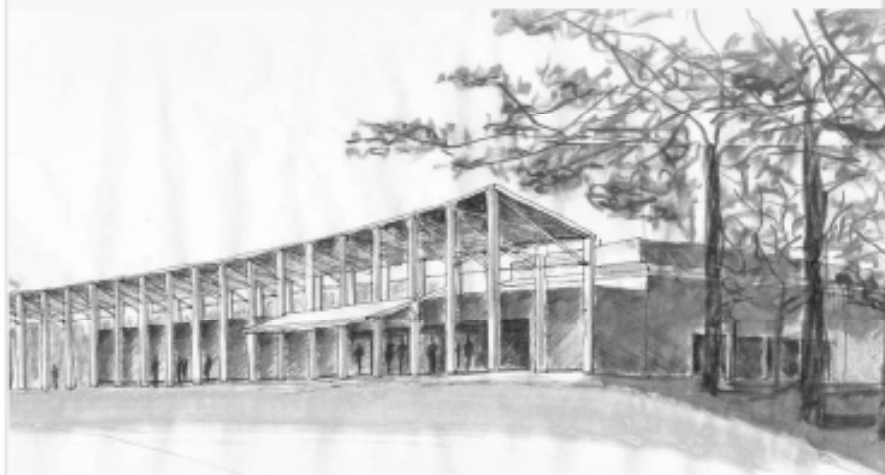


✦ St. Nicholas Church

A member of the Anglican Communion



Welcome

*The Love of Christ
Changing Lives*

May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

PENTECOST

Christ was crucified, rose again, spent forty days with his Disciples, and then ascended to heaven. Pentecost immediately followed, 50 days after Easter Sunday.

Believed to be the oldest feast in the Church, Pentecost dates back to the first century A.D. The Feast of Pentecost coincided with the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which occurs 50 days after the Passover (Deuteronomy 16:10). According to Jewish tradition, the Ten Commandments were given to Moses 50 days after the first Passover, which freed the Hebrews from their bondage in Egypt. As the Hebrews settled into Canaan, the feast became a time to honor the Lord for blessing the fruits of their labors. At the time of Jesus, the festival focused on rabbinical law and traditions. Since this Jewish holiday took place at the same time of the Pentecost, many Jewish Christians appropriated its celebration into their Christian commemoration of the coming of the Spirit.

According to the book of Acts, the Church came into being on the day of Pentecost. As 120 worshipers, including the Disciples, were fasting and praying in an upper room in Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit descended upon them in a violent rushing wind that was heard throughout the city. Small flames of fire rested upon their heads, and they began to speak in other languages. As crowds came to investigate the commotion, the Apostle Peter spoke to them about Jesus and exhorted them to repent. From the crowd of Jews and converts, 3,000 realized the truth of his words and became followers of Jesus. The church of Jesus is born! The book of Acts tells the story!

ASCENSION DAY

Ascension Day, also known as the Feast of Ascension, occurs on the Thursday 40 days after Easter, commemorates the ascension of Christ into Heaven.

According to the accounts in the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus appeared to many of his disciples during the 40 days following his resurrection. On the 40th day, he came again to the Apostles and led them out to the Mount of Olives where he instructed them to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Holy Spirit. Then, as they were watching, he ascended into clouds. As they continued to watch, two angels appeared and declared to them that, just as he ascended, Jesus would return in glory.

According to Augustine of Hippo, one of the early church fathers, the Feast of Ascension originated with the Apostles. John Chrysostom and Gregory of Nyssa, contemporaries of Augustine, refer to it as being one of the oldest feasts practiced by the Church, possibly going as far back as 68 AD. There is no written evidence, however, of the Church honoring Ascension Day until Augustine's time in the fourth century.

For many Christians, Ascension Day's meaning provides a sense of hope that the glorious and triumphant return of Christ is near. It is a reminder of the Kingdom of God within their hearts and of the ever-present Spirit of God watching over and protecting them as they spread the light of Jesus' truth throughout the world.

ONE HOLY CATHOLIC & APOSTOLIC CHURCH

One holy catholic and apostolic church...

As far as we know, Ignatius of Antioch was the first person to use the word catholic in relation to the church. In his letter to the Smyrnaeans, written around A.D. 112, he wrote, "Where Jesus Christ is, there is the universal church." Early Christian writers believed in the catholic church—that Christians everywhere trusted in one God, confessed one faith, received one baptism, and shared one mission. In that sense, catholic meant "real" or "authentic."

From the third century on, the word became synonymous with orthodoxy. Thus, "the catholic church" was in contrast to heretics and schismatics. By the middle of the fourth century, the word came to mean more than authentic and orthodox. It was also used to connote the church's extensive reach to every land and every class of people. So from the early church until the modern period, the word catholic has been used to distinguish the church from that which is irregular or erroneous, much like conservative American Christians use evangelical in opposition to cult.

While the term catholic never appears in the Bible, the ideas behind it are found throughout Scripture. For example, Paul says in Galatians that anyone—no matter who they are, where they live, or what time period they live in—can have a relationship with God, so long as they have faith in Christ. And in Ephesians, Paul practically gives a theological treatise on the universal nature of the church: "This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus" (3:6). According to Scripture, the church is a universal entity, and anyone can be a part of it.

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER (BCP)

St. Nicholas is a liturgical church. We use the Anglican Book of Common Prayer in our gatherings of worship. The Anglican Book of Common Prayer is a collection of ancient and modern prayers and worship services for occasions when the church community gathers. The use of a printed liturgy gives opportunity for all members to participate in worship. Scripture is the foundation of the Anglican Book of Common Prayer. Two-thirds of the Anglican Book of Common Prayer comes directly from the Old and New Testaments. The Anglican Book of Common Prayer is not meant to eliminate spontaneity or personal prayers. Every service in the book has opportunities for personal prayers and thanksgivings. The Anglican book of Common Prayer is also a great guide for personal devotions.

STANDING OR KNEELING

It has been a customary posture since worship in the temple of David that the people either stand or kneel during times of prayer, worship, and during the words the priest speaks over the bread and wine before receiving Communion. It is also fitting to receive the bread and wine either standing or kneeling.

THE PEACE

The Peace is the exchange of the Peace of Christ. It follows immediately after the confession of sin and the absolution. It is fitting that this physical symbol of love, an embrace or a handshake, be given to express the peace of Christ received after confessing our sins to the Lord and receiving His forgiveness. The Peace is not merely to be a visiting time among the members. It is an outward and visible sign of Christ's love and peace given to one another.

Bold Type indicates words people are encouraged to speak or sing.

✦ PRELUDE

✦ PROCESSIONAL SONG

stand

YOUR GRACE IS ENOUGH

**1. Great is your faithfulness oh God
You wrestle with the sinners heart
You lead us by still waters and to mercy
And nothing can keep us apart**

**So remember your people
Remember your children
Remember your promise
Oh God**

**(Chorus) Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me**

**Great is your love and justice God
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of your salvation
And all your people sing along**

**So remember your people
Remember your children
Remember your promise
Oh God**

**(Chorus) Your grace is enough
Heav'n reaching down to us
Your grace is enough for me
God, I see Your grace is enough
I'm covered in your love
Your grace is enough for me**

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✦ *Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

✦ *Celebrant* Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

✠ COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP), Pg. 222

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

✠ THE LESSONS

sit

Acts 10:44-48

Layreader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

1John 5:1-6

Layreader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

SPEAK O LORD

**1. Speak O Lord as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy word
Take Your truth plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory**

**2. Teach us Lord full obedience
Holy reverence true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity
Cause our faith to rise
Cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of power that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief**

✠ THE HOLY GOSPEL

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

People **Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

John 15:9-17

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

✠ GOSPEL SONG, CONTINUED

**3. Speak O Lord and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak O Lord till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory**

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✠ SERMON

REV. MARK WRIGHT

✠ THE NICENE CREED

stand

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from Heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

✠ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - FORM VI

BCP, Pg. 392

After the silence people are encouraged to offer prayers.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

(Silence then audible prayers)

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

(Silence then audible prayers)

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

(Silence then audible prayers)

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble,

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy. Especially those we name...

(Silence then audible prayers)

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

(Silence then audible prayers)

For the Anglican Primates and our bishop George, our priest Mark,
and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

(Silence then audible prayers)

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

The People may add their own prayers.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

✠ MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Almighty God and Father we give you thanks for Mothers. We give you thanks for wrapping the loving arms of motherhood around your creating, nurturing and sustaining work in the world. We give you thanks for the wonder, grace and blessing that transform women to mothers and all the teeming life that is part of that wonder. We give you thanks for the challenges of motherhood and for the courage, bravery and sacrifice it requires. We celebrate motherhood as you envision it as an expression of the most tender, unyielding, uncompromising, unconditional love within the capacity of humanity. All this we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠ CONFESSION OF SIN

stand or kneel

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

✠ THE PEACE

stand

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ BIRTHDAY & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

PRAYER FOR BIRTHDAYS

Heavenly Father, bless your children that they may grow in grace as they grow in years, and lead them to know you, to love you, and to serve you all the days of their lives. Amen.

PRAYER FOR WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and His Church. Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

✠ OFFERTORY MUSIC- INSTRUMENTAL

✠ PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

stand

Celebrant: All things come of Thee Oh Lord

People: **And of thine own have we given Theeee.**

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER A

BCP, Pg. 361

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth ...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All say: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest**

Celebrant continues

stand or kneel

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,
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 for ever and ever. Amen.

✠ THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

On Sundays at **8:30am** & **11:00am** there are blessed Hosts in plastic bags in a basket on the Font.

On Sunday morning at **8:30am**, **11:00am** and during the **Facebook Live**, consume the bread at the appointed time in the worship service. **The appointed time is after the Presentation of the Bread and Wine and before the singing of the first Communion Song.**

At 11am you may choose to come forward (masked and practicing social distancing) and at the altar step to receive the bread in your hand from the priest.

✠ PRESENTATION OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and

✠ MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

*(The Congregation is invited to sing the words in **BOLD TYPE** during communion)*

HOLY SPIRIT

**1. There's nothing worth more that will ever come close
No thing can compare You're our living hope
Your Presence**

**2. I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free and my shame is undone
In Your Presence Lord**

**(Chorus) Holy Spirit You are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
Your glory God is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your Presence Lord
(Your Presence Lord)
(Your Presence)
(Oh God how we love Your Presence Lord)**

**Let us become more aware of Your Presence
Let us experience the glory of Your goodness (Lord)**

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✠ AT THE CLOSE OF COMMUNION

stand

BECAUSE HE LIVES

**1. I believe in the Son, I believe in the Risen One
I believe I overcome by the power of His blood**

(Chorus) **Amen , Amen , I'm alive, I'm Alive**

Because He lives

Amen , Amen , let my song join the One that never ends

Because He lives

**2. I was dead in the grave
I was covered in sin and shame
I heard mercy call my name
He rolled the stone away (Chorus)**

(Bridge) **Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives every fear is gone
I know He holds my life
my future in His hands**

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✠ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP pg 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us
as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you
have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body
and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us
strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and
singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✠ THE FINAL BLESSING

“Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong”
(1 Corinthians 16:13). Let everything you do be done in love. And
the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be
upon you today and forever. **Amen.**

✠ CLOSING SONG

EVERY PRAISE

**Every praise is to our God
Every word of worship with one accord
Every praise every praise is to our God
Sing Hallelujah to our God
Glory Hallelujah is due our god
Every praise every praise is to our God.**

**God my savior
goy my Healer
God my Deliverer
Yes he is yes He is
(yes He is yes He is)**

**Every praise is to our God
Every word of worship with one accord
Every praise every praise
Every praise every praise
Every praise every praise
Every praise every praise
Every praise every praise
Every praise every praise is to our God.**

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IE

✠ THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

(The text of the service of worship contained in this program is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 1979. The Book of Common Prayer alone is of authority in the worship of the Episcopal Church. This program is provided for convenience of use on this occasion.)

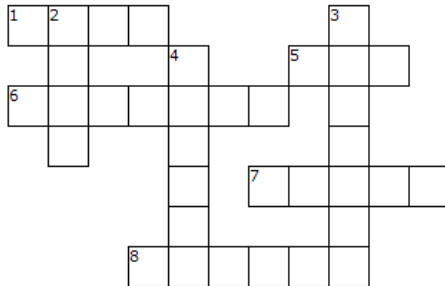
Love One Another

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12 (NIV)

Based on John 15:9-17 (NIV)



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. To hold dear, to like or desire greatly
5. A state of happiness or delight
6. Someone that performs duties for a master
7. To gain knowledge, skill, or understanding
8. A person that you like very much

DOWN

2. To do what you are told; follow the rules
3. An order which a person is expected to obey
4. One who has authority over another person

SERVANT
FRIEND

OBEY
LOVE

LEARN
MASTER

COMMAND
JOY

G Q R J N I L D R Z G F U R G
C O M M A N D D I M Y T E Z I
G F S Y J F W J O K H N Y O J
Q W F L F R U I T W S C P M I
C H M E R B W Q J F N R U P O
T L D R I K O B U S I N E S S
Q X S X E J U O E R N L A Y R
O A P R N E N B A I F L I S R
M J L B D I O E D K R V T E T
L A F O S A B Y M Z N N T V F
M D S A V V Y K N R A A U E E
Z H T T T E P W L V E L S F F
Y M N P E H H A R R P O I V Q
F F G P B R E E G Z H L H R I
R E M A I N S R V C E C D S A

SEARCH

FRIENDS
DOWN
LAY
SERVANTS

OBEY
BUSINESS
FATHER
GREATER

LOVE
BEAR
LIFE
COMMAND

FRUIT
MASTER
REMAIN
CHOSE

Jesus wants you to love others as he loved you. How can you show the love of Jesus to other people? Maybe you could bake cookies for someone who is sad or lonely. Maybe you could be a friend to a new student at school who doesn't know anyone. You could go to visit and pray for someone who is sick. There are a lot of ways to show people that you love them.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, we thank that you loved us so much that you gave your life for us. Help us to love one another as you have loved us. Amen.

Draw a line to move through all the spaces that show someone showing love.



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972-318-7070

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Matt Stroud, Youth Minister
Debby Swackhamer, Children's Ministry Director
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