



Growing
FAITH
at home

25 June 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
- PROPER 7

TELLING
OTHERS WHAT
WE BELIEVE



growministries
LIFE CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



www.growministries.org.au



CONVERSATIONS

Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:

1. Is telling others about Jesus easy or hard for you? Why?
2. Jesus tells us that we are very, very valuable to God and that he watches over us. What encouragement does that give to you?



BIBLE READINGS

Read the following Bible readings throughout this week.
Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.

1st reading

Genesis 21:8-21
Hagar sent away

2nd reading

Romans 6:1-11
Dead to sin, alive
in Christ

Gospel reading

Matthew 10:24-39
The cost of following Jesus

DISCUSS

God does not ask us to neglect our family.
He wants our commitment to him to be
our first priority. How can we help each
other make God come first?



Community News

St Johns Lutheran Church Corinda

Together in Christ—Caring, sharing and growing





Breathing with the Risen Jesus:

Reflections on John 20:19-23 BY BRUCE EPPERLY

"Jesus breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"

These are among the most forgotten words in sermons on the Second Sunday of Easter. Jesus breathed, sending his life energy to his disciples and to us. The Holy Spirit can come to us in dramatic ways, as Acts 2 portrays, but it can also come in the simplest, most overlooked manner, in the very act of breathing. Could it be that as you read this, you are breathing some of the molecules that Jesus sent forth into the universe from the room where the disciples met?

Could it be that the Holy Spirit is as near as your next breath? Could it be that insight and wisdom, courage and vitality, are as near as your next breath?

Growing FAITH at home

18 June 2023

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – PROPER 6

JESUS SENDS US OUT

Grow Ministries
FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
Love. Share. Grow.

www.growministries.org.au



CONVERSATIONS

Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:

1. Imagine that you are going on a walking trip to another town tomorrow. What will you take along with you?
2. Now, imagine you had no phone and you could not book a hotel in advance. How would you feel?



BIBLE READINGS

Read the following Bible readings throughout this week. Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.



DISCUSS

Jesus sent out his disciples to tell others about him. They were to take hardly anything with them on this special trip. Share about a time when you told someone else about Jesus.



Growing FAITH at home

11 June 2023

SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
- PROPER 5

JESUS CAME
TO SAVE
EVERYONE



Grow Ministries
CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



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CONVERSATIONS

Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:

1. Why do people need to see a doctor?
2. Share an experience of seeing a doctor. What happened?



BIBLE READINGS

Read the following Bible readings throughout this week.
Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.



DISCUSS

Jesus said it is not the healthy that need a doctor, but the sick. Talk about how we need Jesus to heal us and save us from our sins. (Matthew 9:12-13)

Breathing is underrated as a Christian spiritual discipline. But this passage shows us that we can breathe with Jesus. Each breath can be a prayer and an opening to God's Spirit. In locked doors where fear abounds, breath abides. Jesus greets the disciples with the words, "Peace be with you," and then he breathes on and in them. Jesus is breathing peace, and invites us to do likewise.

Have you ever noticed the spiritual energy that emerges, the peace that arises, when you simply stop what you're doing and take a few deep breaths? I invite my seminary students and new pastors to begin every sermon with a deep breath or two as they come up to the pulpit. I tell them that "the congregation will wait, and better yet, when you breathe, you gain composure and confidence that will be reflected in your delivery and presentation."

It is not accidental that the word "inspiration" has to do with drawing air into the lungs. Each breath can be inspiring, taking in the Holy Breath of God and then breathing it forth into the universe. Inspiration embodies omnipresence. Resurrection breath is everywhere—in locked rooms and closed hearts—waiting to liberate us from all that brings anxiety and alienation.

Peace is only a breath away. Today, why not practice breathing the resurrection? Take time to read these words, making them your own, "Jesus breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" Better yet, why not personalize these words:

*Jesus is breathing in my life and I am receiving the Holy Spirit.
Every breath I take opens me to inspiration.
Every breath is a prayer.*

Resurrection means that Jesus is everywhere, inspiring all who breathe, giving life to deadened spirits and inspiring healthy embodiment. Breathe with Jesus' resurrection breath and receive God's ever-living Spirit.

What Jesus Did! 'Take Up Your Cross' — Matthew 10:38-39

[Jesus continued his warning and instructions to the apostles when he sent them out:] "If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it."

Key Thought

Far from being a decorative piece of jewellery, the cross in Jesus' day was something hideous and shameful. Roman citizens weren't allowed to be crucified. Decent citizens weren't executed on a cross. Only the scum, riffraff, and hideous were humiliated and tortured by crucifixion. In fact, the words crucify and cross were considered to be very crude words not allowed in polite Greek society. The Jews even had Scripture that suggested that anyone who was placed on a cross was cursed by God. So for Jesus to say "Take up your cross" was shocking. Why a cross? Can't you think of something better? Nope!

Nothing can symbolize God's love, man's inhumanity, sin's ugly putrefying power in the world, Satan's hatred, and God's forgiveness quite like a cross, since a cross is where Jesus paid for our sins and absorbed Satan's worst deadly blow. In that cross, God's righteous demands were satisfied and our sins forgiven. Jesus gave up his life on a cross for us and asks us to give our lives in service to him.

Oh gracious and sacrificial Father, may I never boast in my deeds, but always look to Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross as my source of righteousness. Through your cleansing and empowering Spirit, please help me to surrender my life, my heart, my sin, and my dreams to you. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

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Growing
FAITH
at home

4 June 2023

FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
- TRINITY

THE TRIUNE
GOD IS OUR
CREATOR



Grow Ministries
LIFE, LOVE, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



LUTHERAN
CHURCH
OF AMERICA

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CONVERSATIONS

- Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:
1. What part of God's amazing creation do you enjoy most? Why?
 2. God has asked us to take care of all he has created. How do you help to do this?



BIBLE READINGS

Read the following Bible readings throughout this week.
Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.



DISCUSS

We have creeds that help us state what we believe about God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit. What words would you use to tell someone what you believe about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit?



Growing
FAITH
at home

28 May 2023

PENTECOST

THE HOLY
SPIRIT HAS
COME TO LIVE
AND WORK
IN US



Grow Ministries
LIFE OLD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



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CONVERSATIONS

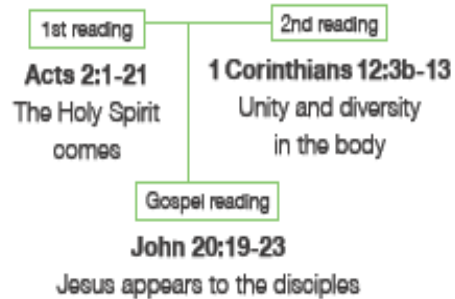
Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:

1. Share an experience you have had with wind or with fire.
2. What do you know about the Holy Spirit?



BIBLE READINGS

Read the following Bible readings throughout this week.
Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.



DISCUSS

When God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first Christians on the day of Pentecost, a strong wind came from heaven and tongues of fire came to rest on them (Acts 2:1-21).
How were the believers changed?

The Roles of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

The word Trinity cannot be found in the Bible, but the truth of it can. While there's only one God, the Godhead consists of three distinct persons - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All are equally omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, eternal, and unchanging, but each has unique functions.

Scripture shows how each member of the Trinity fulfills His specific role and how those three roles interrelate. This idea in simple terms: The Father creates a plan, Jesus Christ implements the plan, and the Holy Spirit administers the plan.

Jesus reinforced that idea when He commanded the disciples to baptize new believers in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The way of redemption showcases these roles in a transparent manner. The Father designed and organized how mankind would be redeemed (Galatians 4:4-5). He set into motion a complex set of events, actions, and prophecies that culminated in the life and death of a Savior. The Son carried out the plan (John 6:37-38). He followed the Father's instructions to come to earth, even though that meant he would have to die. The Holy Spirit sees to it that every person feels a call toward God's saving grace (John 14:26, John 16:8; Romans 1:19-20). Furthermore, He transforms the lives and hearts of those who receive salvation through Jesus Christ.

The Father, Son, and Spirit are equal in their divine attributes. Yet each relates to mankind in a different way because He has a specific role. It's essential to understand this distinction: We do not have three gods; we have one God in three persons functioning uniquely and perfectly.

Taken from "The Truth About the Trinity" by In Touch Ministries (used by permission).



Story Behind the Hymn: Holy! Holy! Holy!



Holy! Holy! Holy! speaks of the power of the Holy Trinity. The opening phrase, “Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God of Hosts”, is a direct English translation of the Sanctus, which is found in the Latin Mass.

The words found in the hymn are a paraphrase of Revelation 4:1-11. *Holy! Holy! Holy!* was written by Reginald Heber.

Reginald Heber was born in 1783 to a wealthy, educated family. By the age of seven, he was translating Latin Classics into English verse. He entered Oxford at age 17 and won two awards for poetry during his time at University.

Heber became rector of his father’s church near Shrewsbury, England. He remained there for sixteen years. He longed to improve the singing of his little congregation at Hodnet. During his time there he began writing songs. Heber wrote over 57 hymns over the course of his career.

While working at the little church in Hodnet, Heber also served on staff of a literary journal. He is said to have been impressed by the holiness of God and often wrote the words “Only Thou Art Holy.” His lyrics for *Holy! Holy! Holy!* are drawn from Revelation 4:8. He was the first to compile a hymnal ordering hymns around the church calendar.

		<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">June 2023</p>				Date	Music Leader	HC Assistant	Readings	Prayers	Data Proj PA	Ushers	Childrens Address	Flowers and Morning Tea	Outside
						4	Joy B	Karel B	Karel B	Mike B	Ena B Tom B	Stuart B Ruth B	Pastor Michael	Biscuit morning tea	Andy B
	11	Praise	Joy B	Michelle B	Samuel W	Mitchell B Wendy D	Andrew B Petra H	Mike B	Sandra M & Ena B	Ruth B	Pastor Michael	Wendy S & Bosokol			
	18	Joy B	Ben H	David H	Andrew B	Natisha S Andrew S	Carly H Lance U	Pastor Michael							
	25	Recorded Music	Stuart B	Marie P	Tom B	Andy B Allan B	Ryan H Tom B	School Holidays							

Who What How When



A Cashless Society Is Imminent: Here's What We Can Do

Here are the details of how to give via online giving directly into the West-Pac Bank Account :

Banking account BSB 704 942 Account # 52648

- If you would like to remain anonymous when doing online banking use "Unknown " in the Payer Name.

Upcoming Dates @ the church:

Church Council – Tuesday 20 June @ 7:30pm

Bible Study Wednesday
evenings @ 7pm



Holy! Holy! Holy! was written for Trinity Sunday. Trinity Sunday is one week after Pentecost Sunday. This is evidenced by “God in three persons, blessed Trinity,” which is found in the first and last verses.

He uses other symbolism such as God is “perfect in power, in love and purity;” God is worshiped by saints, cherubim, and seraphim; and God is praised “in earth and sky and sea,” and God is “holy, merciful and mighty.”

Heber had a deep fondness for India, and in 1823, he was appointed Bishop of Calcutta. The primitive conditions, duties of the position as Bishop and hot climate took a toll on his health.

Heber died on April 3, 1826, just three years after he began to serve the people of India. He was only 43 years old. Many of his admirers raised over 10,000 pounds to support his widow and children.

After Heber’s death, his widow came across the words to *Holy! Holy! Holy!* However, more than three decades before the poem became a song and took its place in numerous worship services.

The tune, *Nicaea*, was composed for the hymn by John Bacchus Dykes. A publisher came upon Heber’s words and asked Dykes to furnish a tune. He wrote the tune in thirty minutes. The text and tune were first published together in 1861.

Nicaea, is a tribute to the First Council of Nicaea, which formalized the doctrine of the Trinity in 325.

The hymn has been recorded by numerous artists and was sung in the 1953 film version of *Titanic*.

Famed poet Alfred Lord Tennyson felt *Holy! Holy! Holy!* was the “world’s greatest hymn.”

Who What How When

Commemoration of Augsburg Confession

25 June

The Augsburg Confession



Martin Luther



Phillip Melancthon

Augsburg Confession, Latin **Confessio Augustana**, the 28 articles that constitute the basic confession of the Lutheran churches.

The Augsburg Confession was presented June 25, 1530, in German and Latin at the Diet of Augsburg to the emperor Charles V by seven Lutheran princes and two imperial free cities. The principal author was the reformer Philipp Melancthon, who drew on earlier Lutheran statements of faith.

The purpose was to defend the Lutherans against misrepresentations and to provide a statement of their theology that would be acceptable to the Roman Catholics. On August 3 the Catholic theologians replied with the Confutation, which condemned 13 articles of the Confession, accepted 9 without qualifications, and approved 6 with qualifications. The emperor refused to receive a Lutheran counter-reply

Who What How When

offered on September 22, but Melancthon used it as the basis for his Apology of the Augsburg Confession (1531).

This 1530 version of the Confession (known as the “unaltered” version) has been authoritative for Lutherans, but proponents of the eucharistic doctrine of Huldrych Zwingli and John Calvin accepted a modified edition prepared by Melancthon (the *Variata* of 1540).

The first 21 articles of the Augsburg Confession set forth Lutheran doctrine in order to demonstrate that “they dissent in no article of faith from the Catholic Church.” The remaining seven articles discuss abuses that had crept into the Western church in the centuries immediately preceding the Reformation: communion under one kind (the people received the bread only), enforced priestly celibacy, the mass as an expiatory sacrifice, compulsory confession, human institutions designed to merit grace, abuses in connection with monasticism, and the expanded authority claimed by the bishops. On such topics as justification the Confession used vague, rather than precise, language.

The *Augsburg Confession*, however, continues as the Lutherans' affirmation of faith, and, in spite of Charles V's efforts, Lutheranism had become so firmly entrenched throughout Europe that nothing could be done save to legitimize it at the Peace of Augsburg in 1555.

The *Augsburg Confession* had influenced the others presented in 1530 and would continue to exert the same influence over later confessions. It is still recited in the present day by Lutherans as their official confession and echoes of Melancthon's work can be heard in those of other Protestant sects around the world.