

**Group Bible Study/Discussion:**

1. Read Luke 9:28-36 & Acts 17:16-34. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you hear God say to you as you read it a few times to yourself? What do you find to be most important in the texts? Why?
2. Why would Jesus take these three disciples to witness this event? Why do you think Peter misunderstands what is occurring? Read farther Lk 9:37-43. How does the trip back down the mountain confirm Peter's mistake?
3. Read the parallel accounts of the transfiguration in Mt. 17 & Mark 9. What immediately precedes the transfiguration? Why is that significant? Note Lk 9:31 describing the conversation between Jesus, Moses, & Elijah. How is that important to the gospel?
4. What would you say is the significance of Moses & Elijah's presence & then disappearance here? What does the voice from the cloud tell us about who Jesus is; even who Jesus is compared to Moses & Elijah?
5. How did Peter describe & explain this event later on? See 2 Pet. 1:12-21.
6. What happened to Paul when he saw the culture around him in Athens? How did he respond? When have you experienced a similar feeling? How did Paul use the culture around him to make a bridge into the gospel message? What are some bridges you see in contemporary culture to the gospel?
7. As he speaks, Paul notes four attributes of God: Creator & Sustainer; Sovereign & Judge. What other attributes of God really resonate with you? Can you name a Bible verse that describes that attribute?
8. Which part of the gospel do you have the most difficulty talking about or explaining? How could you better prepare yourself to proclaim this part of God's message?
9. Note the differences between "religion" & Christianity/following Jesus in the table below. How can these distinctions become a door-opener to a conversation with someone you know who does not yet acknowledge Jesus as Lord & Saviour? How can they help you grow in your understanding of how the Father has claimed you for life with him forever?

| Religion or Philosophy                      | Christianity – Following/being an apprentice to Jesus |
|---|---|
| Who is right?                               | Who is Jesus?   |
| What is true?                               | What happened in Jesus' death and resurrection?       |
| What does "god" want from us?               | Look what God has done for us!                        |
| What kind of sacrifice or duty is required? | Look at the sacrifice God has made on our behalf.     |

# Living Water Fellowship

Worship with Holy Communion and Holy Baptism

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Pentecost – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION FOR GOD IS WITH US (FOR KING & COUNTRY)

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

SONGS: Only A Holy God

BIBLE READING: Acts 17:16-34

<sup>1</sup> While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city. <sup>17</sup> He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews & the God-fearing Gentiles. He spoke daily in the public square to all who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> He also had a debate with some of the Epicurean & Stoic philosophers. When he told them about Jesus & his resurrection, they said, "What's this babbling trying to say with these strange ideas he's picked up?" Others said, "He seems to be preaching about some foreign gods."

<sup>19</sup> Then they took him to the high council of the city. "Come, tell us about this new teaching," they said. <sup>20</sup> "You are saying some rather strange things, & we want to know what it's all about." <sup>21</sup> (It should be explained that all the Athenians as well as the foreigners in Athens seemed to spend all their time discussing the latest ideas.)

<sup>22</sup> So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: "Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, <sup>23</sup> for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. One of your altars had this inscription on it: 'To an Unknown God.' This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I'm telling you about. <sup>24</sup> He is the God who made the world & everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven & earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples, <sup>25</sup> human hands can't serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life & breath to everything, & he satisfies every need. <sup>26</sup> From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise & fall, & he determined their boundaries.

<sup>27</sup> "His purpose was for the nations to seek after God & perhaps feel their way toward him & find him—though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> For in him we live & move & exist. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' <sup>29</sup> Since this is true, we shouldn't think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold, silver or stone. <sup>30</sup> God overlooked people's ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins & turn to him. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, & he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead."

<sup>32</sup> When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some laughed in contempt, but others said, "We want to hear more about this later." <sup>33</sup> That ended Paul's discussion with them, <sup>34</sup> but some joined him & became believers. Among them were Dionysius, a member of the council, a woman named Damaris, & others with them.

**FAITH CHAT:** How do you respond?

1. Someone says to you, "There are many ways to God."
2. Someone says to you, "How can you be sure you really know God?"

**BIBLE READING:** Luke 9:28-36

<sup>28</sup> About eight days later Jesus took Peter, John, & James up on a mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was transformed, & his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup> Suddenly, two men, Moses & Elijah, appeared & began talking with Jesus. <sup>31</sup> They were glorious to see. They were speaking about his exodus from this world, which was about to be fulfilled in Jerusalem.

<sup>32</sup> Peter & the others had fallen asleep. When they were fully awake, they saw Jesus' glory & the two men standing with him. <sup>33</sup> As Moses & Elijah were starting to leave, Peter, not even knowing what he was saying, blurted out, "Master, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorials— one for you, one for Moses, & one for Elijah." <sup>34</sup> But even as he was saying this, a cloud overshadowed them, & terror gripped them as the cloud covered them. <sup>35</sup> Then a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him."

<sup>36</sup> When the voice finished, Jesus was there alone. They didn't tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

**THE MESSAGE:** SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE: JESUS IN A WORLD OF PLURALISM

**OFFERING SONG:** The Night Song

*The Sacrament of Holy Baptism  
for Henry James Lawrence*

**PRAYERS:**

**THE COMMUNION:**

*Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Worship Video during Communion: So Good To Me (Zach Williams)*

*GO IN HIS POWER*

**THE BLESSING:**

**(Name), † child of God,  
Christ's glory lives in you! Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**SONG:** Glorious Day

*SHOW HIS LOVE*

# The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

**P:** Holy Baptism is God's gift to us. In this Sacrament God brings us into the body of Christ - the church - and makes us part of the family of God. God takes water and adds to it the power of His Word. Baptism is a rebirth, a new life in Christ. Let us read the words of Jesus together:

**All:** *...I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die...* (John 11:25)

*...I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.* (John 3:5)

*...Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.* (Matt. 28:19-20)

**P:** Today you are responding to the command of Jesus and the love of God. Baptism is a beautiful gift of God's grace and we rejoice with you on this special day. I ask you: Will you faithfully bring this child to worship; teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creeds, and the Ten Commandments; place in his hands the Holy Scriptures; and provide for his instruction and nurture in the Christian faith? If so, say "we will."

## Baptismal Party:

We will!

**P:** Do you renounce the forces of evil, the devil, and the world's empty promises? If so answer, "We do."

## Baptismal Party:

We do!

**P:** I ask all worshipping today, Do you believe in God the Father?

**C:** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**P:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C:** **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, & sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**P:** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C:** **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**P:** Baptism is not water only, but it is water used together with God's word and by God's command. God rescues us through this washing and cleansing which gives us new birth and life. Please present this child for Baptism.

## Baptismal Party:

We present **Henry James Lawrence** to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

**P:** **Henry James Lawrence**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, & of the Son, & of the Holy Spirit. Amen. **Henry** child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Receive this lighted candle. The candle is a symbol that Christ is the light of the world and you are to let the light of Christ shine brightly in your home always. You who are sponsors for **Henry** are making a commitment to surround him with your love and prayers and do all you can to help **Kiralee & Andrew** nurture him in the Christian Faith. Will you pray for him, love him, teach him the word of God and stand with him in joy and sorrow? If so say, "Yes with the help of God."

## Sponsors:

Yes, with the help of God.

**P:** *(to the congregation)* Today we receive **Henry** as a child of God to be part of our Christian community.

**C:** **Praise God for the gift of new life. We welcome you into our family of faith. We promise to pray for you & show our love for you in the years to come.**

**P:** Let us pray. God, you make light to shine in darkness. You cause new life to spring out of old. We are thankful that you accept **Henry** as your own. We are grateful for the gift of grace, which accepts us as we are. May **he** grow in faith and always know he is a part of your family & you are his loving God. May each of us know the joy of abundant life in Christ & remember this special day when water joined the Word and changed life forever. **Amen.**