

Augustana

where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together

Ascension, May 16, 2021

Welcome to Augustana – where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together. I would like to acknowledge we gather on Treaty six territory and the homeland of many people of the Metis Nation. You are welcome to worship with us. We aim to share the unconditional love of God with people of all abilities, ages, colours, culture & ethnicities, or sexual orientation & gender identities. This is a work in progress and you are welcome to join us on our way.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

ALL: Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God now and forever. AMEN.

HYMN: **Beautiful Saviour # 838**, verses 1 – 4

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;

Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

CHILDREN'S TIME

- To see the stars at night – are you a star gazer?
- In the city vs. in the dark country What a difference!
- What are these stars: distant planets and other suns
- We can't see them during the day. Are they gone? No, they are still there, but we can't see them.
- Down a well to see stars at night.
- GOD: more visible at Christmas & Easter. And to the disciples they got to physically see and touch him. But like the stars God is still there.
- Matt 28: 20 – Jesus reassurance to his disciples: ***"... remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."***
- How is God still part of our lives? God with us in many ways
- Especially through the love and care of one another. We experience God's love when someone reaches out a hand to help us ... that is God's hand ... God's presence in our lives. That is one way God continues to be part of our lives.

Prayer: Risen, ascended Christ, stay with us, fill your people with compassion, so that all may find forgiveness and know your peace. **Amen.**

Scripture readings:

Psalm 93

¹The LORD is king, he is robed in majesty;
the LORD is robed, he is girded with strength.
He has established the world; it shall never be moved;

- ²Your throne is established from of old;
you are from everlasting.
- ³The floods have lifted up, O LORD,
the floods have lifted up their voice;
the floods lift up their roaring.
- ⁴More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters,
more majestic than the waves of the sea,
majestic on high is the LORD!
- ⁵Your decrees are very sure;
holiness befits your house,
O LORD, forevermore.

Reader: **Word of God, Word of life**

Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I 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, ¹⁸ so 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, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God 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, ²¹ far 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. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader: **Word of God, Word of life**

Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Please join in singing our Gospel Alleluia

ALLELUIA

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia
 Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.
 Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel - The Holy Gospel according to the Gospel of Luke 24:44-53 **Glory to you,
 O Lord**

⁴⁴ Then Jesus said to 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.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And 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.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of our Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ**

Meditation –

Prayer: O God, as you did for your 1st disciples, we ask that you open our minds to understand the scriptures. Grace to you from God who is creator, redeemer and sustainer. Amen.

When we gather to worship is a time to pause ... to stop the business of the day. You might call it a Holy Pause – time that is set apart for God’s purpose.

This past year there has been a lot of pausing for some ... and for others it has been hectic beyond belief. Trying to do what needs to be done while observing all the rules and recommendations that keep people safe.

In our world we have a strange relationship to busy-ness . . . on one hand it might drive us crazy, but on the other hand to not be busy would be worse . . . we have a need to be busy, because it means that we are engaged and important. To

not be busy might mean that something is wrong with life – something like a pandemic. And many have learned this past year just how hard it is to be “unbusy.”

But today let’s pretend that we are not busy . . . that we have time to slow down . . . to catch up with ourselves. Actually I want to do more than slow down and I want to slow down so much we go backwards to the past Thursday: Ascension Day ... 40 days after Easter, 10 days before Pentecost. The day when the Risen Christ was taken up to heaven. And in this holy pause let us listen and learn ... as the disciples did when they paused on that hill top with Jesus.

And in the pause back then, Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure – his leave taking: Jesus message was to the 11 -- those first disciples, but it is also to us (that’s the nature of the scriptures – they are meant to be heard by more than just the original listeners)

The message begins with WAIT ... take a breath and pause – and we have had a lot of that since last year.

In Jesus’ words to his disciples I am reminded of parents and children ... children that grow up and move on to grown up things. But there is that pause ... do they have what they need. As a parent ... when your kids grow up, you’re always still a parent ... they are in your heart. ... you may be separated by time and distance, but a parent still holds their child in their heart.

In our Ascension pause we learn how Jesus continues to hold us in his heart and continues to be with us.

Jesus’ last minute instructions to his disciples -- clarifying ... making sure they understand all they need to -- before Jesus is taken up to heaven. Again, these instructions were for the 11, but they were also instructions and prayers for believers of all times. The pause makes it possible to hear ... to be prepared for what they are called to be and do. And we hear it as what we are called to be and do as well.

- You will be given the Power – the ability, the energy you need. Not power like the Hulk or a steam roller. It is the ability, the energy, the desire to share.

- For these things to happen Jesus opened their minds to understand the scripture – and again Jesus’ speaks not just to the 11 but to all who follow Jesus.
- *Blessing them and us that we may be a blessing*

And all of this: the final words, the power and the proclamation and the blessing ... all of it is encompassed in the promise that Jesus, God, will continue to accompany God’s people along the way. The Gospel of Matthew says it more clearly when Jesus stated “I will be with you always,” but Luke also affirms that continued connection in the promise of the Holy Spirit.

The ascension pause: to listen, to be blessed, with the promise of God’s presence in our lives.

Prayer: God of grace, may the promise of your presence in our lives give us the ability and energy to share your good news. Amen.

Creed

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

Let us join hearts and voices together in prayer. Each short prayer will end with the words, “hear us, O God” and you can make the prayer your own be responding “Your mercy is great.”

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

You call the whole church on earth to worship and bless you. Empower your church to bear joyful witness to your love made known in Jesus Christ. We pray especially for the people and clergy of the Diocese of Ontario and Bishop Michael Oulton and the people and rostered ministers of the Saskatchewan Synod and Bishop Sid Haugen. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

You have fashioned a habitat for all your creatures and you fill the earth with your glory. Give rain where it is needed and rescue those inundated by floods. Mend what we have torn in the fabric of creation and replenish and nourish your world. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

In the majesty of your love, your rule the world with justice and mercy. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. We pray especially for Premier Scott Moe, Mayor Charlie Clark, and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Saquib Shahab. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who are hungry and poor that they may receive food and resources. We pray especially for equity and justice in the roll out of the vaccine around the world. We pray for those who live in conflict, especially the people of Palestine and Israel, that all people may flourish and live in peace. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

You heal those who are sick and bind up the broken hearted. Attend to the cares and needs of the hurting and hopeless in our congregation, community, workplaces, schools, and families *especially* Katherine, Paul and family, Angie, Earl, Audrey, Orville and Carol, Bruce, Marie, Gloria, Marcus, Brodie, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Shelby, Alice, Deanna, Ron, Marlene, Mildred, Minnie, Louise, Lyssa, Karen, and all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts*(a pause to offer time to name others)*.

Give them courage and peace in the face of illness and grief.. .). Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

You have gathered us in this congregation, enlightened our hearts, and given us a share of the immeasurable greatness of your power. Help us love one another, be reconciled where we are divided, and share the riches of your grace with our neighbours. Be with the Iqbal and Alhamad-Wahid families on their journey to a safe haven. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all especially those who are incarcerated and for refugees seeking a safe haven. We give thanks that the Iqbal family have been granted refugee status. Hold them and the Alhamad Wahid family in your love. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

In raising Christ from the dead, you put your great power to work in the world. Raise us and all who have died in the faith with Christ. We remember the saints in our lives and in our community. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pastor Marilyn: knowing that God loves us as a mother and father we pray in the words Jesus taught us:

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.

Easter Blessing & Dismissal

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. **Amen.**

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Hymn Immortal, Invisible #834, v. 1, 3 & 4

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All laud we would render; oh, help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

THANK YOU'S

Worship Assistant: Faith Rohrbough

Musicians: Deborah Buck, Augustana St. Timothy Choir

Technicians: Gregory Fowlie-Neufeld, Bryan Tastad