

Mennonite Church of Normal
Sixth Sunday of Easter May 9, 2021

Theme: The Spirit decides which gifts to give, and puts the body together, so that together, we are the body of Christ.

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude Glenn Wilson

Greeting/Congregational Life Joe Culpepper

Call to Worship (from Romans 12, CEV)

One: Dear friends, God is good. So I beg you to offer your bodies to God as a living sacrifice, pure and pleasing. That's the most sensible way to serve God.

Many: Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to God.

One: A body is made up of many parts, and each of them has its own use. That's how it is with us.

Many: There are many of us, but we each are part of the body of Christ, as well as part of one another.

One: God has also given each of us different gifts to use.

Many: Never give up. Eagerly follow the Holy Spirit and serve the Lord.

Opening Prayer

Praising God's Name

With our voices: VT 114 *Now Thank We All our God.*
 VT 717 *Renew your church*

Hearing God's Word

Children's Story: **Jaron Zehr**

Invitation to Listen: VT 405 *Listen to the Word*

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 24b-27 Marianne Israel, Margaret Sila

Sermon: *A Special Way of Serving Others* Gary Martin

Receiving God's Grace

Response Song: VT 374 *There Are Many Gifts*

Stewardship Moment

Joe

Sharing Joys & Concerns, Prayer

Leah Roeschley

Sent in the Spirit's Power

Sending VT 388 *How Can I Say?*

Benediction

Joe

Postlude

Glenn Wilson

1 Corinthians 12:1-11; 24b-27

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.