



Sunday, September 13, 2020 - 9:00 am
Theme: The Book of Acts – The Holy Spirit Moves!
Drive-In/ Outdoor/ Online Worship
Usher: Jerry N., Reader: Pat C., Hospitality: Claudia N.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome & Worship Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of

Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn: "Holy Water" Sweetheart Dinner Band

God, I'm on my knees again
God, I'm begging please again
I need You
Oh, I need You
Walking down these desert roads
Water for my thirsty soul
I need You
Oh, I need You

Your forgiveness
Is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears
It's like holy water on my skin, hey

Dead man walking, slave to sin
I wanna know about being born again
I need You
Oh, God, I need You
So, take me to the riverside
Take me under, baptize
I need You
Oh, God, I need You

Let me hear you
Your forgiveness
Is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears
It's like holy water on my skin
On my skin

I don't wanna abuse Your grace
God, I need it every day

It's the only thing that ever really
Makes me wanna change
I don't wanna abuse Your grace
God, I need it every day
It's the only thing that ever really
Makes me wanna change
I don't wanna abuse Your grace
God, I need it every day
It's the only thing that ever really
Makes me wanna change, oh
I don't wanna abuse Your grace
God, I need it every day
It's the only thing that ever really
Makes me wanna change

Your forgiveness
Is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips, yes it is
It's like the sound of a symphony to my ears
Like holy water
Your forgiveness
Oh, it's like sweet, sweet honey on my lips
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears
It's like holy water on my skin
It's like holy water on my skin
It's like holy water

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.
Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may
delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

15 After the death of their father, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still hates us and plans to pay us back for all the harm we did to him?" 16 So they sent a message to Joseph: "Before our father died, 17 he told us to ask you, 'Please forgive the crime your brothers committed when they wronged you.' Now please forgive us the wrong that we, the servants of your father's God, have done." Joseph cried when he received this message. 18 Then his brothers themselves came and bowed down before him. "Here we are before you as your slaves," they said. 19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid; I can't put myself in the place of God. 20 You plotted evil against me, but God turned it into good, in order to preserve the lives of many people who are alive today because of what happened. 21 You have nothing to fear. I will take care of you and your children." So he reassured them with kind words that touched their hearts.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Acts 17:16-33

16 While Paul was waiting in Athens for Silas and Timothy, he was greatly upset when he noticed how full of idols the city was. 17 So he held discussions in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentiles who worshiped God, and also in the public square every day with the people who happened to come by. 18 Certain Epicurean and Stoic teachers also debated with him. Some of them asked, "What is this ignorant show-off trying to say?" Others answered, "He seems to be talking about foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching about Jesus and the resurrection.[a] 19 So they took Paul, brought him before the city council, the Areopagus, and said, "We would like to know what this new teaching is that you are talking about. 20 Some of the things we hear you say sound strange to us, and we would like to know what they mean." (21 For all the citizens of Athens and the foreigners who lived there liked to spend all their time telling and hearing the latest new thing.) 22 Paul stood up in front of the city council and said, "I see that in every way you Athenians are very religious. 23 For as I walked through your city and looked at the places where you worship, I found an altar on which is written, 'To an Unknown God.' That which you worship, then, even though you do not know it, is what I now proclaim to you. 24 God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in

temples made by human hands. 25 Nor does he need anything that we can supply by working for him, since it is he himself who gives life and breath and everything else to everyone. 26 From one human being he created all races of people and made them live throughout the whole earth. He himself fixed beforehand the exact times and the limits of the places where they would live. 27 He did this so that they would look for him, and perhaps find him as they felt around for him. Yet God is actually not far from any one of us; 28 as someone has said, 'In him we live and move and exist.'

It is as some of your poets have said,
'We too are his children.'

29 Since we are God's children, we should not suppose that his nature is anything like an image of gold or silver or stone, shaped by human art and skill. 30 God has overlooked the times when people did not know him, but now he commands all of them everywhere to turn away from their evil ways. 31 For he has fixed a day in which he will judge the whole world with justice by means of a man he has chosen. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising that man from death!" 32 When they heard Paul speak about a raising from death, some of them made fun of him, but others said, "We want to hear you speak about this again." 33 And so Paul left the meeting.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, if my brother keeps on sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times?" 22 "No, not seven times," answered Jesus, "but seventy times seven,[a] 23 because the Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a king who decided to check on his servants' accounts. 24 He had just begun to do so when one of them was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. 25 The servant did not have enough to pay his debt, so the king ordered him to be sold as a slave, with his wife and his children and all that he had, in order to pay the debt. 26 The servant fell on his knees before the king. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay you everything!' 27 The king felt sorry for him, so he forgave him the debt and let him go. 28 "Then the man went out and met one of his fellow servants who owed him a few dollars. He grabbed him and started choking him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he said. 29 His fellow servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient with me,

and I will pay you back!’ 30 But he refused; instead, he had him thrown into jail until he should pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were very upset and went to the king and told him everything. 32 So he called the servant in. ‘You worthless slave!’ he said. ‘I forgave you the whole amount you owed me, just because you asked me to. 33 You should have had mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you.’ 34 The king was very angry, and he sent the servant to jail to be punished until he should pay back the whole amount.” 35 And Jesus concluded, “That is how my Father in heaven will treat every one of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Children’s Sermon

Message

Hymn of the Day: “Earth and All Stars!” ELW 731

Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

Refrain

God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!

Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes!

Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band! Loud cheering people!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

Prayers of intercession: Response “Hear Our Prayer”

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving Dialog

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

(All take communion at the same time)

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

St. Paul Lutheran Transition Prayer

God of hope,

**We are treading the path of transition. We praise you and ask you to make
straight our path.**

As we seek to call a new pastor, surround and ground the Ministry Site Profile Team and paperwork, the Call Committee, and the Synod staff in your Holy Spirit.

Give the Pastor you are preparing for us clarity of call and joy in finding us. Sustain in this congregation, and in each of us, trust in your Holy Spirit, patience in the process, and generosity for the future of your church. Resolve any conflict and break down any barriers that remain among us.

Give us open minds and hearts as we welcome our new pastor and a new season of this congregation's ministry.

Through the abundant love of your Son, Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

SENDING *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

Announcements

Blessing

The holy Three, the holy One
increase your hope,
strengthen your faith,
deepen your love,
and + grant you peace.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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September 13, 2020 – News & Updates

- **Family Devotions:** Sunday School is inviting the entire congregation to join us for weekly family devotions. Our Sunday School curriculum provider has provided us a fun and thought provoking devotional series. While the general nature of the series is geared toward kids, we would love to have kids of all ages join us. Devotions will be emailed or mailed weekly. Please email SundaySchool@sharingchristslve.org or call Melissa in the main office to be added to the distribution list and please note if you would like the devotions via email or regular mail.
- **Sunday School:** If you have a child who is between 4 years old and 4th grade and they are interested in participating in Sunday School for the 2020 - 2021 school year, please let Chris and Katie know by emailing your Child's name and age to SundaySchool@sharingchristslve.org. We are still working out what the format will end up being like (in-person/online). Additional information will be distributed in the coming weeks.
- **Sunday School** invites children from ages 4 through 4th grade to join us for an outdoor Sunday School lesson to be held **TODAY** immediately following the outdoor service. Please meet at the outdoor altar space. We do ask that children 5 and over wear masks and for everyone to practice social distancing. If the outdoor service is cancelled due to weather, we will reschedule for a later date. In addition to the lesson, we would like to have a brief meeting with the parents to discuss what Sunday School is going to look like for this fall.
- **Confirmation Class:** Confirmation Class meets each week on Wednesday at 6pm outside as long as the weather cooperates!
- **Weekly Wednesday Bible Study at 1pm** in person, We'll keep meeting outside for as long as the weather cooperates!
- **Communications:** Do you have web design or other communications skills? Could you give a little time to your church? If so, please contact Pastor Sarah! pastor@sharingchristslve.org.
- **Bring Your Own Picnic Nights - Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm outside at our church! The dates are: September 16, and 30th.** BYO picnic dinner, drink, mask, and a lawn chair or blanket and plan to sit physically distanced. Brandy Timmons at 651-319-3255 or at brandyhtimmons@gmail.com This event will be cancelled if it is raining.

- **Walking Club – Tuesdays at 7:00 am & 7:00 pm!** Meet in the church parking lot! For questions, please call AM Group Pat Clearence 651-285-9348, PM Group Brandy Timmons at 651-319-3255.
- **Bible Study – Isaiah: In the Days to Come...** Join Pastor Sarah and other curious minds to study the readings from Isaiah that we read during Advent. We meet via Zoom at **7:30pm on Wednesdays through September 23rd**. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0d48a9ad28a5fc1-isaiah>. Or simply join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/528018344> Password: 5212. Or call: 312-626-6799. Meeting ID: 528 018 344 and Password: 5212.
- The **SPLC COVID Response Team** Look for the completed Preparedness Plan at <https://www.sharingchristslve.org/covid-19-update.html> . If you have any questions for the Covid Response Team, email safety@sharingchristslve.org or call the office.
- **How can you serve on Sunday?** We need readers, ushers, hospitality ministers at the Hospitality Station. Please call Melissa 651.462.5212, or email admin@sharingchristslve.org to sign up.
- Please join us for **Zoom Coffee Hour** Sundays at 11:00 am. Go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/528018344> Password: 5212. Or call: 312-626-6799. Meeting ID: 528 018 344 and Password: 5212.
- **Office hours** are T, W, Th 9am-4pm and F 9am-12pm. Pastor Sarah and Melissa work remotely most days. You can reach Melissa at 651-462-5212 and Pastor Sarah at 517-902-3977. You can also email pastor@sharingchristslve.org and admin@sharingchristslve.org.

This week we are praying for:

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| Arnie | Jan B. | Karen R.'s Aunt |
| Vicki & Her family | Fran D. | Wendy & her mom |
| Amanda | Georgia B. | Mgoli and Mtera parishes |
| Larry | Cyndi | COVID medical/frontline staff |
| Andre | Greg | Military members |
| Katie E.'s Family | Bob | Law enforcement |
| Fire & EMS professionals | | |