



THE LUTHERAN CENTER

Sunday April 25th, 2021

*denotes that the congregation is standing

Welcome

(We gather in the name of Jesus Christ, remembering together the promise of baptism.)

***Lamenting Racism**

A We begin worship today with lamenting racism. Lament is a way for us to recognize the harm caused by racism. The sin of racism hurts communities of color, fractures human relationships, and denies God's good creation. Today we lament the death of Daunte Wright, a Black man, fatally shot by a police officer in Minneapolis and Ma'Khia Bryant, a teenage Black girl shot by a police officer in Ohio, and we continue to lament the many Black, Brown, Indigenous, and People of Color harmed because of racism.

In the waters of baptism, we are connected as the body of Christ, given new life in the family of God. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God's grace in Christ frees us for the difficult work of recognizing and working against racism. We are all part of one body in Christ, called to act with equity and justice. God's saving love calls and leads us toward rooting out the racism that continues to infect the body.

(People of Color may opt for silence during parts of this lament to contemplate the community's words.)

A We gather in lament and prayer:

Within the whole human family, People of Color have experienced both interpersonal aggression and structural oppression instead of abundant life. We recognize and

lament the harm racism has caused to *African Descent communities; American Indian and Alaska Native communities; Indigenous Peoples within Canada; Arab and Middle Eastern communities; Asian and Pacific Islander communities; and Latino and Hispanic communities*. We cry out to you,

C hear our lament, O God.

A We have assigned the notion of race to human beings created in God's own divine image. We have judged God's beautiful diversity by our flawed and artificial standards. We cry out to you,

C hear our lament, O God.

A We have used language and images in ways that equate *black* and *dark* with dirt and sin, and that fail to welcome the treasures of darkness in God's good creation. We cry out to you,

C hear our lament, O God.

A We have accepted practices in our churches and in our society that privilege whiteness over diversity and equity. We have been complicit in how racism continues to exclude and harm people of color. We cry out to you,

C hear our lament, O God.

A When one part of the body of Christ hurts, the whole body hurts. As we listen to people who are harmed by racism, we call to you,

C open our hearts, O God.

A As we reflect on our daily interactions with people and communities of color, we call to you,

C open our hearts, O God.

A As we reconsider what we have been taught about race and racism, we call to you,

C open our hearts, O God.

A As we contemplate what we have done and what we have left undone, we call to you,

C open our hearts, O God.

A As we labor to create a loving and safe community for our siblings of color, we call to you,

C open our hearts, O God.

A Holy and merciful God, as your people we recommit ourselves to loving one another as you have loved us. We pray in the name of the one who has made us one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

***Greeting**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

***Kyrie**

A In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

R Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy upon us.
Christe eleison, Christ, have mercy upon us.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen, amen.

***This is the Feast**

This is the feast of victory for our God
This is the feast of victory for our God
Alleluia Alleluia

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain
Whose blood set us free to be people of God
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength
And honor, blessing, and glory are His

This is the feast of victory for our God
This is the feast of victory for our God
Alleluia Alleluia

Sing with all the people of God
And join in the hymn of all creation
Blessing, honor, glory and might
Be to God and the Lamb forever, amen
This is the feast of victory for our God
This is the feast of victory for our God
Alleluia Alleluia

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign, Alleluia

This is the feast of victory for our God
This is the feast of victory for our God
Alleluia Alleluia

Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia

***Prayer of the Day**

(The Assembly is seated.)

WORD

(The lifegiving Word of God is read and proclaimed in the presence of the Assembly.)

First Reading

Acts 4:5-12

L A reading from Acts.

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

L A reading from 1 John.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation**

Soloist: Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel

John 10:11-18

P The holy gospel according to John.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(The Assembly is seated.)

Sermon

Pastor Adam White

***Hymn of the Day**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment giv'n.

- 2 There is welcome for the sinner,
and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.

- 3 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.

- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.

***The Apostle's Creed**

C 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.

C Amen.

***Prayers**

MEAL

(The gifts of God are gathered together and the Body and Blood of Jesus are shared in bread and wine.)

Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Offering

(Don't have cash to give? No problem! You can Venmo The Lutheran Center (@Lutheran-Center) or give online at www.lutherancenterunl.com/!)

**** Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful***

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord.

Fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, and be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.

Grace our table with your presence.

Give us a foretaste of the feast,

give us a foretaste of the feast,

give us a foretaste of the feast to come

***Offering Prayer**

***Great Thanksgiving and Holy, Holy, Holy**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... we praise your name and join in their unending hymn.

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.
Bless'd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

(Sing each line twice, and then choose a line to sing two additional times.)

***Eucharistic Prayer**

***The Lord's Prayer**

P Lord, teach us to pray.

C **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.**

Invitation to Communion

P The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

(As a sign of our trust for God's grace among us and our trust for one another, The Lutheran Center extends Christ's welcome to all; all are welcome to the Lord's Table for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please wait for an usher to direct you to the communion rail.)

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

Shepherd Me, O God

Refrain

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.

1 God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. *Refrain*

2 Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. *Refrain*

- 3 Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. *Refrain*
- 4 You have set me a banquet of love
in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. *Refrain*
- 5 Surely your kindness and mercy follow me
all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23

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Table Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING

(We are sent out into the world renewed as the Body of Christ in service to the world and to one another.)

Announcements

Blessing

***Sending Hymn**

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

- 1 Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing,
worship, thanks, devotion voicing:
glory be to God on high!
Christ, your cross and passion sharing,
by this eucharist declaring
yours the final victory.

- 2 Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing,
lost and lonely, one voice hearing,
ears attentive to your word;
by your blood new life receiving,
in your body, firm believing,
we are yours, and you the Lord.

- 3 Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving,
we go forth alert and living
in your Spirit, strong and free.
Partners in your new creation,
seeking peace in ev'ry nation,
may we faithful foll'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902-1983, alt.
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***Dismissal**

- A** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- A** Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
- C** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**