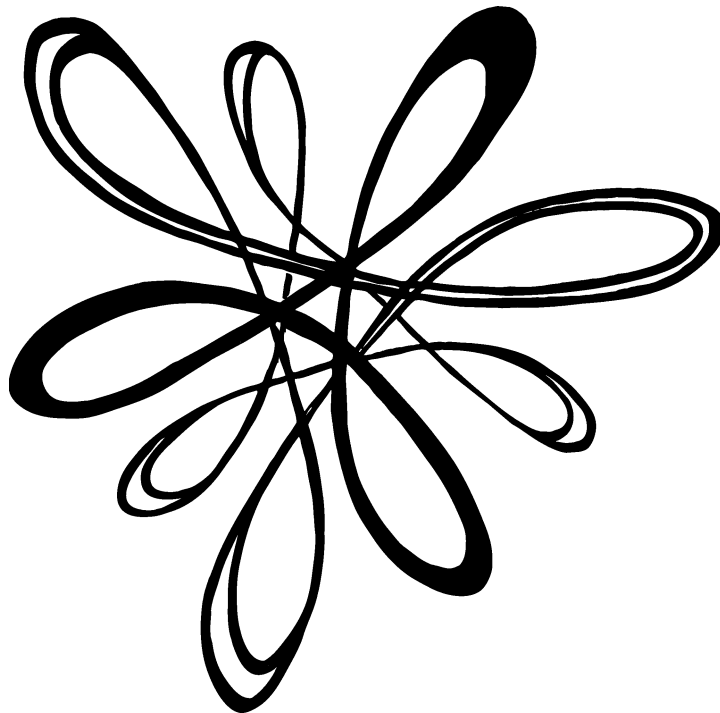
C **a people holy to the LORD our God.**

P Keep the words of the LORD in your heart; teach them to your children.

C **Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.**

P One does not live by bread alone,

C **but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**



***SCRIPTURE SONG (WOV p. 47)**



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.



☐ Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O God of the u-ni-verse;



just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na-tions.



Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and sing the glo-ry of your name?



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.



☐ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All



na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,



for your just and ho - ly works have been re - vealed.



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (WOV p. 47)**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

P Almighty God our Father, dwelling in majesty and mystery, renewing and fulfilling creation by your eternal Spirit, and revealing your glory through our Lord, Jesus Christ: Cleanse us from doubt and fear, and enable us to worship you, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, living and reigning, now and forever.

C **Amen**

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 6:1-8

This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

READER The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 29

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. (*Ps.* 29:2)

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo-ry and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:12-17

In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.

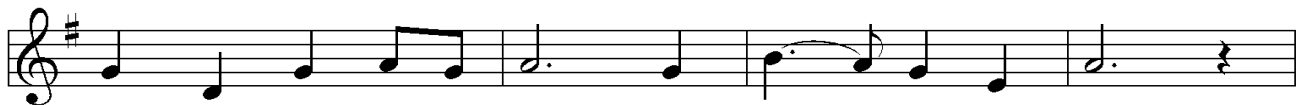
A reading from Romans.

¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—
¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

READER The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (WOV p. 48)



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!



Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip- tures.



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

***GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: "What's a 'Born Again' Christian?"

HYMN OF THE DAY *For the Beauty of the Earth* (LBW 561)

For the Beauty of the Earth

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For your - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly giv'n;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
a - gent of God's grand de - sign, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:

Refrain

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

***RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION**

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C **We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C **pray in the Holy Spirit.**

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C **look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C **Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all
our sins.

C **Amen**

*PEACE

- P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.
- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.**
- P Let us share God's peace with one another.

*OFFERTORY (WOV p. 50)

Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;
ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.
Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

- P Let us pray.
- P God, our Creator,
- C you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*THE PRAYERS

- P We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.
- P Abba God, you have brought us into your family, claiming us as beloved children. Bless your family of faith with gifts of cooperation and graciousness. Increase our hospitality toward all expressions of faith and teach us to honor our shared humanity. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.**
- P Your love and power burst forth in the flashes of lightning, the dance of the wind, and the deeply rooted trees of the forest. Sustain fragile and interconnected ecosystems, that they flourish for generations to come. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.**
- P Give your blessing of peace to the nations. Shelter all who risk life and livelihood to protect others from violence, conflict, and injustice. On this Memorial Day weekend, we remember those who have lost their lives in war and conflict (*especially*). Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.**
- P You are a God of love and not of condemnation. Quiet the hearts of all who struggle with shame, regret, or questions of self-worth. Teach us to forgive ourselves and one another. Restore wholeness to all who seek hope and healing (*especially*). Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.**
- P Strengthen bonds between parents, children, and families of all varieties. We pray especially for adoptive and foster families, multi-generational households, and blended families. Grant gifts of nurture and patience to all caregivers. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.**
- P The Spirit bears grateful witness to all children of God who have now come into their inheritance among the saints (*especially*). As they lived with hope in your gift of eternal life, so strengthen us in faith, that we recognize your eternal presence even in this mortal life. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.**
- P Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

***BENEDICTION**

P Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen

REFLECTIONS

1. Is there any 'Nicodemus' in you?
2. For a Lutheran, what does 'Born Again' Look Like?
3. Who are the 'Nicodemuses' of today?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for coming!

~ Strength & Healing Concerns~

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Violet Haage	Pam Rabe	Pat Webb	Joan Pfahl
Judy Livingston	Pat Janssen	Lyle & Mary Lou Nannen	
Bill Juraco	Phyllis Fischer	Judy Wyss	Virginia Mahan
Pat Geltmaker	Jim Uphoff	Richard Sathoff	Rita Scott
Ray Hammerich	Cyndi Benson	Bill Riekema	Linda Meyer

And All Soldiers Serving Our Country

~ THANK YOU ~

Pr. Raymond Barclay

MUSIC: LINDA GARMON
READERS: LYO
GREETER: LYO

There will be 3 Baptisms after Church Service today. The Congregation is welcome to stay after service.

Carter Dane Johanson
Noelle Grace Johanson
Zayden Everett Johanson

Important Dates and INFORMATION

~ ST. PETER HAPPENINGS ~

May 27th – Memorial Day!

June 1st – Cornstock Theater's 'Legally Blond'

June 2nd – Communion Sunday

June 6th – 10th – I will be out of town. Please have the bulletin information to me by 9am Wednesday, June 5th!

June 9th – OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE! (Weather Permitting)

June 12th – 9am Sewing
6pm Council Meeting

June 15th – Basement and Upper Room Reserved 2-9pm

June 16th – Communion Sunday

June 30th – Communion Sunday

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GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 26, 2024

THE HOLY TRINITY

How Can These Things Be?

Given the many heated encounters between Jesus and Pharisees, the term *Pharisee* has become, for some, another word for “enemy of truth” or “opponent of God’s promises for the world.” In communities where divisions over what is true and false, good and bad, have become iron-clad, often rankling relationships, it may seem familiar—even honorable—to hiss at Pharisees. But that wasn’t Jesus’ way.

Think first about people like the Samaritan woman at the well, or a centurion in Rome’s brutal occupying army, or a scandalous prostitute, or an executioner driving nails into Jesus’ flesh—people that might have been easily discarded. Yet Jesus related to them in compassion and mercy, not exclusion.

Then think of Nicodemus, meeting Jesus at night, calling him “a teacher who has come from God.” Nicodemus is a Pharisee but he is hardly an enemy of truth opposing God’s way in the world. Moreover, with one word, “we,” he includes other Pharisees like himself who wish to accompany Jesus in God’s kingdom.

The perplexing nighttime conversation that leaves Nicodemus in a state of wonderment—“How can these things be?”—leads to Jesus’ climactic revelation: “God so loved the world . . .” In the gospel’s original Greek, “world” (*kosmos*) indicates that literally every bit of the universe receives God’s mercy and compassion, saving us all from perishing into iron-clad division between who is in and who is out.

How can these things be? On this Sunday that celebrates the wonder of the Trinity, the answer comes from God the Creator, saying that creation is good; from God the Redeemer, teaching us to love the world as God loves it; and from God the Spirit, continuing to draw us into wonderment. That’s how this can be.

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