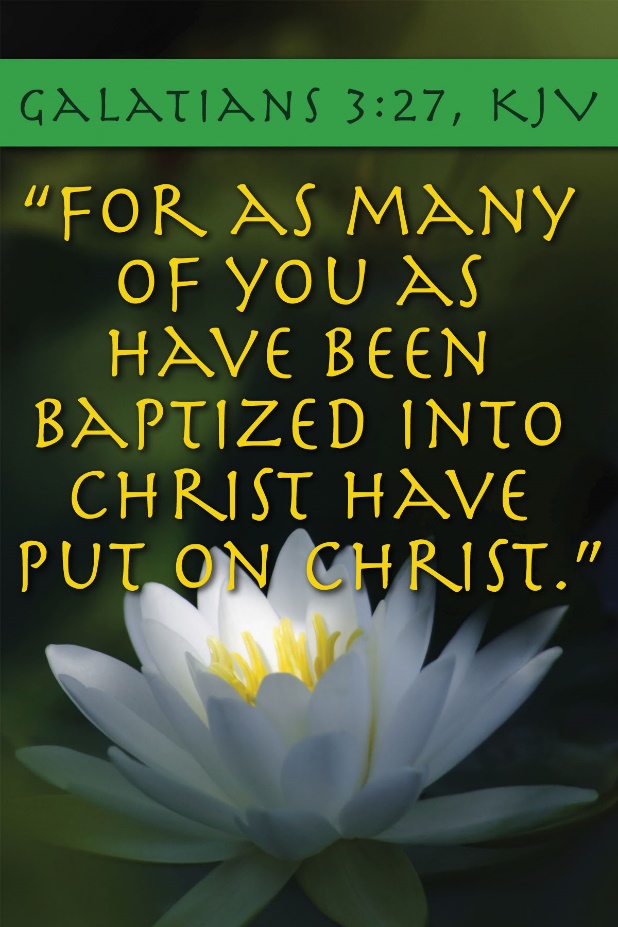
Faith Lutheran Church

June 19, 2016



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Pastor Ellen Schoepf

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**RELEASED TO PROCLAIM**

Jesus encounters a man who lives naked among the tombs. The man convulsed with fits and seizures. Luke tells us he has an unclean spirit. We are told the demon who possesses the man is called “‘Legion’; for many demons had entered him” (Luke 8:30).

We can be plagued with many problems, enslaved to many vices. It is rarely one thing or another that holds us captive in life. Sometimes the forces of sin and evil that mount up against us are legion.

Earlier in Luke’s gospel, Jesus stood up in the synagogue and, echoing the prophet Isaiah, said he was sent “to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free” (Luke 4:18). Jesus’ ministry is not to those who have it all together, but to those whose struggles are many, whose resources are few, and whose prospects are dim.

By the end of the story, the now-clothed man is sitting calmly at the feet of Jesus. Ironically, the people respond to this healing with fear and actually ask Jesus to leave. Sometimes we grow comfortable with the demons—our own and others’. What is holding you captive today? What attitudes, addictions, or behaviors keep you chained? From what are you praying to be released today? When Christ comes to free you, will he be welcomed? Who benefits from this enslavement, whether ours or another’s?

As Jesus prepares to leave, he instructs the man, “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you” (Luke 8:39). From what have you been set free already? What do you celebrate today? Jesus came to free us from all that oppresses us, all that holds us captive, so that we might go out to declare how much God has done.

**Sunday, June 19, 2016**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Holy Communion**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

This Sunday’s texts paint startling pictures of the horrific—the demonic—nature of sin. The church’s repeated celebration of the holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus “until he comes.” It is a dramatic declaration of “how much God has done for you.”

*If hearing assistance is needed, please ask an usher for a personal PA receiver.*

*The ushers also have large print copies of today’s worship folder available.*

*If it will be difficult for you to stand along with the congregation during*

*any part of the worship service, please feel free to remain seated.*

*There is a nursery available during the worship service for those who wish*

*to use it. It is located at the end of the hall beyond the coat racks.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We cordially greet all who have come to worship today.*

*Please register your attendance and join us in fellowship after the service.*

Prayer Requests

PRELUDE

*The pre-service music signals the beginning of the worship service. Silence during the*

*pre-service music enables worshipers to prepare for worship through quiet meditation.*

“There Is a Balm in Gilead” arr. Carleton Inniss

Gathering

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

*The assembly stands*

Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked*

*at baptism, as the presiding minister begins*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

abounding in steadfast love toward us,

healing the sick and raising the dead,

showering us with every good gift.

**C Amen**

P Let us confess our sin in the

presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P Just and gracious God,

**C we come to you for healing and life.**

**Our sins hurt others and diminish us;**

**we confess them to you.**

**Our lives bear the scars of sin;**

**we bring these also to you.**

**Show us your mercy, O God.**

**Bind up our wounds, forgive**

**us our sins,** **and free us to love, for**

**the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**Amen**

P The apostle Paul assures us:

“When we were dead in our trespasses,

God made us alive together with Christ,

nailing the record of our sins to the cross.”

Jesus says to you, ☩ “Your sins are forgiven.”

Be at peace, and tell everyone how

much God has done for you.

**C Amen**

Gathering Song #314

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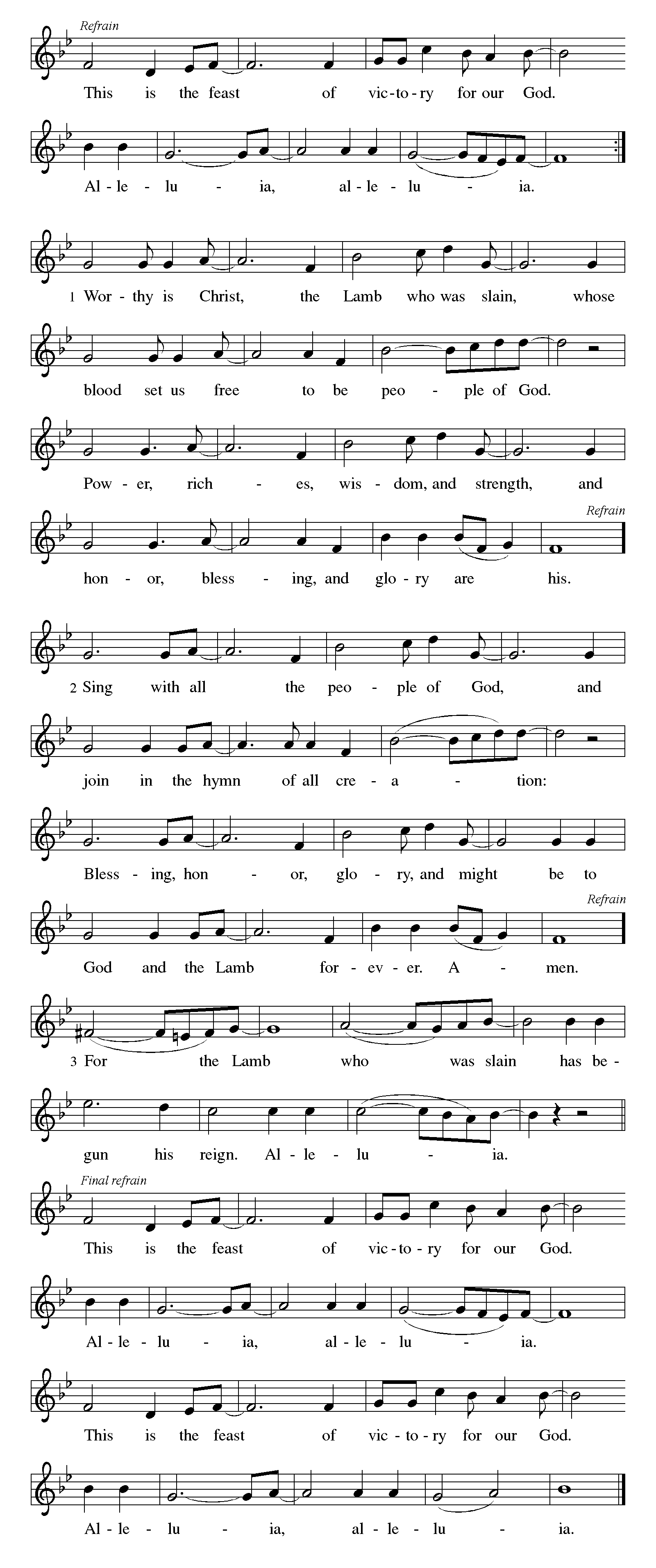
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Greeting

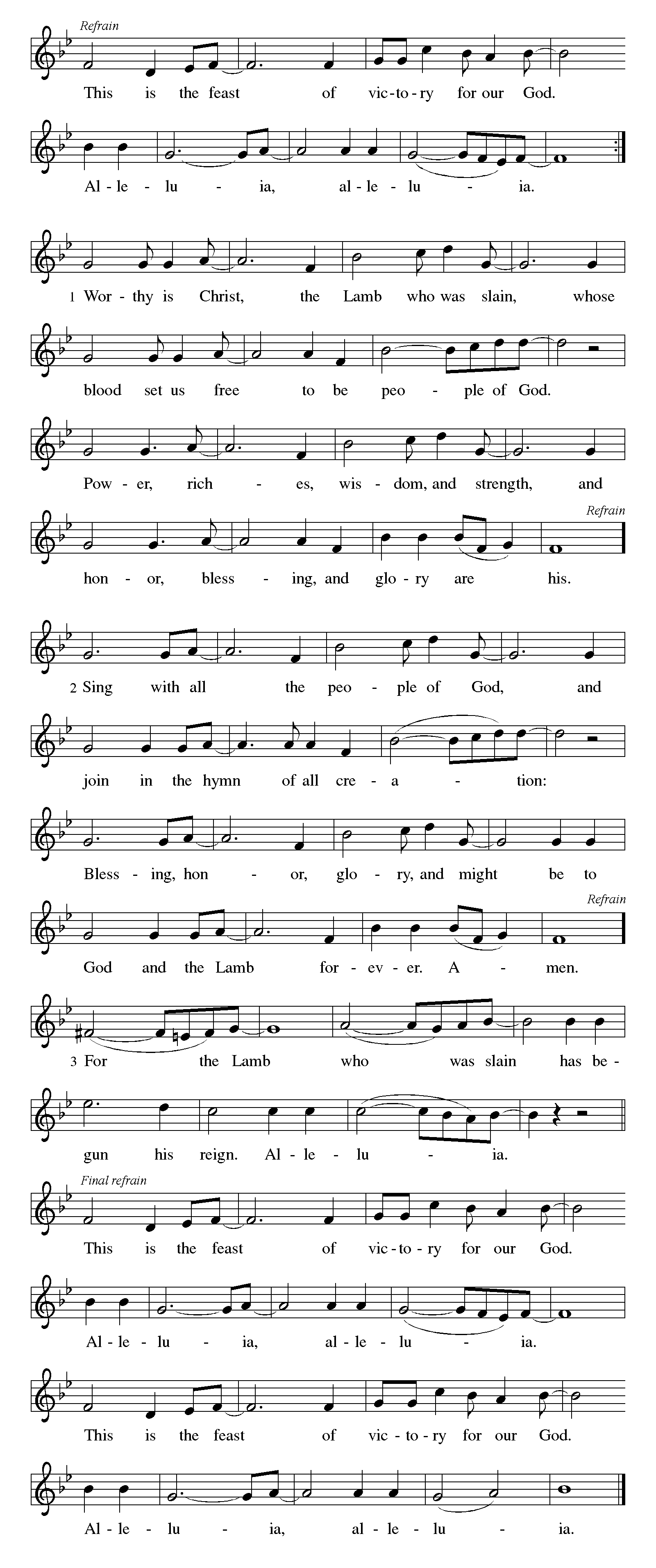
A The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

Canticle of Praise

⇒

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Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray.

O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a

sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from

the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything

that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen**

*The assembly is seated*

Word

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

First Reading: Isaiah 65:1-**9**

*The prophet announces God’s impatience. The people’s self-absorption is idolatry, and images from pagan worship fill this reading. Like a vintner who crushes the grape to release the wine, God will use Israel’s exile to establish a new community of the faithful.*

AA reading from Isaiah.

1I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,  
  to be found by those who did not seek me.  
 I said, “Here I am, here I am,”  
  to a nation that did not call on my name.  
 2I held out my hands all day long  
  to a rebellious people,  
 who walk in a way that is not good,  
  following their own devices;  
 3a people who provoke me  
  to my face continually,  
 sacrificing in gardens  
  and offering incense on bricks;  
 4who sit inside tombs,  
  and spend the night in secret places;  
 who eat swine’s flesh,  
  with broth of abominable things in their vessels;  
 5who say, “Keep to yourself,  
  do not come near me, for I am too holy for you.”  
 These are a smoke in my nostrils,  
  a fire that burns all day long.  
 6See, it is written before me:  
  I will not keep silent, but I will repay;  
 I will indeed repay into their laps  
  7their iniquities and their ancestors’ iniquities together,  
 says the Lord;  
 because they offered incense on the mountains  
  and reviled me on the hills,  
 I will measure into their laps  
  full payment for their actions.

 8Thus says the Lord:  
 As the wine is found in the cluster,  
  and they say, “Do not destroy it,  
  for there is a blessing in it,”  
 so I will do for my servants’ sake,  
  and not destroy them all.  
 9I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,  
  and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;  
 my chosen shall inherit it,  
  and my servants shall settle there.

A The word of the Lord.

C**Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Galatians 3:23-29

*For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.*

A A reading from Galatians.

23Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. 24Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. 25But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, 26for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. 27As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. 29And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel*

Gospel Acclamation

  
Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

*Jesus’ mission includes foreigners, and his authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus’ work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony of God’s mercy and power.*

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

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

26Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. 28When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me”—29for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) 30Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. 31They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.  
  32Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. 33Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

  34When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. 35Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. 36Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. 37Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. 38The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

***The assembly is seated***

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Trinity Seminary noisy offering

Sermon

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song*

Hymn of the Day #843



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APOSTLES’ Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come 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**

Prayers of Intercession

A Let us pray for the church, those

in need, and all of God’s creation.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed.*

*To each petition, the assembly responds:*

A Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the*

*prayers, and the assembly responds:*

P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting your

promise to hear us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace,*

*and may say, “Peace be with you,” or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated*

Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

OFFERING

Drew Williams, violin “Canon in D” Pachelbel

*The assembly stands*

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you,

and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good

things at your table, that we may come to the help of all

in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

**C Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty

and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Thanksgiving at the Table

P 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

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,

let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen**

Invitation to Communion

P Christ invites you to a place of honor at this banquet.

Welcome to the feast.

Communion

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond*

Amen

Communion Song



CONGREGATIONAL SONG

“here I Am, Lord” #574

CONGREGATIONAL SONG #592



*The assembly stands*

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray.

O God, as a mother comforts her child, so you comfort

your people, carrying us in your arms and satisfying us

with this food and drink, the body and blood of Christ.

Send us now as your disciples, announcing peace and

Proclaiming that the reign of God has come near;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen**

Sending

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

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor

and ☩ give you peace.

**C Amen**

Sending Song #540

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Dismissal

A Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**“Didn’t the Lord Deliver Daniel” arr. Carleton Inniss**

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“This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24, ESV).

Welcome!

Preaching Harold Sollenberger

Presiding Pastor Ellen Schoepf

Secretary Rita Barry

Director of Christian Education Melinda Schultz

Director of Music Debra Borton-McDonough

Organist/Pianist Bruce Williams

June 12 worship attendance: 74

Serving Faith Today June 26 – 10:00 a.m.

Acolytes

Altar care Ledith Ambs and Jennifer Coe

Communion assistants Harold Sollenberger Deb Borton-McDonough

Dane Webb Brian Ransom

Griffin Ransom

Greeters Jack and Natalie Dingledine

Lay assistants Harold Sollenberger Deb Borton-McDonough

Readers Dane Webb Brian Ransom

Ushers Mike Barry Mike Barry

Nursery Corey and Kim O’Brien Lori Webb