

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor

E-mail: pastor.hayes@outlook.com

Pastor Hayes - Home: (785) 692-4228; Cell: (720) 897-6829 (call or text)

Website: www.stjohnpalmer.net

Mrs. Sheila Stuenkel, Organist

Office Phone: (785) 692-4228

Member – Linn Lutheran School Association

Email: linnluth@bluevalley.net

Phone: (785) 348-5792

Principal & Teacher: Mr. David Beikmann; Teachers: Mrs. Laura Stunkel,

Mrs. Kelsey Hatesohl, Mrs. Kim Burke, & Mrs. Renae Bott

May 21, 2023

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Welcome to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you are a guest or visitor with us today, we welcome you and invite you to come and worship with us again. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Pastor Hayes, and we hope to see you again soon.

Remember that the Worship Service begins when you enter. As the Music for Meditation begins, you are invited to join in quiet, preparation time for worship. Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

Liturgy – Divine Service Setting Three (pg. 184)

Opening Hymn: 500 “Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid”

Hymn of the Day: 493 “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

Distribution Hymn: 724 “If God Himself Be for Me”

Distribution Hymn: 763 “When Peace, like a River”

Distribution Hymn: 461 “I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

Closing Hymn: 768 “To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray”

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please e-mail prayer requests to Pastor Hayes at pastor.hayes@outlook.com.

Prayer requests will remain for 2 weeks unless you specify a length of time.

Angie Reinert, Lula Stuenkel, Marilyn Ohlde, Loraine Oldehoeft, & Lorna Heitman (in the nursing home); Charlie Pru Tiemeyer (NICU);

Rebecca Zach (recovering from injury)

Ushers today - *Tyler Ohlde, Daniel Nabors, Elijah Meier, & Mason Tiemeyer

Ushers May 28 - *Ryan Stuenkel, Aiden Sweet, Dylan Ohlde, & Liam Voelker

LYF Fellowship Hour today - Conner Ohlde & Mason Tiemeyer

LYF Mowing May 27th - Daniel Nabors & Zac Hiltgen

LYF Mowing June 3rd - Camryn Beikmann & Liam Voelker

Upcoming Events

May 21 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class

May 28 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. No Adult Bible Class

Announcements

- * Deadline Extended! Please turn in your VBS registrations **TODAY, May 21st**, so materials can be ordered for VBS.
- * VBS Leaders are needed for BIBLE STORYTELLER and PRESCHOOL LEADER. Without enough volunteers, we may not be able to offer preschool VBS. Please consider using your time and talents to help.
- * Camp Jefferson will run from June 9-11 this year. Camp Participants are in Grades 5-8 (this current school year). Also, needing High School Counselors. More information can be found on the Camp Jefferson Facebook page or by contacting Kate Olson (785-692-4276) or Jessie Uffman (785-747-2481). Camp forms can be downloaded & printed from Facebook page.
- * LCMS memory verse challenge for this week: **Romans 12:12 - “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”**
- * Pastor Koch of Zion is leading a 3 day, 2 night JD2D trip to Sioux Falls, SD on May 25-27 (10 a.m. Thursday-Saturday at 3 p.m.). The only cost if for one fast food meal and snacks along the way. We will be staying with hosts families from Faith Lutheran in Sioux Falls. Please contact Pastor Koch by May 20th if your 5th grade or older son/daughter would like to attend. More information about JD2D is available at jd2d.org.

As We Gather...

The Spirit of Truth Bears Witness to Jesus

The Spirit of Truth bears witness to Jesus, who is the truth. But the world does not receive the truth. It loves its own and hates those who are of the truth. Just as Jesus was scorned, so is His Church. “*The hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God*” (John 16:2). Yet it is by Jesus’ suffering and death that we are saved. Therefore we rejoice to share in His sufferings, that we may also share in His resurrection glory (1 Peter 4:7-14). Through the ministry of the Spirit of Truth, we are cleansed from the deceit of our idols and given a new heart and a new spirit, the heart and Spirit of Christ (Ezekiel 36:22-28). He now works in us fervent, self-giving love for one another, love which covers a multitude of sins, “*that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen*” (1 Peter 4:11).

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His Table those who trust His words, repent all sins, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily, according to Holy Scripture, do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, are asked to refrain from communing with us until such a time as they are properly instructed.

A short, more detailed explanation of our Confessional practice is available from our Ushers or Elders. If you would like to learn more about the Sacrament of the Altar and our confessional position, I would be happy to visit with you.

-Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor, St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

In preparation for Holy Communion, you may use the following statements as part of your self-examination:

- I admit that I am a sinner. **(1 John 1:8-10)**
- I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from all sin, from Satan and death. **(Acts 4:10-12; John 14:6)**
- I desire to live as God wants me to. **(John 14:15; 1 John 2:6)**
- I am sure of my eternal salvation because Jesus died for me and rose again. **(John 3:16; Romans 8:14; & 1 John 5:11-12)**
- I believe the Risen Christ is really present in Holy Communion and that with the bread and wine I receive His Body and Blood. **(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 4:22-24; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; Luke 22:17-20)**
- I forgive those who have wronged me.

MORNING PRAYER

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life my please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.



Introit (*Psalm 27:1, 11a, 12; antiphon: vv. 7a, 8b, 9a*)

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud. Alle- | luia.*

Your face, Lord, do I seek; hide not your face from me.

Alle- | luia.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom | shall I fear?*

**The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be
afraid?**

Teach me your way, | O Lord;*

give me not up to the will of my adver- | saries;

for false witnesses have risen a- | gainst me,*

and they breathe out | violence.

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.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud. Alle- | luia.*

Your face, Lord, do I seek; hide not your face from me.

Alle- | luia.

Collect for the Seventh Sunday of Easter

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading: *Ezekiel 36:22-28*

²² “Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. ²³ And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴ I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my just decrees. ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.”

Epistle Reading: *1 Peter 4:7-11*

⁷ The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia Verse (*Psalms 47:8; John 14:18a, 28; 16:22b*)

Alleluia. God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. Alleluia. I will not leave you as orphans; I am going away, and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice. **Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading: *John 15:26-16:4*

²⁶ [Jesus said:] “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

¹ “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.”

Martin Luther’s Words About Today’s Gospel

This is the comfort that Christ gives the apostles to strengthen their faith (which they certainly needed) about their preaching and confession of Him. By so doing, He promises to His whole Church that after His resurrection and ascension the Word or preaching of the Holy Spirit will always (as long as He sits at the right hand of the Father) be heard through the apostles and their successors and that this testimony will remain in the world, no matter who hears it. They are not to be concerned about who does or does not hear and accept it, but to know that because it is the Holy Spirit’s testimony, He will be and work with it so that some believe it, and that the world will be unable to prevent and hinder this, even though it rages against it with hatred and persecution.

So in this text we are presented with a picture of what happens to the kingdom of Christ in the opposing kingdom of the world. This was prophesied in the first promise of the Gospel, when the Church had its first beginning, when God said to the serpent: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed. He will trample your head, but you will bite His heel” [Gen. 3:15]. This “enmity” must always continue in the world; it remains a perpetual “enmity” and a perpetual fight. When Christ comes with His preaching and meets the serpent, he quickly begins to rage against Him and to bite and sting with his poisonous tongue and teeth, for he is afraid for his head. But he has not yet won anything and still lies under the feet of this Seed of the woman, who tramples on his head and continues so long that his poison and wrath are used up on Him, and his power comes to nothing so that he can no longer do any harm.

The comfort and victory we have in Christ is that He will nevertheless preserve His Church against the devil’s wrath and power. But in the meantime we suffer from the bites and murderous stings of the devil, which hurt our flesh and blood. The worst is that we must see and suffer these things from those who want to be and are even called “God’s children” and “the Christian Church.” We must learn to become accustomed to such things, for Christ Himself and all the saints have not had any better.

It was also hard and painful for our first father, Adam, that he had to learn to understand the words “I will put enmity between you” [Gen. 3:15], etc., in his own children, when his firstborn son, given to him by God, struck his brother dead because of his sacrifice and worship [Gen. 4:3–8]. Similarly, later, the dear fathers Abraham, Isaac, etc., had to experience in their own houses (which then were the true Church) that one brother persecuted the other (even though from one father they had seen, learned, and received the same faith, Word of God, and worship) [Gen. 25:23–34; 27:41]. Therefore, it should not seem surprising or strange to us when we have to experience the same thing.

CATECHETICAL REVIEW

An Explanation of the Small Catechism Introduction (Cont.)

5. How is human reason to be used in understanding Holy Scripture?

A. Holy Scripture is given in human language. To determine what it says we need to apply the rules of language, such as grammar and logic. It is right to use reason as a servant of the text, but the guidance of the Holy Spirit is essential for its proper understanding.

- 21 **Psalm 119:73** - Give me understanding to learn Your commands.
- 22 **Matt. 13:19** - When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart.
- 23 **Matt. 22:37** - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.
- 24 **Acts 17:11** - They received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

B. Unlike all other books, Holy Scripture is God's Word and truth. It is wrong to question or deny the truthfulness of the sacred text (as happens, for example, with historical criticism).

- 25 **Rom. 3:4** - Let God be true, and every man a liar. As it is written: "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge."
- 26 **2 Cor. 10:5** - We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God.
- 27 **Col. 2:8** - See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy.
- 28 **2 Peter 3:15-16** - Our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Note: See **1 Corinthians 1** and **2**.

6. What basic distinction must we keep in mind in order to understand the Bible?

We must sharply distinguish between the Law and Gospel in the Bible.

- 29 **John 1:17** - The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
- 30 **2 Cor. 3:6** - The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

The Sunday After the Ascension



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