



**United in Christ: Hope Now! Hope Always!**

*“Wait, Israel, for God! Wait with hope! Hope now! Hope always! Psalm 131:3*

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**June 6, 2021**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones Lay Ministry Administrator: Jenny Hoffman**

**Preacher and Lector: Sandy Grant**

**Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz Soloist: Kyla Betts**

**Ushers: Todd Skavlen (8:00 a.m.)**

**Tune your radio to FM 87.9 Technical Support: Thomas Lehr**

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 Jesus' family. With them we go forth in peace to do the will of God.

**CALL TO WORSHIP: “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” Andy Quam, Flute**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**C: Amen**

**P:** Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** God, our provider,

**C: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to**

our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

**P:** Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN: "Lead Me Guide Me" #768 ELW vss. 1 & 3**

***Refrain:*** Lead me, guide me, along the way:  
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.

**Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**vs. 1:** I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
to help me over my weakest hour.

**Help me through the darkness thy face to see.**

**Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain**

**vs. 3:** I am lost if you take your hand from me,  
I am blind without thy light to see.

**Lord, just always let me thy servant be.**

**Lead me, O Lord lead me. Refrain**

## **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.**

*Honk your horns to greet one another.*

## **LITANY**

**P:** The word is near you,

**C: on your lips and in your heart.**

**P:** If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

**C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

**P:** Faith comes from what is heard,  
**C:** and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "Joyful , Joyful We Adore Thee" #836 ELW vss. 1 & 2**

**vs. 1: Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

**vs. 2 All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.**

#### **SALUTATION**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

*Honk your horns to greet one another.*

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray.

**C:** 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.

**ANTHEM: "He Never Failed Me Yet" by Ray**

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

<sup>8</sup>When they heard the sound of GOD strolling in the garden in the evening breeze, the Man and his Wife hid in the trees of the garden, hid from GOD. <sup>9</sup>GOD called to the Man: "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>He said, "I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked. And I hid." <sup>11</sup>GOD said, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from that tree I told you not to eat from?" <sup>12</sup>The Man said, "The Woman you gave me as a companion, she gave me fruit from the tree, and, yes, I ate it." GOD said to the Woman, "What is this that you've done?" <sup>13</sup>"The serpent seduced me," she said, "and I ate." <sup>14-15</sup> GOD told the serpent: "Because you've done this, you're cursed, cursed beyond all cattle and wild animals, Cursed to slink on your belly and eat dirt all your life. I'm declaring war between you and

the Woman, between your offspring and hers. He'll wound your head, you'll wound his heel."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL CANTICLE: "I Love to Tell the Story" #661 ELW vs. 1**

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.**

***Refrain***

**I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

*The Gospel is announced...*

P: The Holy Gospel according to 2 Corinthians the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

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

**GOSPEL: 2 Corinthians 4:5-18**

<sup>5-6</sup> Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners from Jesus for you. It started when God said, "Light up the darkness!" and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful. <sup>7-12</sup> If you only look at *us*, you might well miss the brightness. We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us. As it is, there's not much chance of that. You know for yourselves that we're not much to look at. We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we're not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken. What they did to Jesus, they do to us—trial and torture, mockery and murder; what Jesus did among them, he does in us—he lives! Our lives are at constant risk for Jesus' sake, which makes Jesus' life all the more evident in us. While we're going through the worst, you're getting in on the best! <sup>13-15</sup> We're not keeping this quiet, not on your life. Just like the psalmist who wrote, "I believed it, so I said it," we say what we believe. And what we believe is

that the One who raised up the Master Jesus will just as certainly raise us up with you, alive. Every detail works to your advantage and to God's glory: more and more grace, more and more people, more and more praise! <sup>16-18</sup> So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

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

## **SERMON**

**HYMN: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" #504 ELW**

**vs. 1: A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.**

**The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.**

**vs.2: No strength of ours can match his might!  
We would be lost, rejected.**

**But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.**

**vs. 3: Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,  
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpower us.**

**Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.**

**vs. 4: God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;**

for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!

### **APOSTLE'S 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 INTERCESION**

**P:** Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

*A Brief Silence*

**P:** God of wholeness, we pray for believers all over the globe. Unify us in service of the gospel, that we may work together as beloved siblings to share your love with all. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** God of the cosmos, we pray for creation; the gardens, waterways and creatures near to us and diverse forms of life that remain unseen. Teach us to treat the natural world with reverence, seeking restoration when human divisions have caused harm to your beloved creation. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** God of all people, we pray for harmony among the nations. Cast out from us unclean spirits of greed and fear, that we may work in solidarity with one

another for the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** God of abundance, we pray for those who are oppressed or in any need.

Encourage those who have begun to lose heart. Strengthen and renew us with your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** God of righteousness, we pray for this holy house of worship. Set our gaze upon things eternal, that in thanksgiving for your mercy, we may extend grace to more and more people. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** God of the ages, in your goodness you have sent us faithful witnesses for every time and place. We give you thanks for those saints who now rest in your eternal mercy. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

**C: Amen.**

#### **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Honk your horns to greet one another.*

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

**P:** The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✝ be upon you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Honk your horns one last time.*

**P:** Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **SENDING HYMN: “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve” #551 ELW vss. 1,3,4**

**vs. 1: The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus' name to bring glad tidings to the poor, God's favor to proclaim.**

**vs. 3: We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed and, all our days, to cherish life, to do the loving deed.**

**vs. 4: Then let us go to serve in peace, the gospel to proclaim. God's Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.**

## **POSTLUDE: “Ein feste Burg” Luther/Callahan**