

Wittenberg Lutheran Church

Service of the Word

May 24, 2020

Seventh Sunday of Easter

*Service will be streamed at the WittenbergAV
channel on Youtube and the Wittenberg Leesville
Facebook page.*

Worshippers are invited to recite the boldface responses provided for both the spoken and sung liturgical texts.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

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

Holy and gracious God,

I confess that I have sinned against you. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, in whom we are forgiven. We live now in the peace of Christ and seek to love God and our neighbors. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN... *“In Christ There Is No East or West”* ...verses 1 & 2

See next page for music

APOSTOLIC 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 God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

THE FIRST READING.....Acts 1:6-14

“When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore dominion to Israel?” ⁷He

In Christ There Is No East or West

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north.
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains the vocal melody, and the bass staff contains the accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are numbered 1 through 4, corresponding to the four lines of text.

but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It also features a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are numbered 1 through 4, corresponding to the four lines of text.

Text: John Greenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by divine 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, "You Galileans, 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."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

PSALM: Psalm 66:1-10, 32-35 (*We read responsively by whole verse.*)

¹Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.

²**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;**
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the
presence of God.

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides**
the clouds;

I AM is that name, rejoice before God!

⁵In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into free**
dom;

but the rebels shall live in desert places.

⁷O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

⁹You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it languished.

¹⁰Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

³²Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.

³³You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.

³⁴Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

³⁵How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!

THE SECOND READING.....*1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11*

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that God may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on God, because God cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist the devil, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, that very God of all grace, who has called you into eternal glory in Christ, will restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To God be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The holy gospel according to Saint John, the seventeenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL.....*John 17:1-11*

¹After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹“And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY...“*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*”verses 1 & 4
See next page for music

CREED

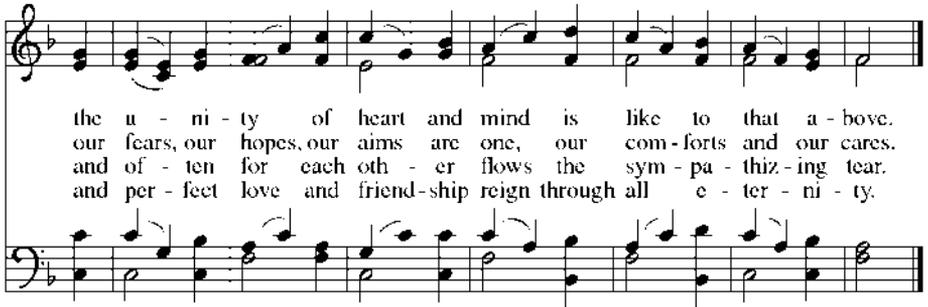
Let us confess our faith.

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

Blest Be the Tie That Binds



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares,
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Dowsett, 1740–1817, alt.
Music: DIONIS, Johann G. Nägele, 1773–1836, adapt.

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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful Father,

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—
our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious
love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for
us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayers concludes with these words:

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

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

Amen.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Please note:

Offerings can be made online or mailed to PO Box
3447, Leesville, SC 29070

Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of:

MY GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

By: Ernestine Sharpe

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Worship: We will offer in-person worship as well as continuing online worship next weekend, May 31. See the complete letter with instructions at the end of this bulletin.

Crumley Scholarship: Wittenberg Lutheran Church is pleased to announce that applications for the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. James R. Crumley Memorial Scholarship are now being accepted through June 30, 2020. For more information, please download the scholarship application found on our church website: <http://wittenberg leesville.org/policiesforms>

Attention Lutheran Men in Mission: Camp Kinard is now in the process of opening a new entrance way. They request the assistance of SCLMM in helping to provide volunteers to make this dream of a new entrance way a reality. A link to the letter can be found on our website under Upcoming Events.

Coffee and Conversation: Coffee and Conversation takes place on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join on their computer or smartphone at the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85807901118>. People who prefer to use regular phones can dial 301-715-8592 and log in with Meeting ID: 858 0790 1118. No experience is required. Bring your Bibles! We'll pick up at Matthew 21.

Taco Theology is back!: Bring your own tacos (or whatever) and Pastor Emily will bring some theology at 7pm on Tuesdays. Join the Zoom Meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81715495930>. If you'd prefer to call in, dial 301-715-8592 and log in with Meeting ID: 817 1549 5930. Everyone is welcome!

Lunchtime Book Study: The Tuesday Book Group is 100% online and ready for new members! The next few weeks, we'll discuss Dr. Brene Brown's book The Gifts of Imperfection. Join the Zoom Meeting at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/902268882> on your computer or call in at 253-215-8782 or 301-715-8592. The Meeting ID is 902 268 882.

How to Join a Zoom Meeting: Not sure how to join a Zoom meeting? This video shows how: <https://youtu.be/hIkCmbvAHQQ>. Any phone can dial in the numbers and then use the meeting ID to connect to our group. You don't need any special equipment, just a phone with long distance. A computer or phone with a camera is nice, but not necessary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONT.

Food Pantry: Friday May 29: **Volunteers Needed**; Saturday May 30: **Volunteers Needed**. *If you sign up for Food Pantry and cannot be there for the day you signed up, please let the church office or Marti Burns (803-960-8594) know so that arrangements can be made to fill your slot.*

Synod Assembly: Synod Assembly has been changed to July 25. The Bishop's Election Survey remains the same (see below).

Bishop's Election Committee Survey: South Carolina Synod is in a period of thoughtful discernment as we prepare to elect a new bishop at Synod Assembly this May. We are collecting the thoughts and prayers of people across the synod through a survey. The link is accessible through the SC Synod website.

Readings for May 31 are:

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23

Rev. Emily Edenfield, Pastor

Cell Phone: 864-498-8558

Email: pastoremilyedenfield@gmail.com

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

All in-person activities are canceled except the Food Pantry.

Friday, May 29:

Food Pantry.....Volunteers Needed.....9:00a.m.

Saturday, May 30:

Food Pantry.....Volunteers Needed.....9:00 a.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT

LAST WEEK

YTD

Regular Offering.....	6,520.....	105,269
Food Pantry Offering.....	650.....	14,833
Total Offering to Budgeted Operations.....	7,170.....	120,102
Expenses Budgeted Weekly.....	6,479.....	129,580
Over/(Under).....	691.....	(9,478)
Vision 20+20 Offering.....	350.....	6,479
Other Designated Off/Inc	975.....	19,264

LET US PRAY

MEMBERS.....

Tissy Price	Billy Long	Eva Watson	Freida Banks
John & Merlyn Watkins	Sybil Ergle	Larry Lorick	John Banks
Gerald & Letha Long	Lynne Rauton	Mona Henderson	Wills Swygert
Madison Grace Maroney	Sandy Spradley		

FAMILY & FRIENDS.....

Teddy Kneece (<i>brother of Brenda Howard</i>)	Walter Chandler (<i>friend of Hazel Cooper</i>)
Brad Cary (<i>brother of Ross Cary</i>)	Bill Amick (<i>family of Barbie Rodgers</i>)
The Mayo Family (<i>friends of Marti Burns</i>)	Taylor Grace Kinard (<i>cousin of KD</i>)
Heyward Bouknight (<i>father of Tripp Bouknight</i>)	Dean & Selena Player & family (<i>relatives of Chip & Jennifer Spradley</i>)
Lynwood Hyler (<i>friend of Robbin Swygert</i>)	Daphne Ridgell (<i>friend of Brent Shealy</i>)
Chris Gunter (<i>cousin to Robbin Swygert</i>)	Kenny & Edie Boozer (<i>friends of Donice Frick</i>)
Karen Ferry (<i>aunt of Lynne Rauton</i>)	Alice Martinez (<i>friend of Donice Frick</i>)
The Anderson and Salley families (<i>friends of the Barnes family</i>)	Chad, Marci, Mason & Drew Arant (<i>friends of Samantha Trotter</i>)
The Yager family (<i>friends of the Rauton family</i>)	J.C. Poole (<i>friend of Joann Wells</i>)
Betty Ann Webb (<i>cousin of Lynne Rauton</i>)	Christy Dawkins (<i>friend of Donice Frick</i>)
Stan Nichols (<i>son of Ann & Charles</i>)	Helen Winstead (<i>mother of Sonya Cary</i>)
Shealy McCormack (<i>WLPP student</i>)	Helen & Wilbur Humphries (<i>parents of Steven Humphries</i>)
Reece Spradley (<i>niece of Chip & Jennifer Spradley</i>)	Rachel Crowder (<i>mother-in-law of Mike Nichols</i>)
Ronda Miller (<i>friend of Chip & Jennifer Spradley</i>)	Elaine Gantt (<i>friend of Margaret Caughman</i>)
Lisa Williams (<i>friend of Crissie Kirby</i>)	Carole Hair (<i>relative of Sonya Cary</i>)
Beverly Smith (<i>sister of Jerry Price</i>)	Judy Padgett (<i>aunt of Cricket Leaphart</i>)
Missy Lewis (<i>friend of Brenda Howard</i>)	Deborah Coffman (<i>friend of Toshia Banks</i>)
Jerry Prim (<i>brother-in-law of Susie Hendrix</i>)	Barry Webb (<i>uncle of Toshia Banks</i>)
Bill Eubanks (<i>friend of Sonya Cary</i>)	
Jim Young (<i>husband of Rachel Young</i>)	
Harvey & Sally Sauls (<i>friends of Robin Taylor</i>)	
Keith Berry (<i>friend of Brenda Howard</i>)	
Sally Kinard (<i>cousin of KD</i>)	
Mary Fallaw (<i>mother of Lynne Rauton</i>)	
Hunter Stocks (<i>friend of Billy & Lynne Rauton</i>)	

ARMED FORCES.....

Jon Rogers
 Logan Gibson
 Zack Wallace
 Karl Smith
 Ross Shealy

WE REMEMBER.....

Jeffrey McDonald (*brother of Grant McDonald*)
 Pat Ayers
 Pastor Harold Skinner
 Eddie Dority (*father of Gregory Dority*)
 Margaret Shuman (*mother of Sally Sherman*)
 Bob Isenhower (*friend of Pastor Emily Edenfield*)
 John Parler (*father of Robin Taylor*)
 Harold Frick (*brother-in-law of Lavonia Frick*)
 Doris Antley
 Mary Shealy
 Cheryl Vasant (*friend of Brent Shealy*)
 John & Amelia Pappas (*grandparents of William Barnes*)
 Sue Nichols
 Bobby Oswald (*brother of Lavonia Frick*)
 Wayne Suber (*cousin of Sue Nichols*)

Prayer List Policy

Wittenberg Lutheran Church posts prayer requests in the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter. Prayer requests on behalf of the families of deceased individuals appear in publications for six months. All other prayer requests appear in publications for two months unless a longer duration is requested by the person(s) who made the original prayer request.



Wittenberg Lutheran Church

233 N. LEE STREET • P.O. BOX 3447 • BATESBURG-LEESVILLE, SC 29070 • (803) 532-4636

Rev. Emily Edenfield, Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” In Isaiah 41:10, God speaks words of love and strength to us. God’s people face good and hard times knowing that we are never alone. We may be cautious, we may seek to be wise, but we do not have to fear, because God is with us wherever we are.

On May 12, Wittenberg’s Church Council had a long conversation about how to continue worshiping together during the Covid-19 pandemic. We know that this season is not over yet, but the council feels that it is time for us to resume in-person worship on May 31, if the trends continue in a positive direction. We will continue to be a community that worships online, with the option for people to come in person if they so choose.

It is important to be clear with you. In person worship carries risk. We are hoping and praying that the infection will pass us by, but it is possible that someone who is infected with Covid-19 will worship at Wittenberg before they are aware that they are sick. We will do everything we can to maintain appropriate social distancing and cleaning procedures, but we know that there is no perfect system.

If we find out that there has been an infectious person at Wittenberg, we will notify everyone who was worshipping in-person that morning so that they can self-quarantine and/or seek treatment. We will also stop in-person worship at that time for two weeks and have the church properly cleaned.

We will also have procedures in place for in-person worship. These will include

- Worshippers will be required to wear masks covering their noses and mouths. Please bring your own mask. A limited number of masks will be available in the narthex if needed.
- Seating will be separated by six feet. This means that we will have two pews empty in front of and behind occupied pews. Households will be seated at one end of a pew or the other, so that six feet of distance can be maintained in between family groups. Ushers will assist worshippers in going to the next available pew, and in leaving at the end of the service so that people are not crowded together at any time. Many of us will have to adjust to the view from another pew; this will be part of the learning experience of this time.
- The only doors to enter worship will be the double red doors facing Lee Street. This will keep ushers able to account for how many people we have and who has been present. If we need overflow seating in the Fellowship Hall, ushers will guide worshippers to that area at that time.
- Ushers or greeters will also be taking attendance at worship so that we know who was present, in case of infection.
- Worshippers are encouraged to take bulletins home with them or recycle them as they leave.
- Singing will not be part of our worship at this time. Singing seems to be one of the most effective ways to spread Covid-19, and it is simply unsafe for us to have a choir, hymns, or chanting. We may have some music on the organ or piano, but we do not anticipate singing for quite some time.

- For easier cleaning, we have removed everything that is touchable from the pews. That means that there are no hymnals, nothing in the pew racks, and no busy bags for children. We have also removed the cushions from the pews. If you would like to bring your own cushion, you may do so. The offering will be collected at the entrance to the sanctuary so that we do not pass the plates hand-to-hand.
- We will also postpone holy communion, the passing of the peace, worship processions and all non-worship activities except for the Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen until a later date. There will be ushers and greeters, but no OSJ, choir, lectors, or worship assistants.
- There will be no nursery and no children's church at this time. We encourage parents to keep children out of the nursery, as we are not able to sanitize all the toys and furniture.
- We will have only the 11:00 service. While having two services would help spread out the numbers, it seemed safest from a cleaning perspective to have just one set of people in the sanctuary each week. Council has spent a considerable amount of time discussing cleaning supplies that will disinfect without damaging our wooden and brass furnishings, and this seems for now to be our best option. Overflow seating will be available in the Fellowship Hall at the guidance of the ushers.

This is going to need to be a team effort. For the safety of our community, we all need to be practicing good hygiene and distancing. If you are feeling sick or live with someone who feels sick, please stay home. If you are not comfortable with being together in worship yet, or if you aren't comfortable abiding by the above practices, please stay home. Our online worship still gathers us in God's name.

We are all still learning. When we left our sanctuary in March, we did not know that it would be so long before we could gather again. We thought that we would come back with a celebration full of music and hugs. That isn't how things are happening. We are coming back slowly and cautiously instead.

The truth is that for a long time we have worshiped in multiple places. Our homebound members and those who are sick or traveling have worshiped from their own locations alongside our in-person worshippers every Sunday for years. This is what God's word does. We are brought together in the Spirit even when our bodies cannot be. We are blessed to be able to connect in the ways that we do, even as we're apart no matter what the reason or season.

If you are planning to worship in person in the coming weeks, please let us know. You can respond to a survey coming out on social media or email or call Becky in the church office. That will help us plan for everyone's safety and comfort. If you are willing to be an usher or greeter, please include that information. We will provide training on video before you come to serve.

Thank you all for your prayers, for your love for one another, for the courage to do what is right for yourself and your families. Please continue to walk in love as Christ loved us. We will see you when the time is right, be that sooner or later.

Peace,

Rev. Emily Edenfield
 Pastor Emily Edenfield



Brian Shealy, Council President

