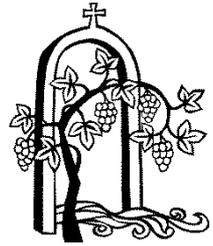


SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY, 9:00 A.M., MAY 9, 2021



This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

Welcome to guests and visitors! *This pamphlet will guide your worship today. The assembly's parts are indicated by **C** and bold font. The vertical line in the left margin indicates when the assembly stands as each is able.*

About Holy Communion with Saint John Lutheran Church

"It is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there" (Augsburg Confession, Article X)· "A person who has faith in these words, 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,' is really worthy and well prepared." "Forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament" (The Small Catechism, Part VI)· "This church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion" (The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 50)·

EASTER GREETING

Following the introductory verses:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

A welcome and introduction to the day are made.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

☩ We thank you, O God.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

☩ We bless you, O God.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

☩ We praise you, O God.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

ENTRANCE PSALM (66)

¹Be joyful in God, all you lands;

☩ sing the glory of his name; sing the glory of his praise.

²Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

☩ Because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.

³All the earth bows down before you,

☩ sings to you, sings out your name."

⁴Come now and see the works of God,

☩ how wonderful he is in his doing toward all people.

⁵He turned the sea into dry land,

☩ so that they went through the water on foot.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

☩ as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☩ And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory for our God.

**☩ Alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

**☩ Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

This is the feast of victory for our God,

**☩ for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

☩ And also with you.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING: *180 Group video.*

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 98

¹Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

**☞ ²With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory.**

³The Lord has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

**☞ ⁴He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

⁵Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

☞ ⁶Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

⁷With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the Lord.

**☞ ⁸Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

⁹Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before
the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.

**☞ ¹⁰In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia.

☩ Alleluia.

Christ is risen, and has showed light to us:

☩ He has redeemed us with his most precious Blood.

I came forth from the Father, and I have come into the world:

☩ Again I leave the world and go to the Father.

Alleluia. Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them,

☩ and we will come to them and make our home with them. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

The holy gospel according to John.

☩ Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.

☩ Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Megan Rebout*

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☩ Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

☩ And also with you.

The assembly remains in place, as the service continues.

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**☩ 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.

☞ **Your mercy is great.**

The prayers conclude: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you . . . through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☞ **Amen.**

OFFERING PRESENTATION

Offerings are received at the door as one enters. The offering is presented for the work of Christ's Church, here and throughout the world.

OFFERTORY

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☩ Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

¹²Truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do

☩ and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

☩ ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Alleluia.

☩ Alleluia.

OFFERING PRAYER

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☩ Amen.

The table is set.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

☩ And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

☩ We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

The minister continues, concluding: ... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)

**☞ 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. . . .

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

☞ Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life . . .

Grace our table with your presence.

☞ Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. . . .

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

☞ Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places . . .

we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ invites us to receive from this table.

Eat and be satisfied.

☩ Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG (AGNUS DEI)

☩ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Please remain seated where you are. The communion elements will be brought to you. The host is received in your open hand. The wine will be taken by you from an individual glass. Carefully place your empty glass on the pew until end of worship.

BLESSING & POST-COMMUNION PSALM (89)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

☩ Amen.

¹Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing;

☩ from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

³"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

☩ I have sworn an oath to David my servant."

⁵The heavens bear witness to your wonders, O Lord,

☩ and to your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones;

¹⁹You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:

"I have set the crown upon a warrior

☩ and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

²⁰I have found David my servant;

☩ with my holy oil have I anointed him.

²¹My hand will hold him fast

☩ and my arm will make him strong.

²⁴My faithfulness and love shall be with him,
☞ and he shall be victorious through my name.

²⁸I will keep my love for him forever,
☞ and my covenant will stand firm for him.”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
☞ as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☞ Amen.

BLESSING

Response after the blessing:

☞ Amen.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check web-sites and printed materials for further information.

SEASONAL PRAYERS

Prayers are made for Rogation Days, Compassion Sunday, and Mothers' Day.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

☞ Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news.

☞ Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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Eternal, Unconditional, and Unchanging

To abide is to put down roots: to dwell in the same location and with the same people for the long term. Unlike in Jesus' time, today few of us live in the same place in which we were born. Families are routinely scattered across the country and around the world. Yet Jesus invites us, "Abide in my love" (John 15:9). While so much else in our lives seems impermanent, Jesus' love is eternal, unconditional, and unchanging.

In today's gospel, Jesus is on his way to the cross. Pressed for time and filled with urgency, he can convey only the most important message. Of all the subjects he has explored during his ministry, he chooses to emphasize that which matters most: his own love. Jesus knows that love is eternal, that it transcends death and the grave. He knows that love is essential, that it must be at the core of our being. He knows that love is the embodiment of all his teachings, healings, and ministry.

Jesus knows that Judas has already betrayed him. He knows that shortly, Peter will deny him. In preaching love, he shows us that the sort of love he has for each of us is stronger than our own very human shortcomings—and that his love for us, and for his disciples, is forever. As followers of Jesus, we are charged with loving one another with the unconditional, eternal love that he has for us. In a world of change, such a responsibility is challenging, yet living out that challenge is what gives our lives purpose.

The secret to love is that it puts others first. Love is the only emotion that can defeat our instinctive self-centeredness. In charging us to love one another, Jesus issues an invitation to be awake and aware, to see others as beloved children of God, and to reflect divine love back onto everyone we encounter. In this way, Jesus lives in each of us.

