

Sixth Sunday of Easter | May 9th, 202
In-Person Reader: TBD | Online Reader: Kit Schley

Announcements

- Happy Mother's Day to all you mothers and mother-figures!
- Update from Worship + Evangelism Committee
 - In May, our goal is to celebrate communion and sing during worship services. Communion elements will be available as you enter the sanctuary. Please bring the pre-packaged elements with you as you find a seat. As you are comfortable, you may partake of these elements during the worship service at the appropriate time. You are also able to take the elements with you to partake at home if that is more comfortable. There will be a garbage at either door for you to dispose of your empty containers as you leave the sanctuary.
 - In order to do this, it is **essential** that we maintain 6 feet between households and follow instructions for the safety of all. We thank you for your patience and understanding.
- Wednesday is our last day of Wednesday Ed. + Confirmation!
 - Wed. Ed. will have a family fun night (rain or shine)
- Confirmation Sunday is next Sunday! We will celebrate with our three confirmands during our regular worship service.
- Mark Your Calendars:
 - County-wide Food Distribution: May 18 from 2:00-3:30 at the fairgrounds
 - Outdoor Family Movie Night: May 21st at 8:30
 - Senior Recognition Sunday: May 23rd during worship

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.

Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn** | *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* ELW 367

Now all the vault of heav'n resounds, in praise of love that still abounds:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear! Repeat their song of glory here:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift he brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Now still he comes to give us life and by his presence stills all strife.

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; set heart and will on things above

That we conquer through your triumph;

Grant grace sufficient for life's day that by our lives we truly say:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Adoring praises now we bring and with the heav'nly blessed sing:

"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"

Be to the Father, and our Lord, to Spirit blest, most holy God,

All the glory, never ending! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***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.**

***Prayer of the Day**

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.

Children's Message

First Reading | Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on everyone who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. They heard them speaking in other languages and praising God. Peter asked, "These people have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. Surely no one can stop them from being baptized with water, can they?" He directed that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited Peter to stay for several days.

Second Reading | 1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born from God. Whoever loves someone who is a parent loves the child born to the parent. This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep God's commandments. This is the love of God: we keep God's commandments. God's commandments are not difficult, because everyone who is born from God defeats the world. And this is the victory that has defeated the world: our faith. Who defeats the world? Isn't it the one who believes that Jesus is God's Son?

This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. Not by water only but by water and blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

*Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*Gospel Reading | John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

"As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father's commandments and

remain in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than to give up one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I don't call you servants any longer, because servants don't know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day | *O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate*

ELW 722

*O Christ, your heart, compassionate, bore ev'ry human pain.
Its beating was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast domain.
The heart of God, the heart of Christ combined in perfect rhyme
To write God's love in human deeds, eternity in time.*

*As once you welcomed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
So may all bruised and broken lives through us your help still find.
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep alone,
And help us bear another's pain as though it were our own.*

*O Christ, create new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
That, joined by faith with your great heart, become love's open doors.
We are your body, risen Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield
That through our life and ministry your love may be revealed.*

*O Love that made the distant stars, yet marks the sparrow's fall,
Whose arms stretched wide upon a cross embrace and bear us all:
Come, make your church a servant church that walks your servant ways,
Whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sacrifice of praise!*

***Apostles' Creed**

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

***Prayers of Intercession**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering, especially Darleen Ganfield, Pastor Dave, Nancy Gjerde, Lori Roemhildt, and Jane Lorsung, as well as the families and friends of Nancy Kelm, Carol Svoboda, Doris Schmidt, and Curt Kuethe. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Great Thanksgiving**

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.

***Words of Institution**

*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.**

*Communion + Blessing

May the body and blood...

Mother's Day Blessing + Final Blessing

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you give life and care for your Church. Bless these women, as we celebrate this day in their honor. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we may honor and appreciate them with a spirit of profound respect. Guide and protect them in challenging times and help them to continue to trust in you all the days of their life. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sending Hymn | *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* ELW 631

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.*

*Breathe, oh, breathe they loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!*

***Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**