

Whoever
believes in me

streams of living
water

will flow

from within him.

- John 7:38 -

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022

OUR WORSHIP

Streams of Living Water

SERVICE THEME What is the heart of biblical religion? What is Christianity, ultimately? The essence of Christianity is direct experience of God, God's lifeblood, God's stuff, God's substance, His Spirit penetrating us. What makes Biblical religion different from other kinds of religion is found in 2 Peter 1:4: "[You are] partakers of the divine nature."

+ Preparing Ourselves to Hear God's Word +

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING Psalm 63:1-8

Pastor: You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you;

**People: I thirst for You, my whole being longs for You,
in a dry and parched land where there is no water.**

Pastor: I have seen You in the sanctuary

People: and beheld Your power and Your glory.

Pastor: Because Your love is better than life, my lips will glorify You.

**People: I will praise You as long as I live,
and in Your name I will lift up my hands.**

Pastor: I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise You.

**People: On my bed I remember You;
I think of You through the watches of the night.**

Pastor: Because You are my help, I sing in the shadow of Your wings.

People: I cling to You; Your right hand upholds me.

Pastor: Because You sought each one of us and put Your name on us – when we were Baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we now seek You to quench our thirst for You, Your love, Your acceptance, and Your forgiveness.

**People: For this reason we give all glory and praise to You – Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen!**

RESPONSE LSB 527 “O Savior, Precious Savior”

**O Savior, precious Savior, Whom yet unseen we love;
O name of might and favor, All other names above,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our holy Lord and King.**

**O bringer of salvation, Who wondrously hast wrought
Thyself the revelation Of love beyond our thought,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our gracious Lord and King.**

**In Thee all fullness dwelleth, All grace and pow’r divine;
The glory that excelleth, O Son of God, is Thine.
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our glorious Lord and King.**

**O grant the consummation Of this our song above
In endless adoration And everlasting love;
Then shall we praise and bless Thee Where perfect praises ring,
And evermore confess Thee, Our Savior and our King!**

CONFESSONAL PRAYER

Pastor: Father, we are thirsting for what only the presence of Your Holy Spirit can give us. And, we have frequently sought to quench our thirst through our own feeble efforts to secure a sense of worth and significance by ourselves. Please forgive us for the sake of Your Son who was crucified in our place and raised to LIFE to be our Source of new and eternal LIFE. We ask in His name, the Same who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People: Amen!

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 17:3-7

³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?”

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

⁵ The LORD answered Moses, “Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So, Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the place Massah (which means *testing*) and Meribah (which means *quarreling*) because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

SECOND OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 47:1-6a, 8--9

¹ The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. ² He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.

³ As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off six hundred yards and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. ⁴ He measured off another six hundred yards and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another six hundred and led me through water that was up to the waist. ⁵ He measured off another six hundred, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in – a river that no one could cross. ⁶ He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?”

Then he led me back to the bank of the river. ⁸ He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Jordan Valley, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. ⁹ Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so, where the river flows everything will live.

FIRST EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.

SECOND EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

¹ For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ² They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³ They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

Pastor: These Readings are from **God's holy Word.**

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING John 7:37-39

Pastor: The Gospel Reading is from the Gospel of John,
the disciple whom Jesus loved, the seventh chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to Me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in Me, as Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within them." ³⁹ By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE "Are You Thirsty?"

MESSAGE HYMN *LSB 700* "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

**Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.**

**Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee Lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

MESSAGE “Streams of Living Waters”

Introduction

The essence of Christianity is direct experience of God.

[1] What opens the reservoirs of Life-giving water?

The Holy Spirit comes after Jesus is glorified.

Where the river flows everything lives. (Ezekiel 47)

Strike the rock and water will come out. (Exodus 17)

[2] How do we get the Holy Spirit?

We receive the Holy Spirit by hearing with faith.

Faith involves [i] being thirsty, and [ii] coming to Jesus.

[3] What is the result?

“Whoever believes in Me . . .”

Confidence – courage – caring

+ Our Response to God’s Word +

OFFERING *LSB 704* “Renew Me, O Eternal Light”

**Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from Your holy face.**

**Remove the pow’r of sin from me
And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will
Temptations of the flesh to still.**

**Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey Your word
Let what You will be my desire;
And with new life my soul inspire.**

**Grant that I only You may love
And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face,
O Light Eternal, through Your grace.**

PRAYER & 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 Lord's Supper – the Visible Word +

PREFACE

Pastor: Those who know their frailty, desire to be rid of it, and long for help, should regard this Meal and use it as a precious antidote against the poison which they have in them. For here in this Sacrament you are to receive from the lips of Christ forgiveness of sin, which contains and brings with it the grace of God and the Spirit with all His gifts, protection, shelter, and power against death and the devil and all misfortune.
[Luther's Large Catechism]

JESUS' WORDS

LAMB OF GOD *LSB 702, vv. 1-2* "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

**My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine, Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away; O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!**

**May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire! As Thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to Thee Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!**

DISTRIBUTION *LSB 507 524 527 708*

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Father, Jesus has promised us His Holy Spirit after He was glorified by being lifted up on a cross for us. In this Supper, we have experienced Jesus' glory and received His Holy Spirit. May that Spirit not only strengthen our faith but enable us to be rivers of living water for a parched and thirsting world. We ask in Jesus' precious name.

People: Amen!

BENEDICTION LSB 922 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

**Go, My children, with My Blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you: You are My own.
In My love's baptismal river, I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing – You are My own.**

**Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.**

**Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.**

**I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, Brother.
Go, My children, I will keep you And give you peace.**

BETHESDA AUXILIARY

There is still an opportunity to give a donation to support Bethesda Auxiliary's ministry of sharing God's love with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Simply put your donation in the envelop that was in your Church mailbox and place it in the Offering Plate. Checks can be made out to "Bethesda Auxiliary – Oregon Unit."

NEXT SUNDAY – May 22

THEME: No Condemnation

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: "What Being Accepted Feels Like"

SERMON: "The Power of No Condemnation"