



Sunday, September 27, 2020 - 9:00 am

Theme: The Book of Acts – The Holy Spirit Moves!

Drive-In/ Outdoor/ Online Worship

Usher: Neil G., Reader: Harper T., Hospitality: Brandy T.

GATHERING

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

Welcome & Worship Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father,
and of the [†] Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the [†] Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn: “Better is One Day”

How lovely is Your dwelling place
O Lord almighty
For my soul longs and even faints for You
For here my heart is satisfied
Within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

Chorus

Better is one day in Your courts
Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere
(Than thousands elsewhere)

One thing I ask and I would seek
To see Your beauty
To find You in the place
Your glory dwells
(REPEAT)

My heart and flesh cry out
For You the living God
Your Spirit's water to my soul
I've tasted and I've seen
Come once again to me
I will draw near to You
I will draw near to You to You

Better is one day better is one day
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere
Better is one day better is one day
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The Lord spoke to me 2 and said, “What is this proverb people keep repeating in the land of Israel? ‘The parents ate the sour grapes, But the children got the sour taste.’ 3 “As surely as I am the living God,” says the Sovereign Lord, “you will not repeat this proverb in Israel any more. 4 The life of every person belongs to me, the life of the parent as well as that of the child. The person who sins is the one who will die. 25 “But you say, ‘What the Lord does isn't right.’ Listen to me, you Israelites. Do you think my way of doing things isn't right? It is your way that isn't right. 26 When a righteous person stops doing good and starts doing evil and then dies, he dies because of the evil he has done. 27 When someone evil stops sinning and does what is right and good, he saves his life. 28 He realizes what he is doing and stops sinning, so he will certainly not die, but go on living. 29 And you Israelites say, ‘What the Lord does isn't right.’ You think my way isn't right, do you? It is your way that isn't right. 30 “Now I, the Sovereign Lord, am telling you Israelites that I will judge each of you by what you have done. Turn away from all the evil you are doing, and don't let your sin destroy you. 31 Give up all the evil you have been doing, and get yourselves new minds and hearts. Why do you Israelites want to die? 32 I do not want anyone to die,” says the Sovereign Lord. “Turn away from your sins and live.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior of the province and arrived in Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” “We have not even

heard that there is a Holy Spirit,” they answered. 3 “Well, then, what kind of baptism did you receive?” Paul asked. “The baptism of John,” they answered. 4 Paul said, “The baptism of John was for those who turned from their sins; and he told the people of Israel to believe in the one who was coming after him—that is, in Jesus.” 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 Paul placed his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came upon them; they spoke in strange tongues and also proclaimed God's message. 7 They were about twelve men in all.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

23 Jesus came back to the Temple; and as he taught, the chief priests and the elders came to him and asked, “What right do you have to do these things? Who gave you such right?” 24 Jesus answered them, “I will ask you just one question, and if you give me an answer, I will tell you what right I have to do these things. 25 Where did John's right to baptize come from: was it from God or from human beings?” They started to argue among themselves, “What shall we say? If we answer, ‘From God,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe John?’ 26 But if we say, ‘From human beings,’ we are afraid of what the people might do, because they are all convinced that John was a prophet.” 27 So they answered Jesus, “We don't know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you, then, by what right I do these things. 28 “Now, what do you think? There was once a man who had two sons. He went to the older one and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ 29 ‘I don't want to,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. 30 Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. ‘Yes, sir,’ he answered, but he did not go. 31 Which one of the two did what his father wanted?” “The older one,” they answered. So Jesus said to them, “I tell you: the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the Kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John the Baptist came to you showing you the right path to take, and you would not believe him; but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. Even when you saw this, you did not later change your minds and believe him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Children's Sermon

Message

Hymn of the Day: “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” ELW 697

Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak but thou art strong:
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee. Refrain

Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. Refrain

When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. Refrain

Prayers of intercession: Response “Hear Our Prayer”

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving Dialog

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.

Words of Institution

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.

(All take communion at the same time)

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

St. Paul Lutheran Transition Prayer

God of hope,

We are treading the path of transition. We praise you and ask you to make straight our path.

As we seek to call a new pastor, surround and ground the Ministry Site Profile Team and paperwork, the Call Committee, and the Synod staff in your Holy Spirit.

Give the Pastor you are preparing for us clarity of call and joy in finding us.

Sustain in this congregation, and in each of us, trust in your Holy Spirit, patience in the process, and generosity for the future of your church. Resolve any conflict and break down any barriers that remain among us.

Give us open minds and hearts as we welcome our new pastor and a new season of this congregation's ministry.

Through the abundant love of your Son, Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

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

Announcements

Blessing

The holy Three, the holy One
increase your hope,
strengthen your faith,
deepen your love,
and + grant you peace.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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"Just a Closer Walk with Thee" Text: North American traditional



September 27, 2020 – News & Updates

Worship

- **Worship Survey:** Please be sure to complete the Worship Survey to give your input on where and how to worship during the fall and winter months. Find it here: <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ehaersf8kenj08c2/start> or complete a hard copy and give to Pastor Sarah.

Education and Faith Formation

- **Family Devotions:** You can still sign up for weekly family devotions. While the general nature of the series is geared toward kids, we would love to have children of God of all ages join us. Devotions will be emailed or mailed weekly. Please email SundaySchool@sharingchristslive.org or call Melissa in the main office at 651-462-5212 to be on the distribution list and note if you would like the devotions via email or regular mail.
- **Sunday School:** Kids ages 4 years – 6th grade are invited to outdoor Sunday School immediately following worship on the following dates:
 - **September 27, 2020**
 - **October 11 and 25, 2020**

- **November 8, 2020**

If worship is cancelled due to weather, Sunday School will also be cancelled and rescheduled for the next week. For more information, email Chris and Katie at SundaySchool@sharingchristslove.org or call the office at 651-462-5212.

- **Confirmation Class:** Confirmation Class meets each week on Wednesday at 6pm outside as long as the weather cooperates!
- **Weekly Wednesday Bible Study at 1pm** in person, outside. In case of inclement weather, Bible Study will move inside to the Fellowship Hall and be on-line via Zoom.

Fellowship

- **Bring Your Own Picnic Night - Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm outside at our church! The next date is: September 30th.** BYO picnic dinner, drink, mask, and a lawn chair or blanket and plan to sit physically distanced. Brandy Timmons at 651-319-3255 or at brandyhtimmons@gmail.com. This event will be cancelled if it is raining.
- **Walking Club – Tuesdays at 7:00 am & 7:00 pm!** Meet in the church parking lot! For questions, please call AM Group Pat Clearence 651-285-9348, PM Group Brandy Timmons at 651-319-3255.

Service Opportunities

- **Building Cleaning:** Please sign up to clean our church building! Sign up at www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0d48a9ad28a5fc1-church or call the office at 651-462-5212. Special COVID 19 cleaning instructions will be given to you.
- **Communications Team:** Do you have web design or other communications skills? Could you give a little time to your church? If so, please contact Pastor Sarah! pastor@sharingchristslove.org.
- **How can you serve on Sunday?** We need readers, ushers, hospitality ministers at the Hospitality Station. Please call Melissa 651-462-5212, or email admin@sharingchristslove.org to sign up.

Information

- The **SPLC COVID Response Team** Look for the completed Preparedness Plan at <https://www.sharingchristslove.org/covid-19-update.html> . If you have any questions for the Covid Response Team, email safety@sharingchristslove.org or call the office.

- **Office hours** are T, W, Th 9am-4pm and F 9am-12pm. Pastor Sarah and Melissa work remotely most days. You can reach Melissa at 651-462-5212 and Pastor Sarah at 517-902-3977. You can also email pastor@sharingchristslove.org and admin@sharingchristslove.org.

This week we are praying for:

Arnie	Jan B.	Karen R.'s Aunt
Vicki & Her family	Fran D.	Wendy & her mom
Amanda	Georgia B.	Fire & EMS professionals
Larry	Cyndi	COVID medical/frontline staff
Andre	Greg	Military members
Bob	Cahill	Chad O.
Bill C.	Pam H. & Family	Law enforcement