



May our
children and our
children's children...
continue to enjoy
the benefits conferred
upon us by a
united country.

Abraham Lincoln

Stand fast therefore
in the liberty wherewith
Christ hath made us free.

Galatians 5:1

Ascension Day

May 24th 2020

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

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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: 171

(A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing) vv. 1-4

Prayer of the Day:

Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Historical Lesson

Did you ever think that God isn't doing much these days? Evil people are doing evil things and they seem to be getting away with it. Bad things happen to good people and nothing seems to be done about it. Where are the miracles? Where are the acts of God?

What is God doing?

Chapter six of the book of Esther shows God doing something that seems insignificant: someone couldn't sleep. It seems like nothing, but God used it to save a man's life, bring evil to justice, save an entire nation from genocide, and protect the plan to save the whole world.

It's like the proverbial stone in the pond. Don't ever underestimate what God does with little things.

There was an evil guy who was going to murder an innocent man and wipe out God's people. He was the king's favorite, so no one could really stop him. His plan was in place, and he had the king's permission. What would God do?

It was a little thing.

There was a man who did his civic duty. He reported a plot. It turned out that the plot was real, so the plotters were arrested. But nothing was done for the man who did his duty. That oversight seemed like a little thing.

Then there was the guy who couldn't sleep. He was the king. Since he couldn't sleep, he had someone read to him. They read the report of the man who had done his civic duty. The king asked what had been done to reward the man. They told him that nothing had been done. So, the king decided to honor that man. That man happened to be the man whom the evil guy wanted to kill. So, the evil man's plans started to unravel. And God just kept working from there.

There's a lot more to the story. There's courage and intrigue. There is irony and suspense. If you haven't read the book of Esther, read it. It's amazing what God does! It's an excellent story—and it's all true!

In reality, little things, in the hands of God, aren't so little.

Whenever you think that there's so little that you can do, do the little things, the faithful things, the things that please God.

And leave the rest up to him.

Esther 6:1-14 (EHV)

That night the king could not sleep, so he ordered that the chronicles, the record of the memorable events of his reign, be brought to him. These accounts were read to the king.

²They found the account about the incident when Mordecai had reported Bigthan and Teresh, the king's two eunuchs who had controlled access to the entrance to the palace, who had tried to assassinate King Xerxes.

³The king said, "What honor and recognition has been given to Mordecai for this?"

Then the servants of the king who were attending him said, "Nothing has been done for him."

⁴The king said, "Who is in the court?" Just then Haman had come to the outer court of the king's palace to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

⁵ The king's servants said to him, "Look, Haman is standing in the court." The king said, "Have him come in."

⁶ When Haman came in, the king said to him, "What should be done to honor the man with whom the king is pleased?"

Haman said in his heart, "Who could there be that the king would be more pleased to honor than me?"

⁷ Haman said to the king, "The man whom the king is pleased to honor ⁸ should be clothed with garments that the king has worn. He should be given a horse on which the king has ridden, and crowned with a crown that has been on the king's head. ⁹ These clothes and this horse should be delivered by one of the highest-ranking noblemen of the king. They should dress up the man whom the king is pleased to honor and let him ride on the horse in the public square of the city. Walking in front of him, they will proclaim, "This is what is done for the man whom the king is pleased to honor."

¹⁰ The king said to Haman, "Hurry! Take the clothing and the horse just as you have said, and do this for Mordecai the Jew, who sits in the gatehouse of the king. Do not leave out a thing from whatever you have said."

¹¹ Haman took the clothing and the horse, clothed Mordecai, had him ride through the public square of the city, and proclaimed before him, "This is what is done for the man whom the king is pleased to honor."

¹² Mordecai returned to the king's gate, but Haman hurried to his home, mourning, with his head covered. ¹³ Haman reported all this to Zeresh his wife and to all his friends.

His advisors and Zeresh his wife said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not overcome him. Instead, you will surely fall before him."

¹⁴ While they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs arrived and rushed Haman to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

Epistle Lesson

Reminders

My phone buzzed again. It just reminded me of another appointment. It's always doing that. Good thing, too. It's easy for me to get lost in what I'm doing and then I forget about what's coming next.

God gave a reminder like that to the congregation in Colossae. He had Paul write it down to remind us, too. Good thing. It's easy to get lost in the day-to-day—even when the day-to-day has changed so much. There

are so many things that demand our attention that we can forget the important things: family, friends, taking care of ourselves—even God in heaven.

So, God gave us a very “Ascension Day” reminder. Look up. Seek the things that are above. Our life is more than our jobs, our to-do lists, and our recreation. It’s about family and faith. It’s about our journey together through this life to our home in heaven.

Our life is in Christ. That means it’s safe in God’s hands. That means it’s beyond disease or disaster, it’s more than our budget or our bills. Our life is hidden with Christ in God. Our life is more glorious than we can imagine.

It’s easy to forget that, so God wanted me to remind you again.

Colossians 3:1-4 (EHV)

Therefore, because you were raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Gospel Lesson

Aha!

Don’t you just love “aha!” moments? When your mind is opened and you can see something you never knew before?

I wonder how many “aha!” moments the disciples had after Easter. For three years Jesus had been teaching them. And, for three years they mostly didn’t get it.

Here in Luke 24 Jesus opened their minds. Think of that aha moment for the disciples. They realized that everything in the Bible is absolutely true, and they were living in the fulfillment of prophecy. They realized that Jesus conquered death, that he beat Satan, even though they missed it! They realized that God was right there, right then, talking to them.

Don’t you just love “aha!” moments? When God opens your mind to see him, right there, right then? To feel him walking us through this chaos, right at our side. To see him controlling the world, over disease and conflict and disappointment.

And he doesn't stop there. After Jesus opened the disciples' minds, he blessed them. And he kept blessing them all the while he was going into heaven. And they were filled with joy.

The disciples responded by going to church. They needed to praise God. What better place than the temple?

Now we get to do that. God is opening up the church again. What better place to praise him?

And we don't want to stop there. We want to change the world. We want to bring light into darkness and God's love into a world that is divided. We want to show people Jesus.

Jesus promised his disciples that he would fill them with his power. The disciples were people like us and Jesus used them to turn the world upside down. They wouldn't hide behind locked doors anymore. They were clothed with power. They wouldn't be afraid of anything, because Jesus ruled from heaven.

He still does. He will do the same with us.

Luke 24:44-53 (EHV)

⁴⁴ He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He said to them, "This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰ He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Sermon Text: Luke 24:44-53

Disciples

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.

Memorial Day Prayer

Almighty God, you are our strength and our shield. We give you thanks for the men and women of our armed forces, past and present, and especially for those who have died while serving. May their sacrifices serve the cause of peace, and may our nation be ever grateful for their service. With your wisdom and strength guide our military's leaders, and give to all people a desire for justice and peace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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: 341

(Crown Him with Many Crowns)



Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
~ **Colossians 3:2-3**

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."*