

† Pentecost VII †

“Jesus Returns Through His Spirit”



“His Commands Aren’t a Burden”

1 John 5:1-21

✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠
“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”
Saint Luke Lutheran Church | July 4, 2021

† Baptism — The Way of Faith †

Remembering Our Baptism Journey

Father, Creator of all heaven and earth, ✠ **you save us from our selfishness and make us your children through Baptism.** ✠ Through your Son, whose example we follow, ✠ **we die to Civilization's Way of arrogance, fear, and violence.** ✠ Through your Spirit, who dwells among us, ✠ **we are reborn in Jesus's Way of faith, hope, and love.** ✠ We pray that you will complete this work of Baptism within us, ✠ **as we daily surrender to you and listen to your every word.**

(the Christ candle is lit to remind us that Jesus is present among us)

♪ Lord, baptize us and wash away our sin. Lord, baptize us and change our hearts within. Lord, baptize us and grow our discipline. Lord, we praise you, for all that you do! ♪ Lord, baptize us to never be afraid. Lord, baptize us to love all you have made. Lord, baptize us to share your help and aid. Lord, we praise you, for all that you do! ♪ (tune: LSB 677)

Surrendering to the Creator

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ✠ **we surrender our minds, bodies, and whole lives to you.**

(we make the sign of the cross, touching forehead, heart, and shoulders)

We let go of control ✠ **and submit ourselves into your loving hands.** ✠ We leave behind our people-pleasing ✠ **and seek only your approval.** ✠ We walk away from our reliance on self, family, and nation ✠ **and trust you for everything we need.** ♪ *Take my life and all my heart, take my whole soul ev'ry part. Take my mouth and let it be, filled with your truth and mercy. ♪ Take my hands and let them love, with compassion from above. Take my feet and let them go, on the Way that Jesus showed. ♪ Take my things and my money, give me faith and set me free. Take my life and teach me how, to love all creation now. ♪ (tune: LSB 783)*

Pentecost Litany

Jesus has ascended to the Father, ✠ **but he has not left us as orphans.**
He has begun to return as he promised, ✠ **by pouring out his Spirit upon us.**
He dwells among us and all creation ✠ **and he has made us the Body of Christ.**

Song ✠ **LSB 644 “The Church's One Foundation”**

♪ The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord. She is his new creation, by water and the word. From heav'n he came and sought her, to be his holy bride. With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died. ♪
♪ Called out from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth. The Body of salvation,

one Lord, one faith, new birth. One holy name she blesses, on his good word she feeds. And to one hope she presses, while he tends to her needs. ♪

♪ Because of betraying hearts, the world sees her oppressed. By arguments torn apart, by false teachings distressed. Yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?" And soon the night of weeping, will be the dawn of song. ♪

♪ The Church will never perish, her strong Lord to defend. To guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end. There are those who will hate her, and men want her to fail. Against the constant traitor, she always will prevail. ♪

♪ Through hatred from the nations, and violence from their wars. She waits the resurrection, of peace for evermore. Till with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are bless'd. And the great Church victorious, will be the Church at rest. ♪

♪ Yet she on earth has union, with God the three in one. And mystic sweet communion, with those whose rest is won. Oh blessed heav'nly chorus, "Lord, save us by your grace!" That we like saints before us, may see you face to face. ♪

Prayer of the Day

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, help us to see that you have given us your strength to obey your commands. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

(sit)

Listening to the Creator

We gather at the feet of our Lord Jesus, listening to his word and allowing it to change and shape our minds, decisions, and lives. ♪ *Listen to what Jesus teaches, listen to him every day. Listen as you walk and follow, listen also as you pray. Listen to him every moment, listen with an open mind. Listen to find peace and patience, listen so you will be kind.* ♪ (tune: LSB 770)

Remembering the Saints & Martyrs ✠ Anthony of Egypt

Father, we give you thanks for your Spirit-filled saints and witnesses who have gone before us and have embodied the Way of Jesus. Today we remember Anthony (251-356 AD) who was born to a wealthy family but when his parents died sold everything they had and gave it to the poor. He then went out to live in the wilderness, undergoing great temptations and founding the first monastic communities. Help us learn from his faith and example, **Amen.**

Chanted Psalm ✠ *Psalm 88*



*♪ Lord, you are the God | who saves me;
* day and night I cry | out to you.
I am overwhelmed | with troubles
* and my life draws | near to death.
I call to you, Lord, | every day;
* I spread out my | hands to you.
I have seen terrors and am | in despair.*

** Lord hear my cry and | rescue me. ♪*

Law & Prophets ✕ Amos 4:1-13

The Prophets reading comes from Amos 4. ✕ **We listen with open hearts.**
This is the word of our Creator. ✕ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

Epistle ✕ 1 John 5:1-21

The epistle reading comes from 1 John 5. ✕ **We listen with open hearts.**
This is the word of our Creator. ✕ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

(stand)

† Holy Gospel † Mark 4:1-20

We stand for the word of Jesus. ♪ ***We praise our Lord Jesus who comes with healing in his hand. He frees us who are slaves of death, he raises us to stand. He fills us with his love and truth, he gives us all we need. We come to listen now and on his living word to feed.*** ♪ (tune: LSB 444)

The holy Gospel comes from Mark 4. ✕ **Jesus, we listen, ready to follow you.**
This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. ✕ **We will trust and obey.**

(sit)

Message

† Repentance — The Way of Hope †

Confronting Our Past

Let us reflect on how the word of Jesus is speaking into our lives this day.

(silence for reflection)

For serving the false gods of self, family, and nation, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕
For trusting the technology and works of human hands, ✕ **Father, forgive us.**
✕ For being hypocrites who misrepresent your name, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕
For not living in restful harmony with land, animals, and each other, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕
For not listening to and caring for our fathers and mothers in Christ, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕
For being violent to our bodies and your creation, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕
For not keeping our sexuality within marriage, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕
For trying to possess and control your creation, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕
For not being vulnerable and truthful with others, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕
For competing with others and not being content with our lives, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕
Father, turn us back to walking in your Spirit. ♪ ***Lord Father we have wandered and hidden from your face. Rescue your whole creation with your almighty grace. From trust in wealth and weapons and blindness to your Way, save us and all creation with your own hands, we pray.*** ♪ (tune: LSB 449)

Will you turn away from the Way of Civilization and reaffirm the Creator's claim upon you through your Baptism into the Way of Jesus? ✕ **Yes, I**

renounce the Way of Civilization and pledge my full allegiance to Jesus. ✠ Will you release all debts and grudges that you hold against anyone—including yourself and every member of this church? ✠ **Yes, I forgive all those who have hurt me, frustrated me, or owe me anything.** ✠ Our heavenly Father heals all those who return to his loving arms. You are forgiven and set free from all slavery to live life in the Way of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! ✠ **Amen.**

(stand)

Song ✠ *“When We Walk With the Lord”*

♪ *When we walk with the Lord in the truth of his Word, he will always be guiding the Way! While we do his good will, he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.* ♪

REFRAIN: ♪ *Trust and obey, for there’s no other way to be walking with Jesus, but to trust and obey.* ♪

♪ *Ev’ry burden we bear, ev’ry sorrow we share, is a gift that now shows us the Way. Ev’ry trauma and loss, ev’ry death on our cross, is now bless’d if we trust and obey.* ♪

♪ *But we never can prove the true depths of his love until all things at his feet we lay. So we come to his throne and give up what we own, ‘cause in him we will trust and obey.* ♪ (REFRAIN)

♪ *Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet, and we’ll walk by his side on the Way. What he says we will do, where he sends we will go, never fear, only trust and obey.* ♪ (REFRAIN)

Waiting on the Creator

♪ *Our Father, bring your Rule and will to earth. Give what we need for worry-free rebirth. Bring peace among us and forgive us too, as we forgive and love in all we do. ♪ Protect us from all things that will mislead. Keep us from selfishness, violence, and greed. We place our lives into your hands this day. Teach us to listen and to walk your Way. Amen.* ♪ (tune: LSB 637)

(incense is lit to symbolize our prayers ascending to God and as its smell fills this space we are reminded of his presence among us)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪

Our Father in heaven, make your name holy, bring your Rule, make your will be done—on earth as in heaven. ✠ Father, heal your creation that we have harmed and destroyed by reuniting heaven and earth through Jesus and your Spirit. Bring your loving discipline, judgment, and peace upon us, all those in authority, and all creation. Open the hearts of all, so we may trust and obey the word of Jesus. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy.* ♪

Give us this day our daily bread. ✠ Father, be our provider and protector. Take care of us and heal our brokenness. Especially we remember Charlene Sargent, Jack Wagner, Jan Zugelder, Al Harrison, COVID-19 victims, and those we name in our hearts... Father, give us exactly what we need this day and teach us to be content with that. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy.*

Forgive us our debts as we forgive those in debt to us. ✠ Father, forgive us and free us from all that enslaves us. Help us to walk away from our addictions to Civilization's Way so we may walk in Jesus's Way. Empower us to forgive the debts and sins of all who repent, even our enemies, in the same way you have forgiven us. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪*

Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. ✠ Father, grow our trust in you and keep us from being tested when we are not yet ready. Free us from fear, self-indulgence, competition, ownership, and violence. Comfort us in the hope that your creation and children will be renewed and raised from the dead. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪*

For all authority, power, and glory are yours—now and forever. ✠ Father, we thank you for all that you give—life, daily provision, and salvation from death and slavery. Empower us to celebrate your love through a life of patient courage, self-discipline, humility, generosity, and kindness. Help us to let go of being in charge so we might entrust our lives fully into your hands, trusting that you work all things to the good of those who love you. ✠ **Amen.**

† Communion — The Way of Love †

Sharing the Lord's Peace

We prepare to be united as one Body and communion at the Lord's table by sharing with each other the peace and love our Father has freely given to us.

(sit)

Offering

Everything belongs to our Father and is to be used to love each other in the same way Jesus has loved us. Therefore, we offer our entire lives as a living sacrifice to him while also offering gifts to support this communion.

Musical Offering

(stand)

Pledge of Allegiance

♪ We come before you, Lord, to bow. We lay our lives at your feet now. All things are yours, we own nothing! Our lives are in your hands this day. Give what we need, O Lord, we pray. Please protect us, provide for us! Watch over us, ever with us, always love us! ♪ (tune: LSB 816)

Lord Jesus, we pledge our obedience and every part of our lives to you...

**I pledge allegiance to God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I pledge allegiance to Jesus the Christ, who is God's only Son and my Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. The third day he rose from the dead. He ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. He is coming to judge the living and the dead.**

I pledge allegiance to the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life with God, now and always. Amen.

Thanksgiving

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Lift up your hearts! ✠ **We lift them to the Lord!** ✠ Let us give thanks to our Creator! ✠ **It is right to give him thanks and praise!** ✠ Praise and thanks are due to you, Father, ✠ **for you provide, protect, love, and renew us and all creation!** ✠ We are grateful that you bring heaven and earth together through Jesus's love for all creation!

♪ Joyful, joyful we adore you, Creator of all that lives! Earth and heaven praise and thank you, for your love and all you give! Fields and forests, fruit trees and birds, thunderstorms and starry skies, seas and mountains, and grazing herds, praising you who never dies! ♪ (tune: LSB 803)

† Words of Our Lord Jesus †

On the night before our Lord Jesus was crucified, he revealed his Way of rescuing all creation from the Way of Civilization. Before supper, Jesus humbly washed the feet of his students and enemies. He said, "Follow my example. Love each other in the same way I have loved you." During supper, Jesus then took the bread and broke it. He gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is being given for you. Do the same for each other in my memory." After supper, Jesus then took the cup and gave thanks. He said, "This is my blood which is being shed for you, for the forgiveness of all of your sin. Do the same for each other in my memory." *♪ When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death Lord Jesus. So as we share this feast may we, remember your love for us. Help us now to follow your Way, and to walk in your goodness. Always make us one in you. ♪ (tune: LSB 384)*

Invitation to the Table

We gather around Jesus's table, trusting that he is truly giving his whole self to us through this bread, wine, and communion. As we receive the Lord's gifts, we commit ourselves to laying down our lives for each member of this church in the same Way that Jesus has laid down his life for us. We invite all Baptized members of the holy universal Church, who give their undivided allegiance to Jesus and are at peace with their brothers and sisters in Christ, to join us in this mysterious communion of heaven and earth.

♪ Oh come, Lord Jesus, come and dine, and give yourself through bread and wine. Feed us so we may have new birth, and bring your rule ov'r all the earth. Come now! Come now! Our Lord Jesus, and bring your healing love to us! ♪ (tune: LSB 357)

(sit)

Sharing the Bread & Wine

(stand)

Sent to “Do the Same in My Memory”

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the bread of life ✠ **your body, given for us.** ✠
 You judge us and heal us with your love and mercy ✠ **your blood, shed for us.**
 ✠ Now help us to do the same in your memory ✠ **as we share our whole lives with the church and care for all your creation, including our own bodies.**
 ✠ Lord, fill us with your Holy Spirit so we may always reflect your love. ✠
Amen. 🎵 We follow our Lord Jesus, we walk where he leads us, he teaches us to live in his presence now. We trust in his mercy, he saves us from worry, he has over come death and teaches us how. We love all creation, share ev'ry possession, we wait on the Lord in ev'rything always. He is present with us, he cares and protects us, he gives us all that we need for all our days. 🎵 (tune: LSB 643)

Blessing

May the Father bless you and hold you in his hands. May the Son empower you to love all his creation in the way he has loved you. May the Holy Spirit fill your body and give you a peace that is free of all anxiety. ✠ **Amen.**

Song ✠ **LSB 719 “I Leave All Things to God’s Direction”**

- 🎵 *I leave all things to God’s direction, he brings good through all that happens. His will and way must always be done, his love is seen in his actions. My fortress and my rock is he. What pleases God, that pleases me.*
- 🎵 *God knows what must be done to change me, his love for me will never cease. His love is seen as hard times hit me, and also in the times of peace. My Father is always for me. What pleases God, that pleases me. 🎵*
- 🎵 *God wants to save both body and soul, he loves each person as a whole. Therefore I let go of all control, all that matters is the Lord’s goal. His will be done eternally. What pleases God, that pleases me. 🎵*
- 🎵 *My God has all things in his keeping, he is the always faithful friend. He gives me laughter after weeping, and all his ways in blessings end. His love endures eternally. What pleases God, that pleases me. 🎵*

Weekly Calendar July 4 - 11, 2021		
Sun, Jul 4	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy “His Commands Aren’t Hard” 1 John 5:1-21
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship Text of the Day Study
Mon, Jul 5	6:00 pm	Table Talk: “The Patient Ferment” @ DG
Wed, Jul 7	6:00 pm	Scripture Study: Revelation @ DG
Sat, Jul 10	7-9 am	Breakfast & Devotion
Sun, Jul 11	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy “Through Faith” 1 Peter 1:1-12
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship Text of the Day Study

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