St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Children’s Day
June 10, 2018

A House Divided
Against Itself Cannot
Stand:
Everyone involved must unify and
function together or it will not
work out.

Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister
Mike Tessman, Assistant Minister
Rita Jordan, Organist       Lillie Jonas, Pianist
Sandra Dickens, Lay Reader

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Gathering
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

A house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus makes this observation in light of charges that he is possessed. He is possessed, not by a demon, but by the Holy Spirit. We who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism have been joined to Christ’s death and resurrection and knit together in the body of Christ. Those with whom we sing and pray this day are sisters and brothers of the Lord. With them we go forth in peace to do the will of God.

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN (ELW p. 408) Come, Thou Almighty King

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love. Amen.

Trusting God’s promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Eternal God our creator,
in you we live and move and have our being.
Look upon us, your children,
the work of your hands.
Forgive us all our offenses,
and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.
By your grace draw us near to you,
our refuge and our strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us.
In the mercy of almighty God,
Christ died for us while we still were sinners;
and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. Amen.
LITANY FOR CHILDREN

Loving God, in the midst of our daily lives, we remember. **We remember, O God.**

As we worry about waiting too long at drive-in windows, vending machines that don’t work, and stewed tomatoes in the school cafeteria, **We remember children who go to bed hungry each night and who have no choices about what they eat. We remember, O God.**

As we worry about getting to stay up late, having to share our room, or needing a bigger closet to hold all of our stuff. **We remember children who don’t have a room, a place to sleep, or even a shelter to call home. We remember, O God.**

As we worry about buying name-brand clothes, sports shoes, compact discs, and computer games, **We remember children who have no money to buy clothes, shoes, music, or toys. We remember, O God.**

As we worry about taking out the garbage, doing the dishes, and getting yelled at for talking too long on the phone, **We remember children who have been abused, abandoned, or don’t have a family to call their own. We remember, O God.**

As we worry about math homework, taking pop quizzes, and turning in science projects, **We remember children who don’t have a school, pencils, papers, books, or other opportunities to learn. We remember, O God.**

Dear God, we thank you for giving us the spirit of Your love, to see our own worries as blessings. We remember the worries and needs of others. We give thanks for our church, the promise and hope of the Gospel, and the opportunity to both serve and learn from others in the name of Jesus Christ. **As united children of God, remembering, serving, and learning from others, we thank you, O God. Amen.**
Let us pray. **All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.** Amen.

The assembly is seated.

**Word**

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

**FIRST READING: Genesis 3:8-15**

Immediately after Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit, they hide from God. Neither takes responsibility for their sin, instead blaming each other, the snake, and even God. The curse on the snake was understood as a messianic prophecy by the early church, who associated Eve’s “offspring” with Christ.

> 8[Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” 10He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” 11He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” 12The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” 13Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” 14The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**
RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 130

R: Wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love.

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
2 O Lord, hear my voice!
   Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.
3 If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?
4 Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared. R
5 I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.
6 My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,
   more than those who keep watch for the morning.
7 O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love;
   with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.
8 For the Lord shall redeem Israel from all their sins. R

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:13--5:1

Life in the present is transitory and cannot compare with the eternal home God has prepared for us.
So we do not despair no matter what life might bring because we know that as God raised Jesus from the dead, God promises to bring us into eternal life.

13 Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—“I believed, and so I spoke”—we also believe, and so we speak, 14 because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. 15 Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. 16 So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.

17 For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure,
18 because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. 5:1 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.
Glory to You, O Lord!

In response to charges that he is possessed, Jesus wonders aloud how anyone who is demon-possessed can cast out demons. Those who do the will of God are possessed by the Holy Spirit, sisters and brothers of Christ.

[Jesus went home;] 20 and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and the disciples] could not even eat. 21 When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” 22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” 23 And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. 27 But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

28 Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—30 for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

31 Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” 33 And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” 34 And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Rev. Arden Dorn

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

(ELW p. 576) We All Are One in Mission
APOSTLES’ 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 OF INTERCESSION

Filled with the Holy Spirit, we join with the church in every place, praying for the world that God so loves.

Lord God, you call your church to be one and teach us that a house divided against itself cannot stand. Overcome our separations in the body of Christ and make us one diverse family, the brothers and sisters of Jesus. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Lord God, with you there is forgiveness and hope, and you love your whole creation. Help us order our lives so that human activity in your creation gives voice to hope. Empower us to bring healing in your world. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Today we remember the fragmented families and traumatized young and teenage children that live in the juvenile and family residential centers and are separated from their loved ones, unable to join families awaiting them here in the United States, and awakened hourly through the night. Shine your grace upon them, that they might be sustained by your love and move quickly from persecution to safety, hope, and a dignified life in the care of loving family and friends. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Lord God, you still walk among us and we still hide ourselves from you out of fear. We withdraw from strangers and those unlike ourselves, the very people you call us to love. Replace our fear with trust, remove enmity between nations, and grant us peace. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Lord God, your compassion continually reaches into the lives of your people. Visit with loving-kindness those experiencing afflictions of any kind, especially Elvira, Bobby, Alex, James, Lorain, Pauline, Pastor Tom, Roxanne, Shane, Linda, Norma, Ann, Laquita, Linda, Jack, Michael, Raymond, Alva, Steve, Evalina, Francis, Barbara, Ella, Khloe, Kenneth, Jim, Charles, Eddie, Pastor Wally, Yvonne, Anyemarie, Mark, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts... Renew all of us and prepare us for glory so that we do not lose heart. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.
Lord God, more than those who watch for the morning, our souls wait and watch for you. In the coming months of summer, help us to be refreshed and at play, watching and waiting for you at every turn. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, giver and sustainer of life, in this time of need send us the gift of rain, so that we may receive the fruits of the earth for our benefit and for your praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bless us with opportunities to learn and share your Word and your love. Lead the Youth of St. Paul’s and their sponsors as they prepare to attend the 2018 Youth Gathering in Houston. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As we sow Seeds of Hope, we pray for St. John Lutheran in Westhoff. Guide them to new opportunities and abilities to draw younger people into the congregation. We pray also for St. Peter’s in Elgin that they may have vision, direction, and that God would use them as an instrument of grace in their community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

By the sure guidance of your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our prayers in trust and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

*And also with you*

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**Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**OFFERING** An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

*The assembly stands.*

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**OFFERING HYMN** *(ELW p. 186) Create in Me a Clean Heart*

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**OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
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:

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.
Following Communion, the assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

Amen.

Sending

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

BLESSING

May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN  (ELW p. 396)  Spirit of Gentleness

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

Thanks be to God.

DOXOLOGY  (ELW p. 884)  Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul’s by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul’s. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us.

If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance, please signal an usher.

For Prayerful Consideration


For those in the military: Nick Adams, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Jon Wayne Schulz, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva.

Anniversary:
Doug & Ann Franke (June 12)

TODAY, 3:00: The MUSIC ACADEMY RECITAL will be held at St. Paul’s. The recital is open to the public. Invite your friends!

ST. PAUL’S YOUTH WILL BE ATTENDING THE 2018 YOUTH GATHERING IN HOUSTON JUNE 27 – JULY 1

They will be accepting donations over the next few Sunday’s. The donations will go toward the In-Kind Offering to buy books for The 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering Houston Literacy Campaign and to help with travel expenses. Donation envelopes are on the table at the rear of the sanctuary. Please write your check payable to: St. Paul’s Lutheran Youth Group. They are asking for your prayers as they prepare for this gathering. Thank you for all your support!

Sunday, June 17: A Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the worship service. Council is seeking approval for the use of available funds to replace both HVAC units. In 2017, the congregation approved funds for the replacement of one HVAC unit. It has been determined that both units require replacement.

SOMETHING TO PONDER: “What is the task of the church? What is the task of St. Paul’s?”
Aaron’s Story

On this second Sunday of June, we’d like to introduce you to Aaron, a charming and sharp-witted young man from Ethiopia who was placed with a foster family at 14 years old by an affiliate of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). This year, Aaron will turn 18. He has become a leader on his high school’s varsity soccer team and was crowned homecoming king last fall. In his first year of school in the U.S., Aaron advanced from a 5th grade educational level to a 9th grade level. This year, he will graduate with honors. He’s been accepted into seven colleges and intends to study engineering.

The second Sunday in June has traditionally been celebrated as Children’s Day among Christians in the United States. The earliest recorded observance in this country dates to 1865 when Rev. Charles Leonard of the First Universalist Church of Chelsea, Massachusetts, dedicated the day to values of Christian nurture and to the upbringing of children in the Christian way of life.

It is a moment to bring our attention and gratitude to the safe, nourishing and loving conditions that allow the children in our community to explore, learn and grow into adults who can provide for
similar conditions for future generations. It is also a moment to reflect on those children who are desperately in need of such conditions and of such a community.

Outside of the United States, many children have been displaced from their communities, forced to flee war, civil conflict, community violence, persecution, trafficking, extreme poverty, abuse, or any combination of these. In addition, these minors often experience harrowing, traumatic experiences on their journeys to the U.S. border or to refugee camps abroad, as well as in their interactions with border authorities who have no child welfare training.

Lutheran families and congregations across the country have opened their doors to welcome these children and provided the community they desperately need to overcome their trauma to flourish in a new setting.

Aaron’s community in Ethiopia did not offer the same sense of security that many children can expect in the U.S. He and his sister fled the country after his family was targeted and his father abducted in the middle of the night for their political beliefs. They walked to Kenya and eventually managed to travel to Brazil and onwards to Mexico before crossing the border into the United States as an undocumented minor, not accompanied by an adult.

After Aaron was placed in foster care, LIRS worked with a local service provider to ensure that he received immediate medical checkups, vaccinations, dental care, and mental health counselling. Aaron was welcomed into his local community and has thrived there in this new setting.

Today, we can reflect on how fortunate we are to have such communities, which often overlap with and draw strength and support from our Lutheran congregations. Let’s also reflect on the children who are still in need of these support systems, whether displaced from their homes abroad or living in tenuous circumstances here in our own country.

Learn more about FOSTERING CHILDREN at LIRS.org/become-a-foster-parent
DONATE to support the protection of vulnerable children at LIRS.org/childrensday
SIGN UP for “Stand for Welcome” alerts at LIRS.org/Advocate