

# We Are the Church: July 19, 2020

## Week Eight: Growing in Faith



St. John's  
Lutheran Church

**PRELUDE:** Music provided by Annabel Smith and Gloria Gilbertson

### OPENING HYMN:

Verses 2 and 5 Only

## Will You Come and Follow Me

*The Summons*



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
your name? Will you care for cruel and  
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?  
kind and nev - er be the same?  
free and nev - er be the same?  
side and nev - er be the same?  
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be  
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"  
pray'r in you and you in me?"  
mean in you and you in me?"  
sound in you and you in me?"  
grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949  
Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional  
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*Musicians: Olivia Smith and Gloria Gilbertson*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

- L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Amen.
- L: Listen deeply to these words as we confess our sins, trusting in the mercy of God. Reconciling God, we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.
- L: Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✝ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- L: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Let us pray: By your word, eternal God, your creation sprang forth, and we were given the breath of life. By your word, eternal God, death is overcome, Christ is raised from the tomb, and we are given new life in the power of your Spirit. May we boldly proclaim this good news in our words and our deeds, rejoicing always in your powerful presence; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

## **The First Reading: Psalm 51:1-17**

### *Change My Heart Oh God*

L: The first reading is from Psalm 51.

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> **Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup> **You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> **Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

<sup>14</sup> **Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

<sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

<sup>16</sup> **For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.**

<sup>17</sup> The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

## **The Second Reading: Acts 9:1-31**

### *Saul's Conversion and an Uneasy Encounter with the Disciples*

L: The second reading is from Acts, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup> He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup> and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup> I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup> So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you

on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”<sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized,<sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

### **Saul Preaches in Damascus**

For several days, (Saul) was with the disciples in Damascus,<sup>20</sup> and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”<sup>21</sup> All who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?”

<sup>23</sup> After some time had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him,<sup>24</sup> but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night so that they might kill him;<sup>25</sup> but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

### **Saul Joins the Disciples in Jerusalem and Begins Witnessing to the Gentiles**

<sup>26</sup> When he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple.<sup>27</sup> But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.<sup>28</sup> So he went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.<sup>29</sup> He spoke and argued with the Hellenists; but they were attempting to kill him.<sup>30</sup> When the believers learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

**SERMON:**

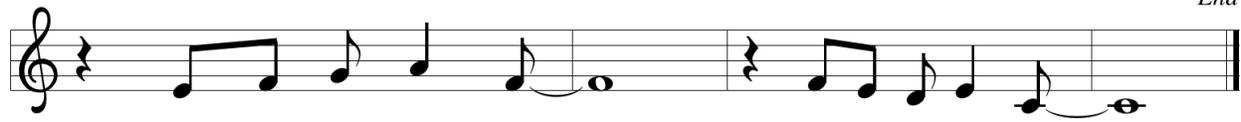
**Lindsay Colwell**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

### Change My Heart, O God



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953  
Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa  
Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services

*Musicians: Olivia Smith and Gloria Gilbertson*

## 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.**

## OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: On this morning, let us pray to God for the church, the earth, and all in need, that the whole world may know the resurrection that God promises to give. Amen.

*A brief silence. The Leader continues.*

We pray for the church throughout the world. *A brief silence.*

For the spirit of resurrection within all believers. *A brief silence.*

For the newly baptized. *A brief silence.*

For the health of plants and animals. *A brief silence.*

For all who care for the earth. *A brief silence.*

For peace throughout the world. *A brief silence.*

For an increase of justice in every land. *A brief silence.*

For those in need, those close to home, those far away. *A brief silence.*

For those who are hungry. *A brief silence.*

For the sick and the dying. *A brief silence.*

For our neighborhood. *A brief silence.*

For this assembly of worshipers. **(Any Special Petitions)** *A brief silence.*

For the desires of our hearts. *A brief silence.*

We give thanks for the lives of all the faithful who have died and who now enjoy the full presence of God. We pray that at the end we may join them in the resurrection.

*A brief silence.*

On this morning, O God, receive our prayers and praises, and give us your Spirit, that our lives may be signs of the new life you give through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Worship:** Sunday at 9AM on the lawn; 10AM Zoom. Online available afternoon  
→ Communion 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays  
Wednesday at 6:30 PM online via Zoom  
→ Communion: August 8 & August 19  
→ Campfire Worship at SJK: July 29, 2020 at 6:30 PM

### **Bible Studies**

Tuesdays at 11 AM via Zoom: Will return in the Fall  
Thursdays at 9:30 AM via Zoom: Women of Faith  
Bible and Brew, Thursdays at 7 PM: Will return in the Fall  
Saturdays at 10 AM via Google Meets: "Lamentations"

## **BLESSING**

L: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present,  
nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all  
creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.  
God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love. Amen.

## **DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you. Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE:** Music provided by Annabel Smith and Gloria Gilbertson