**Zion Lutheran Church, Spring City, Pennsylvania**

**Zoom Invitation:** [**https://zoom.us/j/514691959?pwd=d2twOX24dzAzMllxS3hxL2lqT3BYUT09**](https://zoom.us/j/514691959?pwd=d2twOX24dzAzMllxS3hxL2lqT3BYUT09)

**The meeting I.D. is 514691959 and the meeting password is 978134.**

Please **join just prior to 10am. Phone participation is possible also.**

**The 7th SUNDAY of EASTER, May 24, the 11TH Sunday of the Coronavirus**

Good morning to all of you. We are gathered in spirit, even if not in body. May God bless us in our community of love, caring for one another, purposefully serving those in need and in want. Pastor Paul

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Welcome

A coronavirus Update: Michael Randolph, Jr. & fiancée Kiley Irene Noll, andBrenda Miller have all had negative tests. Prayers for: George Cloud, Sr. heart procedure

**Regretfully we announce that Don Donahue has passed away from Covid 19.**

Our Assistant today is Carol Mandik, Reader is Lou Mandik and Acolyte is Anna and Julia Moore

Technical Support: Joshua Ballard

*INTRODUCTION*

*In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too, long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.*

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P. We begin with the Easter greeting: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **C.** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P. Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

P. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water of life, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lighting of the Candle: Acolytes Anna and Julia Moore

**OPENING HYMN:      You Are the Way (ELW 758)**

**You are the way; to you alone from sin and death we flee;**

**all those who search for God, you find, and by your grace set free.**

**You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,**

**that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.**

THE SERVICE BEGINS

P. The Lord be with you **C. And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P. Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C. Amen**

**FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11** *Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world, and that the disciples will be accompanied and empowered by the Holy Spirit. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.*

R. The first reading is found in the book of Acts, the first chapter:

[Luke writes:] 1In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning 2until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; 5for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."The Word of the Lord **C. thanks be to God**

PSALM: Psalm 47 *God has gone up with a shout. (Ps. 47:5)*

1Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.

**2For the LORD Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,**

3who subdues the | peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;

**4who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

5God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.

**6Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

7For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.

**8God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.**

9The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.

**The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.**

**C. Glory be to the Father and to the Son (+) and to the holy Spirit, who is, who was, and**

**who will always be, our God. Amen.**

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23** *The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.*

R. The second reading is found in the book of Ephesians, the first chapter:

15I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 17I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. The Word of the Lord **C. thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53** *On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.*

P. The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter. **C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

44[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." 45Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48You are witnesses of these things. 49And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." 50Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. 51While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. 52And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; 53and they were continually in the temple blessing God. P. The Gospel of our Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children’s Time The Dietrich Family Players**

Music offering by George Herbert “I Surrender All” Weeden/Stone

**Message:** “Going Higher”

A: Let us proclaim our faith with the **Apostles Creed:**

**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, born of the virgin Mary,**

**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**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE:** P. The Peace of the Lord be with you all. **C. And also with you**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: Living God, you chose us to be your witnesses in the world. We pray for the church in every place and the congregations in our community, *especially for Zion*. Focus our hearts and minds on the ministry we share in your name. Lord, in your mercy, **C. hear our prayer.**

A: Loving God, all creation sings praise to you. You delight in the oceans, and the mountains are your throne. Teach us humility and respect for our home. Lord, in your mercy, **C. hear our prayer.**

A: Sovereign God, you rule the heavens, the earth, and time itself. Make this a time of justice, peace, and solidarity among all nations and peoples, so that oppression and violence rule no more.

Lord, in your mercy, **C. hear our prayer.**

A: Tender God, we wait with hope for your presence to heal us, bless us, restore us, and give us peace. You know all the names of those suffering for whom we pray this day George Cloud, Ralph Finkbiner; Irene Noll; and Gladys Vammen.Lord, in your mercy, **C. hear our prayer.**

A: Gentle God, you guide us as we seek wisdom. We pray for teachers, professors, theologians, day care workers, and all those charged with teaching the young and old, especially in this time of distance learning . Give them endurance and persistence in their valuable work.

Lord, in your mercy, **C. hear our prayer.**

A: Infinite God, your inheritance given to all your saints is your presence in our life and in our death. We remember with thanksgiving the faithful departed, especially Don Donahue.

Lord, in your mercy, **C. hear our prayer.**

*P. For so much else we pray and so many more. We pray for:*

*Others for whom you may wish to pray: (names submitted by our members.* ***Please update your names****):*

*Kenneth Bauer, Ellen Levy-Gray, Dottie Jacques, Mary Lesh, Diane Pannella,* Mildred Purcell, Harvey ‘Bud’ Raser, *Thomas Reese, Judi Rittenhouse, Lynn Schmitt, Steven Schollenberger, Vicki Walker, and Greg Wicker.*

*Deb Althoff,**Mike Anthony****,*** *Deb Hoff, Glenn Hoff, Amy Hollar, Tom Hughes, Ryan Law, Cindy Levengood,*

*Jay Markwart, James Newson, Jennifer Paris, Jeffrey Pickersgill, Brian Spitko, Jan Starr, Doris Sypher,*

*Ron Taylor, Chuck Vammen, and Judy Wambold.*

Lord, in your mercy, **C. hear our prayer.**

P. With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord, who taught us, when we pray, to say:

**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.**

**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**

**CLOSING BLESSING**

P. May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life,

fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C.** **Amen.**

Hymns:               **Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (ELW 836)**

**Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!**

**Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.**

**Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.**

**Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,**

**well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!**

**Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;**

**teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!**

A. Christ is risen, just as he said he would. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Food Pantry egg distribution: please save your empty egg cartons

Request from **Ann Cummins Proposal**: I invite everyone to participate in a fun project. If each person in the congregation could send me a ten second video of themselves smiling, big and bright, I will then create a whole congregation video. Each person, alone, smiling for 10 seconds, separate videos. Send them to 484-429-3007, [anniedcummins@gmail.com](mailto:anniedcummins@gmail.com). Thank you.

**Next Sunday, Pentecost, we will again share in the Lord’s Supper. Please be sure you have available some small portion of bread and some small portion of drink: wine, grape juice or whatever you have.**

**Mid Week Readings for Devotions**

**Monday, May 25** You say: I/We begin in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Please Read **Psalm 99, The Lord is king, exalted over all the peoples**

Here you may wish to proclaim your faith with the **Apostles Creed:**

Prayer: Holy God and gracious Lord, justice and peace are the hallmarks of your kingdom. Help me to see the peace that you offer to me in the midst of those things that rattle my life. I know that you answer me when I cry to you, help me to respond with righteousness and love. Help me to serve you always. In the precious name of Jesus, I pray. Amen

Here you may wish to add the **Lord’s Prayer.**

**Tuesday, May 26** You say: I/We begin in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Please Read **Numbers 16: 41 – 50** After they left their enslavement in Egypt, the people lose faith in God.

Here you may wish to proclaim your faith with the **Apostles Creed:**

Prayer: Holy God, I know that when my journey is easy, the road smooth and the blessings obvious, I do not complain so much. But when the journey is hard and I cannot see the blessings of this day, then, I complain. Surely it makes you angry that I can be so faithless as to quit in the hard times. Help me to be full of hope and faith, even-when, maybe especially-when, the going gets difficult. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen

Here you may wish to add the **Lord’s Prayer.**

**Wednesday, May 27** You say: I/We begin in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Please Read: **John 3: 31-36,** Jesus is the One sent from heaven to give restored life.

Here you may wish to proclaim your faith with the **Apostles Creed:**

Prayer: Holy God, gracious Lord, you have placed me in the loving hands of Jesus Christ who offers consolation, restoration and hope. Help me to look to Jesus for my strength and energy, especially when I am feeling low and sorry. In Jesus’ holy name I pray. Amen

Here you may wish to add the **Lord’s Prayer.**

**Thursday, May 28 S**ay: I/We begin in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Please Read **Exodus 19: 1-9a,** God, by way of Moses, leads the people out of Egypt toward freedom.

Here you may wish to proclaim your faith with the **Apostles Creed:**

Prayer: Holy God, you bore me up on eagle’s wings to fly from the troubles of my yesterdays. You led me away from the destructive forces that had my life under control. Strengthen my commitment to remain faithful to you, my Savior. These things I pray in the precious name of Jesus. Amen

Here you may wish to add the **Lord’s Prayer.**

**Friday, May 29**You say: I/We begin in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Please Read **Romans 8: 9-17,** the Spirit of God dwells in us to give us power beyond our power.

Here you may wish to proclaim your faith with the **Apostles Creed:**

Prayer: Almighty God, may your Spirit be my guide and my strength. I know that your Spirit operates in my life so that I can find the concepts and words that make my faith possible. Please show me how to believe and live in such a way that I am true to you. In the precious and holy name of Jesus I pray. Amen

Here you may wish to add the **Lord’s Prayer.**

**Saturday, May 30** You say: I/We begin in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Please Read **Matthew 5: 1 – 12,** the Beatitudes of Jesus, spoken in the Sermon on the Mount.

Here you may wish to proclaim your faith with the **Apostles Creed:**

Prayer: Holy God, blessed Lord, make me blessed too. I know that I am not a perfect person, though I am perfectly yours. I know that I am a work-in-progress, a lump of clay being shaped into a saint. Help me to be confident in your love for me. In Jesus’ name I/we pray. Amen.

Here you may wish to add the **Lord’s Prayer.**