

JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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PIERRE, SD 57501



Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old. (Micah 7:18-20)

During this time of pandemic, I get the sense that our trust of others has been affected. People almost recoil when they hear that someone else has “touched” something. Walking through the aisle at the store, people will jump out of the way to avoid another person. And to be sure, people are scared. We are told that some people may be carrying the coronavirus and not even know it.

In this sense, the Prophet Micah would very much fit into our times. “Don’t trust anyone,” was Micah’s advice as he looked around to see how thoroughly sin had corrupted his society (7:5). And really, who could blame him? Who can blame us?

Yet, the Bible tells us that there is One we can trust. In fact, that’s what our text is all about. As humans down through the ages have sought the truth, rarely if ever, have they discovered it on their own; instead, most of the time, humans end up creating their own gods. Like the Israelites at the foot of Mount Sinai, people have formed their own golden calf (or calves), sometimes without even realizing it. In the Large Catechism, Luther observes that whatever people put their trust into, that is their god. So, the question remains, do you worship the true God?

In the text quoted above, the Prophet Micah sees the true God as He is. In fact, that’s what lies behind Micah’s question in verse 18—“Who is a God like you?” Clearing away all the clutter, Micah focuses the reader on what’s really important: God pardons iniquity, God forgives transgressions, God does not retain His anger, and God delights in steadfast love. God “will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot” ... He “will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea” (v. 19). And best of all, God will be faithful to His promise of sending the Savior (v. 20).

Throughout history, our Lord has consistently done those things. He’s never once failed to act according to His Word. He’s always forgiving His penitent people. Indeed, who is like Him? Who can compare to Him? The answer is, “No one!”

And so, instead of entertaining those who claim to be gods but are not, we worship the true God, the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There is no God like Him. There is no God like Him who was so concerned about us that He took on human flesh and became one of us. There is no God like Him who willingly allowed Himself to be betrayed, beaten, spit upon and nailed to a cross. There is no God like Him who took all of our shortcomings and failures upon Himself in order to pay our punishment. There is no God like Him who died our death so that we might experience real forgiveness. There is no God like Him

and Him.

Pastor Coy T. Pji

who came to life again on the third day now gives eternal life to all who trust in Him.

Indeed, there is no God like Him.



Changing Colors

Our sanctuary is filled with items that give us Christ or remind us of Christ. The candles recall the “Light of the World.” The pulpit and lectern put Christ in our ears. Our eyes have multiple things to look at, and each gives us a different way to remember Jesus. This month, we will discuss those linens hanging in the front of church. Not the banners (that will be next time), but the paraments.

“Paraments” are based on a Latin word that means “adornment.” The cloths on the altar, pulpit, and lectern do adorn the church. They provide depictions of the life of Christ. The banners also do this, so we will hear about the depictions next time. For this month, I want to talk about the colors. **Each season in the church year has a specific focus, and the color of the season helps draw attention to it.**

In very short description, the church year starts with Advent, the time before Christmas. **Our King is coming, and the blue is a royal color which reminds us of the King.** Christmas and Epiphany are the time of Christ among us, and we also hear how Jesus reveals himself to all people. These are white, reminding us that Jesus is here among us.

Lent is next, with Ash Wednesday as its first day. Ash Wednesday is **black**, which recalls our stained sinful selves. We are blackened with foolish, evil choices. Lent quickly switches to purple. The color both recalls our royal King who will suffer in our place, and provides our reaction to Christ’s suffering and death. We are distraught and close to mourning on account of our sin. The purple provides recognition of this sorrowful state.

Easter comes next, and our King has returned. He rose from the dead and is with us again. We revert to **white**, showing that Christ is with us. But he ascends into heaven. Afterward, he gives us the Holy Spirit. **Pentecost is red, which stands for the Spirit’s presence among us.** After this, we have a long (almost six months) **time of green.** This “Season after Pentecost” is the time when the church focuses on its mission: spreading the message of Jesus. Farming images are common, and the green reminds us that we must cast the seed of God’s Word far and wide.

The banners also follow this color pattern. While the paraments do include some pictures, the banners allow for much bigger images. We will discuss some of these next time. The images focus our attention on particular events in the life of Christ.

Pastor Sam



THROUGH THE CHURCH THE SONG GOES ON.....

*“In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise
your name forever.” Psalm 44:8*

“Holy God We Praise Thy Name” (tune: GROSSER GOTT) is one of my favorite hymns. It exalts God as King of heaven and earth, the all-triumphant Savior, and calls on all creatures in the universe to praise Him. It is commonly used as part of major Christian ceremonial occasions, often as the recessional hymn.

Holy God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we bow before Thee.
All on earth Thy scepter claim; All in heav’n above adore Thee.
Infinite Thy vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign.

A German Catholic Priest, Ignaz Franz, wrote the original German lyrics in 1771 as a paraphrase of the Te Deum. The song became known in the US as a result of the German emigration in the 19th century, and was translated to English by Clarence Walworth in 1858.

Hark! The glad celestial hymn, Angel Choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim, In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heav’ns with sweet accord: Holy, holy, holy Lord!

A number of years ago, Faith’s Choir sang the John Ferguson choral arrangement of this hymn, accompanied by organ and brass. Ferguson’s arrangement begins with the chanting of the Te Deum text, before launching into the mighty, dignified hymn. The tune itself reflects the ebb and flow of the chant, while the text deserves and exudes reverence.

Lo, the apostles’ holy train; Join Thy sacred name to hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain, And the white-robed martyrs follow,
And from morn to set of sun, Through the Church the song goes on.

The Ferguson arrangement also ends with the chanting of “*Through the Church the song goes on.*” The final cadence never does resolve to a final chord, which suggests the song continues for eternity. It is comforting to know that nothing can end the Church’s song – not even death of the

THE SONG GOES ON...Continued

Lord's saints. We are to praise Him in all we do and say every day of our lives here on earth. We will be with Him in heaven forever where time has no beginning or end. What a glorious day that will be.

God's word is powerful. While we've been practicing social distancing during this pandemic the past few months, I think most of us are realizing the importance of gathering together and having regular worship as an essential part of our routine. It is good to remember His promises and hear the truth of the Bible. God is with us!

We have done our best to continue the Church's song during this time of uncertainty. I would like to give a shout out to Andrew Wulf and Rodd Bauck for coming to share their talents on occasion; and last but not least, Helen Kiepke, for being our song leader for every one of our worship services. She has willingly rehearsed several times a week, as well as sometimes learning new music. What a rock star! Please thank these people when you see them.

Finally: A thought – we always give credit to the composer or arranger of our hymns and anthems, but are you aware that translators contribute just as much – or even more – to Christian hymnody? They not only have the job of translating the original language, but there is the challenge whereby they must honor the context of the original poetry, yet write a version that fits the meter and word accent of the pre-existing tune so it is singable in a new language. If you take a look below many of the hymns in our LSB, you will find the author of the text, the person who composed the tune, and also the translator, along with the tune name and the meter. That's a lot of information!



Karen Lindbloom



Official Acts

Funerals

Eugene Kreitman

Vic Fosheim



FOR ALL WHO ARE
LED BY THE **SPIRIT OF
GOD ARE CHILDREN
OF GOD.**

ROMANS 8:14, NRSV

Sent Forth By God's Blessing