

RADISSON-LANGHAM LUTHERAN PARISH

First Saskatchewan Lutheran Church
Langham, SK

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Radisson, SK

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 24, 2020

St. Paul, Radisson/First Saskatchewan, Langham
Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Ministers: Members of the Congregation
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Greeting: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Prayer of the Day:

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

First Reading: Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Holy Gospel: John 17:1-11

Reflection - Pastor Melissa

Prayer draws us together and, as we lift up each other's burdens to God, it makes our neighbour's concerns our own. It makes us one.

What a gift that our Lord Jesus prays for us in our Gospel text today.

It's a prayer we're meant to overhear, powerful words that change us and proclaim the reality of who God is. Jesus reassures the disciples just before they will see him arrested,

sentenced, and executed. He tells them and us that eternal life is found in relationship with God. It transcends all time, all situations. He shows us himself that it transcends even death on a cross. In our baptism we have been assured that God has reached out and forged this relationship with us. When we pray as the Church bound together by Christ, we are connected beyond time and circumstance in a relationship that continues forever.

The first believers lived their lives based on that eternal life relationship. When Jesus ascends into heaven, as he alludes in the prayer he prays in today's text, we are left here in the world. The disciples immediately respond to the situation with prayer: that mysterious, powerful connection between us and God, and one another.

Many of us have been putting in extra effort to stay connected when we can't physically visit with others-video chatting, phoning, emailing, texting, even creating worship videos. Some of us are over it already. There has been some debate over even sharing communion virtually. It feels like time is marching us into some uncharted territory as disciples. But we do know that in Christ, our connection endures, that our relationship with our God and our siblings in Christ can grow deeper and deeper regardless of circumstance, and that we are called to continue in Christ's mission of self-giving love in the world.

And may we continue to pray, trusting that Christ is present, drawing us together, showing us beyond the confines of our current situation and into the eternal life that is already ours. Amen.

Order of the Blessing of Seeds

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Today we seek God's blessing as we gather with thankfulness to bless the seeds to the glory of God. Come, gather together people of God.

We come to sing and shout God's praise.

The gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

The river of God is full of water.

The pastures of the wilderness overflow with richness.

The hills and valleys are full of God's blessing.

Together they shout and sing for joy!

Together we shout and sing for joy.

We will not forget our God and the earth which nourishes us.

We will remember and give thanks.

Let us ask God to bless these seeds and crops they represent, symbols we can share, as a community of faith, reminding us of God's love for us, our commitment to God, and our shared life as God's people.

Let us pray:

Gracious God, bless all the seed which will be sown in our fields and gardens, and grant us a good harvest, so that there will be health and food for many of your children. May the seeds of faith and love which are within us grow, so that we may be mature, healthy, and fruitful disciples to your glory. We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession:

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A Brief Silence

O God, call your people to be one, as you are one. Unite your church in the truth of your gospel, the love of our neighbor, and the call to proclaim your reign to all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Breathe life into your creation. Guide our people as we explore the mysteries of the universe. We pray for the work of scientists and mathematicians whose skill enriches our understanding. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make our justice known among the nations of the earth. Protect the vulnerable. Redirect those who use violence and greed as weapons. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Come to the aid of your children. We pray for those engulfed in grief, those without supportive families, and for all who are isolated, powerless, or afraid, that all may rest their anxieties in your care. (especially...). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give courage to all who embark on new ventures. We especially remember this day those who risked their lives to serve in our armed forces. Grant safety to those serving at home or abroad, and assure them of your never-failing strength. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Raise all your saints to eternal life. Until that day, we give you thanks for the faithful examples of those who have listened to your voice and now rest in you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Seventh Sunday of Easter: In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

Pastor Melissa's worship video can be found at:

https://youtu.be/pFSUp-oW_Tk

Let us remember in our prayers: Connie Verishine, Susan Wonko, Gloria Hamp, Guy Norton, Heather Penno, Inga Abrahamson, Genie Thompson, Linda Hartshorn, Logan Kane, Lynn Sherstobitoff, Don Wenner, David Friesen, Alma Krueger, Anthony Flath, Elsie Flath, Conrad Olson, Ethel Kuny, Ida Muller, Mark Anderson, Roger Wilkie, Lisa Hamp

Also for everyone affected by COVID 19, those who are sick, those caring for the sick, all those who are suffering.

For more worship services/devotions you could check out the following:

- For an actual service there is a list of available livestreams at:

<https://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm>

- Lutherans Connect Easter season blog is three days a week and it can be found at <https://1cabidngwithlove.blogspot.com/2020/05/>

- There is a resource available through the ELCA for in-home worship each Sunday: <https://blogs.elca.org/worship/2248/>

- Pastor Randy Fiege is live on Facebook every day at 11:00a with a devotional, as well as a service Sunday morning at 11:00a. You can also access him on YouTube.

Thank you to those who stay connected and in touch with our members who may feel isolated and lonely, the elderly and others in our community by a phone call or sharing online worship services with those who do not have internet.

Job Opportunity - Resurrection Lutheran Church, Saskatoon is looking for a secretary/treasurer. Applications are due by June 1, 2020 to Judy Prociuk, email: judyp1@sasktel.net

Lutheran Campus Ministry is asking for your financial support as their primary fund raisers did not happen. If you can help out, please send your donation to Lutheran Campus Ministry, 1302 College Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W5 or through your church offering envelop.

"Synod News" is available to anyone who may be interested in what is happening in the Saskatchewan Synod. The Synod News may be information about an event that is coming up, or a story about an event that has happened. It might be a letter from the national bishop, or a post from the Sask Synod bishop. Check it out at <https://sasksynod.ca/news/synod-news/>

Even though we don't meet each Sunday for worship, the expenses are still there. You can still give your donation to your church:
First Sask - You can mail your cheque to Roxanne Elke, P.O. Box 272, Grandora, SK S0K 1V0.

St. Paul - You could send your cheque to Darlene Kindt, Box 97, Radisson or drop it off at the church.

St. Paul - printed copies of each week's bulletin, you can found at the back of the church or in a bag on the front step.

Happy Birthday this week: Paul Petriew, Ken Flath, Matt Brooks

FIRST READING: ACTS 1:6-14

"So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. **8** But 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." **9** When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. **10** While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. **11** They said, "Men of Galilee, 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."

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

13 When 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. **14** All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 4:12-14; 5:6-11

12 Beloved, 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. **13** But 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. **14** If 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 he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sister in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL: JOHN 17:1-11

17 After 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, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So 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. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for 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. ⁹ I 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. ¹⁰ All 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.