



June 20, 2021

“My soul proclaims your greatness, O God!”

An exclamation from Mary, the mother of Jesus, in response to an astounding revelation from God. She will bear God's Christ into the world! She cannot contain her joy and wonder, and begins to praise God from the depths of her being ... from her very soul! In simplest terms, we humans understand ourselves as “body and soul.”

We experience life embodied, but we know ourselves to be far more. God has breathed spirit within us and created us as unique souls, in ways that even transcend bodiliness. And God invites us to love – to love God, to love others, to love the world God has made – with the whole of ourselves, from our very souls.



4th Sunday after Pentecost June 20, 2021

CALL TO WORSHIP

“O, Breath of God”

O, breath of God,
come fill this place,
Revive our hearts,
to know your grace,
Let us reflect your sacrifice
That we may know the living Christ.

WELCOME

LITANY

FROM THE BEGINNING, the invitation of faith is to love God with the whole of our being.

The Lord our God, the Lord is One. Let us love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. (*Deuteronomy 6:5*)

The invitation of God's Christ is to love God by loving others,
to love our neighbors and God's world as we would be loved ourselves.

(*Matthew 22:39*)

One who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (*1 John 4:8*)

If I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

(*1 Corinthians 13:2*)

Teach us a language of love,

Let us live in love. For whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. Amen

(*1 John 4:16*)

GATHERING SONG

“Spirit of Gentleness”

Refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

- 1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."

Refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

- 2 You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

Refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

- 4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.

Refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

God of creation, you breathe the spirit of life into us and kindle our very souls into being. Help us to find you at the deepest level of ourselves and to live from there: in you, with you, for you. **Amen.**

DEUTERONOMY 4:25-31

²⁵ When you have had children and children's children, and become complacent in the land, if you act corruptly by making an idol in the form of anything, thus doing what is evil in the sight of the Lord your God, and provoking him to anger, ²⁶ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that you will soon utterly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to occupy; you will not live long on it, but will be utterly destroyed. ²⁷ The Lord will scatter you among the peoples; only a few of you will be left among the nations where the Lord will lead you. ²⁸ There you will serve other gods made by human hands, objects of wood and stone that neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. ²⁹ From there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find him if you search after him with all your heart and soul. ³⁰ In your distress, when all these things have happened to you in time to come, you will return to the Lord your God and heed him. ³¹ Because the Lord your God is a merciful God, he will neither abandon you nor destroy you; he will not forget the covenant with your ancestors that he swore to them.

And the Word was with God. **And the Word was God.**

PSALM 63:1-8 *Read responsively.*

¹ O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

² **So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.**

³ Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

⁴ **So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

⁵ My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

⁶ when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

⁷ **for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.**

⁸ My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

ACTS 2:22-28

²² "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know — ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David

says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

And the Word was with God. **And the Word was God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Open Our Eyes"

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.
To reach out and touch Him and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord, help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

MATTHEW 16:21-28

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. ²² Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord; this shall not happen to you!" ²³ But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an offense to me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." ²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with His angels, and then he will reward each according to his works. ²⁸ Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Brad Highum

SONG OF THE DAY

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

- 1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;
I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness,
and I am full of grace.
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age
this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me,
and holy is your name.
- 2 To all who live in holy fear
your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud,
their scheming hearts expose.
The ruthless you have cast aside,
the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things,
the rich sent off unfed.
- 3 To Israel, your servant blest,
your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made
their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One,
give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,
one God, by all adored.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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 THE PEOPLE

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord, you have blessed us in abundance with such love and goodness. We marvel at the beauty of your creation, at the world and our place in it. We thank you for sustenance and shelter, for the love of faith community and family, even as we reach out in love to those in need, the suffering and the stranger.

**O come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into God's presence with songs of praise and offerings of thanksgiving
to the Lord of life and God of all.**

We offer these gifts to you with thankful hearts and joyful praise. Receive our offerings as signs of our whole lives lived to your glory and devoted in service to you.

**Gracious God, receive our gifts as signs of your Kingdom come on earth. With them
we commit ourselves to your rule and reign, in our lives and in all the world. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

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.**

All are welcome to celebrate communion at Abiding Love. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. Take a cup of wine or grape juice from the tray. Children and adults not communing are welcome to receive a blessing. Please follow the direction of the ushers.

COMMUNION SONG

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

- 1 Break now the bread of life,
dear Lord, to me,
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page
I seek you, Lord;
my spirit waits for you,
O living Word.**
- 2 Bless your own word of truth,
dear Lord, to me,
as when you blessed the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease,
all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace,
my All-in-All!**
- 3 You are the bread of life,
dear Lord, to me,
your holy word the truth that rescues me.
Give me to eat and live
with you above;
teach me to love your truth,
for you are love.**

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

“Let All Things Now Living”

- 1 Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.**
- 2 God rules all the forces:
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"**

PROCLAIMING OUR MISSION AND SHARING GOD'S PEACE

We go forth together, **sharing God's love!**

POSTLUDE

FATHER'S DAY PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, we pray blessings this day on fathers everywhere.

We ask your blessing on fathers present with us, and upon those who have passed beyond this life into eternity with you.

Bless fathers raising children today, and those now sharing their love with grandchildren.

Bless those who make the journey of fatherhood with the support of a loving spouse, and bless those who care for their children through the challenges of single parenthood.

Bless fathers who have found it difficult to express their love in meaningful ways, those who experience estrangement and separation from their children.

Bless all spiritual fathers who have not borne children, but selflessly care for the little ones of this world.

Help all fathers to grow daily in the image of your Son.

And help us all to know the depth of your love through the love of fathers. Amen.

Pr. B Highum, 2021

WORSHIP IN THE SEASON OF PENTECOST



Loving God

June 27: Loving God – Mind

July 4: Loving God – Strength

July 11: Loving God – Loving Self

July 18: No Greater Love

July 25: Unmediated Love

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Abiding Love Summer Celebration ***Sunday, July 18, 2021, Noon, Activity Center***

All are welcome to a celebration of God's goodness! Celebrate "forty-plus" years of mission and ministry at Abiding Love, and give thanks for our emergence from the pandemic and resumption of worship and community life at Abiding Love. Lunch will be provided by the Fellowship Ministry.

Bible Boosters Class

The Bible Boosters will resume Sunday morning classes this Sunday, June 20 at 10:00 am in the Bible Boosters Classroom. We will be studying Matthew 9:18-26, "Healed by Faith." All are welcome.

LWR Summer Matching Gift Challenge

The Lutheran World Relief's 2021 Summer Matching Gift Challenge is taking donations to provide clean water in areas of the world where it is most needed. Lutheran World Relief donors have now provided an **additional \$56,500 for the 2021 Summer Matching Gift Challenge**, bringing the total match amount to \$231,500! Any gift made by June 30 will be doubled until the total \$231,500 match is met. To make a donation, visit lwr.org.

Prayer Chain

The Abiding Love Prayer Chain is a method used by the Abiding Love community to circulate prayer requests through email. It is a private distribution list, but people can be added to the list by contacting Dawn Wetzel, dwetzel@abidinglove.org.

When requesting prayers for yourself or someone else, names and specific details of the concern are shared with discretion. While most people welcome being prayed for, it is best to ask the person before requesting a prayer for someone else. Prayer requests may be sent to any of the following: prayers@abidinglove.org, bhighum@abidinglove.org, or dwetzel@abidinglove.org.

Setting and Safety Measures for Indoor Worship

Following CDC Guidelines, the Abiding Love Council has determined that face coverings are not required for people who have been fully vaccinated. We ask those who have not been vaccinated to please continue to wear a face covering. Communion servers will wear face coverings. We will continue to maintain social distance and encourage the use of hand sanitizer.

ABIDING LOVE CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JUNE 20 Father's Day

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, JUNE 21

11:00 am ALLC Food Pantry
6:00 pm Bread for All Food Pantry
6:45 pm Junia Café Group
7:00 pm Scout Troop 555 (Outside)
7:00 pm Sarah Circle
7:00 pm AA (Music Room)

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

7:00 pm Al-Anon (Music Room)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23

10:00 am Staff Meeting (Library)
1:00 pm Sew Bee It Quilting (MS Room)

THURSDAY, JUNE 24

10:00 am ALLC Quilters (Upstairs Commons)

FRIDAY, JUNE 25

SATURDAY, JUNE 26

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)

SERVING SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021

Preaching and Presiding Minister: Rev. Brad Highum

Altar Guild: (8:30) Beverly Sones, Coleen Thompson

(11:00) Nan Hatcher, Barbara Tiedt

Assisting Minister: (8:30) Reggie Kikta

(11:00) Tony Napolillo

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Margaret Dove, Pat Dove, Rosa Hatfield

(11:00) Bill Hatcher

Lector: (8:30) Diane McGowan (11:00) Joan Hokanson

Music Leaders: Luciano Laurentiu, Karron Lewis

Sound: George Glaser

Ushers: (8:30) Marvin Haddock, Willie Haas, Jerald Segner, Morris Thompson

(11:00) Kurt Armstrong, TJ Shoaf