



The grass withereth,  
the flower fadeth:  
**but the word of our God  
shall stand for ever.**

Isaiah 40:8

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17<sup>th</sup> 2020

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## **Welcome to Trinity!**

*We're glad you're here to worship!*

*If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tesch (715-587-8521) or Principal Danell (715-732-2956) They will be happy to hear from you.*

**Hymn: 183**

*(Holy Spirit, Light Divine)*

### **Prayer of the Day:**

*Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you. Inspire us to think those things that are true and long for those things that are good, that we may always make our petitions according to your gracious will; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

### **Old Testament Lesson**

*Cain worked the ground. Cain brought an offering to the Lord. It sounds like Cain was a solid, hard-working citizen. And it seems like he was a faithful worshiper.*

*But God did not look favorably on Cain or his offering.*

*Why not? God looked favorably on Abel's offering. Abel and Cain were doing the same things. Abel worked and Cain worked. Abel brought an offering and Cain brought an offering.*

*What's the difference? How could Abel's actions be good and Cain's be evil when they were doing the same things?*

*The difference was Cain's heart. Abel brought his offering by faith (Hebrews 11:4). Cain had sold out to the devil (1 John 3:12). Abel brought his heart. Cain only brought his stuff.*

*By faith, we naturally want to thank God for everything he does. We thank him by offering whatever we have, whether it's our time, our talents, or our treasures. Our offering is just a way for us to show God we love him.*

*Cain's heart was somewhere else, so his offering was empty.*

*By faith, we fill every offering with our love. It comes from our heart.*

*We don't know much about Abel. We know that he raised sheep. We know he gave his best to God. We know he trusted his brother.*

*And we know that his brother killed him.*

*That doesn't seem right, does it? Abel was a good person. Good people shouldn't get murdered. Good people should be blessed. They should be protected by God. When Cain attacked his brother, God should have let Abel win. That would just be right. Good guys should win.*

*Still, Abel was murdered by his brother.*

*It's not fair. Sinful things never are. But God was there, and he brought Abel home to Heaven. So Abel won. He's even in God's Hall of Fame of Faith (Hebrews 11:4).*

*But Cain... Poor Cain. He won the fight with his brother, but he lost everything else. He lost his fight with sin. He lost his place in God's family. He lost his home with his parents. And, it seems likely that he lost his soul to hell (Jude 11).*

*Poor Cain. He lost. That's not fair either. Sin is like that. It promises that revenge will be sweet. It promises that, if you cheat, you can win. But it's a lie. Ask Cain; sinners lose.*

*If I could rewrite this section, I would have Cain repent. God would forgive him. We know he would! That's who God is. It's what he does.*

*We need to remember that when our own sins are weighing us down. We can rewrite how our life goes. We can repent. And*

*God will forgive. It's who he is. It's why Jesus came—to take our sin away.*

*So sinners like us can win.*

### **Genesis 4:1-16 (EHV)**

<sup>1</sup>The man was intimate with Eve, his wife. She conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, “I have gotten a man with the Lord.” <sup>2</sup>She also gave birth to Cain’s brother Abel.

Abel tended sheep, but Cain worked the ground. <sup>3</sup>As time passed, one day Cain brought an offering to the Lord from the fruit of the soil. <sup>4</sup>Abel also brought some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The Lord looked favorably on Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup>but he did not look favorably on Cain and his offering. Cain was very angry, and his face showed it.

<sup>6</sup>The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why do you have that angry look on your face? <sup>7</sup>If you do good, will you not be lifted up? If you do not do good, sin is crouching at the door. It has a strong desire for you, but you must rule over it.”

<sup>8</sup>Cain said to Abel, his brother, “Let’s go into the field.” When they were in the field, Cain attacked Abel, his brother, and killed him.

<sup>9</sup>The Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel, your brother?” He said, “I don’t know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”

<sup>10</sup>The Lord said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the soil. <sup>11</sup>Now you are cursed and sent away from the soil which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup>When you work the soil, it will no longer give its strength to you. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.”

<sup>13</sup>Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is too great for me to bear. <sup>14</sup>Look, today you have driven me away from the soil. I will be hidden from your face, and I will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth. And whoever finds me will kill me.”

<sup>15</sup>The Lord said to him, “No! If anyone kills Cain, he will face sevenfold revenge.” And the Lord appointed a sign for Cain, so that anyone who found him would not strike him down.

## The Descendants of Cain

<sup>16</sup>Cain went out from the Lord's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

### ***Epistle Lesson***

*What is love? Everybody wants it, but very few people know what it is. There are very few examples of love in our “me-first” society. That’s one of the reasons we look to Jesus. He is the perfect example of love. And when we learn about love from Jesus, we learn that love is not about warm and fuzzy feelings (although it can produce them) and doesn’t mean giving people what they want (most people want selfish and sinful things). In fact, love is the opposite of “what do I want.” Love is about sacrifice.*

*We see love most clearly demonstrated on the cross of Christ. Jesus didn’t lay down his life because it made him feel warm and fuzzy. Jesus didn’t go to the cross because that’s what people wanted. Jesus gave up his life because that is what we needed. It didn’t help Jesus at all. It didn’t save him or make him more welcome in heaven. It didn’t make him wealthier or more powerful or more comfortable. It didn’t make his life more convenient. There was nothing in it for him except us.*

*That’s love. And love is more than words. Love motivates us to sacrifice for each other. We want to help. We have to do something. That’s what love does.*

*Suppose a small child is about to wander out into a busy street. What would a loving parent do? Would they just tell the child that it’s not a good idea? Would they watch to see what happens? Would they shake their heads and wring their hands and complain about disobedient children?*

*Or would they move to rescue them? Even though it makes their life less convenient—even though it costs them something—even though it might put their own life in danger. They would run to save them. That’s what love does.*

*God tells us that faith causes us to love each other. It makes us less worried about ourselves and more interested in helping others. Remember how Cain was jealous that God*

*accepted Abel's offering? Love changes that. Instead of being envious of someone's success or good fortune, love leads us to celebrate with them! Jealousy is focused inward. Love is focused outward.*

*God tells us that, out of love, we will lay down our lives for each other. We will share our time and energy and possessions with each other. Love is active. When we love someone, we want to help them. We have to help! That's what love does.*

### **1 John 3:13–18 (EHV)**

<sup>13</sup> Do not be surprised, brothers, if the world hates you. <sup>14</sup> We know that we have crossed over from death to life, because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death. <sup>15</sup> Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. <sup>16</sup> This is how we have come to know love: Jesus laid down his life for us. And we also should lay down our lives for our brothers. <sup>17</sup> Whoever has worldly wealth and sees his brother in need but closes his heart against him—how can God's love remain in him? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us love not only with word or with our tongue, but also in action and truth.

### ***Gospel Lesson***

*In the middle of this COVID-19 pandemic, with its interruptions, layoffs, chaos, and restrictions, we might be tempted to wonder if God has abandoned us. Of course, this isn't the first crisis we've endured—it's not even a new one. Disease and death have been here since the fall into sin.*

*We're just as familiar with heartbreak, financial problems, exhaustion, hostility, and despair. Life in a sinful world is filled with failure, disappointments, and disillusionment.*

*So, where is God in all of this?*

*The disciples were concerned about that, too. Jesus was going to leave them—and they were distraught. They were confused and feeling helpless. Why would he leave?*

*They didn't understand the plan of salvation. They didn't have the universal, eternal perspective of God. They were only concerned about their own lives. And they were afraid.*

*Jesus assured them of three things: One—he was sending the Holy Spirit to take care of them and to continue their education. Two—he was not leaving them as orphans. He was coming back to them after his crucifixion. Three—because he lived, so would they. They didn't have to be afraid.*

*Notice how Jesus begins and ends this section with the command to hold on to his commands. He's telling the disciples to live by faith. The best way to feel close to God is to live according to his commands. We want to do that anyway. We love God and want honor him. By faith we recognize that sin is poison and God's Word is life.*

*Whenever we feel as though God has abandoned us, we need to stop and listen to his voice. Then we turn toward his voice to follow him—and there he is! He's never left us, but it can be hard to see him if we're moving in the wrong direction. It can be hard to hear him among the disagreements and the arguments and the chaos and the noise. But he is always here. He will never abandon us. He always loves us.*

*Let's walk with him according to his commands.*

### **John 14:15-21 (EHV)**

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, hold on to my commands. <sup>16</sup> I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it does not see him or know him. You know him because he stays with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will see me no longer, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> The one who has my commands and holds on to them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I too will love him and show myself to him.”

## Sermon Text: John 14:15-21

God in Us

*Offering:*

### Special Prayer regarding Coronavirus

Jesus Christ, our Great Physician,

We come before you in great need. We ask that you would end this plague on our world. We do not ask because we are worthy, but because you are gracious and merciful. If it is your will, heal those who are afflicted. Comfort those who are suffering. Grant wisdom and success to those who are treating and researching this disease.

Teach us to celebrate your blessings and your love. Help us not to take for granted our health or the connections we have among family and friends.

In your name we come to you. Amen.

### Prayers for Our family and Friends

**Milferd Behnke, Ashleigh Bourdelais, Gladys Constine, George Dumke, Geri Garbrecht, Dorothy Johnson, Lisa Schmitt, and Pastor Martin & Deb Spaude.**

### Prayers for those called to protect

**Military: Jesse Adams** (Sue Connor's son), **Greg Carow** (Dennis Carow's godson/nephew), **Aeron Forsberg** (Linda and Gene Erickson's grandson), **Dayton Godfrey** (Dave & Cindy Schacht's great-nephew), **Joshua Jansen** (Isaac Jansen's cousin), **Jesse Johnston** (Jim & Laurie Johnston's son), **Patrick Noppenberg** (Denis & Deb Vieth's son), **Aaron Stocker Jr.** (Martina (Dura) Stocker's husband), **Dylan Vanko**, (Roy and Grace Chmela's grandson), **and Thomas Weirich** (Mary Bush's nephew). **Steve Campbell** (firefighter), **and Greg Haemker** (police). Ask the Lord to bless them, strengthen them, and keep them safe.

***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.*

***The Benediction:***

*The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.  
Amen.*

***Hymn: 203 vv.1&3***

*(Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word)*



<sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us love not only with word or  
with our tongue, but also in action and truth.

**~1 John 3:18**

**TRINITY'S CORE MISSION**

**Shining the Light of the Gospel in our community.**

**John 8:12** - *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

**Matthew 5:16** - *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*