

APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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The community of Apostles Lutheran Church warmly welcomes you to worship today!

As Lutheran Christians, we proclaim that there is nothing, no human action that we can undertake, to earn God's love or the gift of God's grace. It is a gift promised and given to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh. It is a gift given to everyone regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or background. This Easter promise, this gift of grace, frees us from the fear of having to earn God's love and it moves us to simply try to love our neighbor as best we can. We have been blessed to be a blessing to others and proclaim that there is a place for you at Christ's table.

Welcome, celebrate this good news with us!

Pastor Peter Edwardsen

APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH
Service of Holy Communion

The First Sunday after Pentecost
June 4th, 2023

Though the word “trinity” is not found in the scriptures, today’s second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel, Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + One God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, and whose promise is sure. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors. Merciful God,

Silence is kept for reflection.

We confess that we have sinned in word and deed. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

P: Hear the good news: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Through the gift of God’s mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. **All: Amen.**

Gloria

(pg. 176 ELW)

*Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!
Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!*

*And on earth...peace to God's people. Glory to God.
And on earth...peace to God's people. Glory to God.*

Prayer of the Day

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray together the prayer for this day, June 4th, the first Sunday after Pentecost.
God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty” #413 ELW

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around
the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert and art,
and evermore shalt be.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinfulness thy glory
may not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in pow'r, in love and
purity.*

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and
sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed
Trinity!*

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 8

8:1 O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

8:2 Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

8:3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

8:4 what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

8:5 Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

8:6 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

8:7 all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

8:8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

8:9 O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 (See insert.)

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Anthem: "His Name is Wonderful" by Audrey Mieir,
and "How Great Thou Art" by Stuart K. Hine.
Performed by Phyllis Griffiths and the Apostles Choir.*

Please rise, if you are able, for the Gospel reading.

Gospel Acclamation

pg. 179 ELW

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!*

After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-eighth chapter.

All: Glory to you O Lord.

After the reading

P: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word, this is the Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: *The Rev. Peter Edwardsen*

Please rise if you are able.

Hymn of the Day: “God Whose Almighty Word” #673 ELW

God, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard and took their flight: hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.

Christ, who once came to bring, on your redeeming wing, healing and sight; health to the troubled mind, sight where illusions blind; oh, now to humankind let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love, life-giving holy dove, speed forth your flight; move on the water’s face bearing the lamp of grace, and in earth’s darkest place let there be light.

Holy and blessed three, glorious Trinity, Wisdom, Love, Might: boundless as ocean's tide, rolling in fullest pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

Apostles Creed (pg. 105 ELW)

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 and Concerns of the Community

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” #752 ELW

(sung three times)

Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

D: Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

A brief silence

D: Holy three, holy one, you call the church to make disciples of all nations. Encourage bishops, pastors, and deacons in their proclamation of the gospel and direct all the baptized into lives of humble service. God, in your mercy. **All: Hear our prayer.**

Deacon or worship assistant continues with the prayers of intercession.

D: Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ. **All: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ

Offering

P: As a people of God we have been named and claimed through our waters of baptism into the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. From those waters we are called into community with one another and called to share abundantly with others from those gifts that God has first given us.

Offertory music: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord” #184 ELW

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offertory prayer:

D: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **All: Amen**

The Meal

The Great Thanksgiving:

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks
and praise.**

Preface: 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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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:

(#190 ELW)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Eucharistic Prayer:

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.

Remembering, therefore his salutary command, his life giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to life as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer:

P: And now let us pray as our Lord Jesus has taught us.

All: 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.

(#199 ELW)

*Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world, grant us peace, grant us peace.*

Invitation to Communion

P: All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

C: Thanks be to God!

Communion Hymn: "Just A Closer Walk With Thee" #697 ELW

Refrain: Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea; daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak but thou art strong: Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. [Refrain]

Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. [Refrain]

When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more; guide me gently, safely o'er to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. [Refrain]

Please stand if you are able.

Table Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep in you in his grace, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Canticle: "Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise" 207 ELW

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ryone what God has done. Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ. Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post Communion Prayer

P: We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

THE SENDING

Blessing

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed + bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **All: Amen.**

Sending Hymn: "Holy God We Praise Your Name" #414 ELW

Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you. All on earth your scepter claim, all in heav'n above adore you. Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

Hark! the glad celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising; cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising, fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: "Holy, holy, holy Lord!"

Lo, the apostolic train join your sacred name to hallow; prophets swell the glad refrain, and the white-robed martyrs follow; and from morn to set of sun through the church the song goes on.

Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name you, though in essence only one; undivided God we claim you and, adoring, bend the knee while we own the mystery.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the word of Christ.
C: Thanks be to God!

The flowers on the altar are given by Sylvia Dennis,
In memory of the wedding anniversary of her parents,
Samuel & Amanda Johnson, June 2nd,
the anniversary of Samuel Johnson's passing, June 3rd
and in memory of Amanda Johnson's birthday, June 8th.



We pray for those celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries:

6/6 Nancy Leipert

6/5 Ralph & Sunny Daggan



Please keep in prayer...

- . . . all communities contending with the loss of their loved ones due to violence.
- . . . all communities suffering and mourning due to natural disasters, especially all those across the country impacted by the recent severe storms and tornados.
- . . . all communities and peoples that suffer from intolerance, injustice, racism, and violence.
- . . . all areas of the world living under threat of violence and war.

We stand with those communities and organizations, faith-based and secular, that work towards healing, justice, and peace.

We pray that the Holy Spirit brings comfort to those who mourn, strength to those who advocate for change, and peace to those who struggle to make sense of the senseless.

God's purpose for the church is to witness to God's grace, forgiveness, compassion, and justice. We fulfill this promise by serving and caring for your local and global communities.

Today's Altar Volunteers: *Deacon: David S, Acolyte: Nicole G,
Greeter: Joan T, Usher: Carol B
Readers: Sandy P, David S
Set Up: Thea M, Clean Up: Sylvia D*

June 11th Altar Volunteers:
*Deacon: Mark L, Acolyte: Nicole G,
Greeter: Paul G, Usher: TBD
Readers: Connie Troilo, Mark Leipert
Set Up: Sylvia D, & Clean Up: Connie T*

June 8th: **Food Closet, 1-3 pm.**

June 12th: **Council Meeting, 6:30 pm.**

Please remember to let the office know the wording of your Altar Flower dedication, at least one week prior to the date you have chosen. Thank you.

- **If you wish to bring snacks for the Sunday Coffee Fellowship, there is a signup sheet in the Narthex.**
- **The Vanco system for online giving can be found on the Apostles' website. Any questions, please see Frank or Nick. Thank you.**
- **We are collecting the following: Linens--towels, sheets, and blankets. Medical supplies-- Alcohol wipes, infusion set-ups, non-expired medications, tubing, syringes, etc. Also, dog food, empty ink cartridges of all types, and pull tabs from aluminum cans for dialysis credits.**