



# Sixth Sunday of Easter

## Sunday, May 5, 2024

### St. James Lutheran Church

#### INTRODUCTION

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.

#### Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

*Water is poured into the font as the Presiding minister gives thanks.*

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,  
for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,  
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,  
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.  
Empower our witness to your resurrection.  
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**



Satisfy the world's need through this living water.  
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.  
Where despair prevails, grant hope.  
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.  
We ask this through Christ,  
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.  
**Amen.**

# ENTRANCE HYMN "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" (LBW 551)

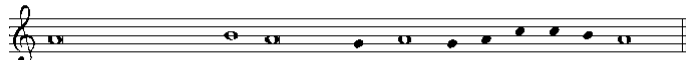
## GREETING

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.**

## KYRIE



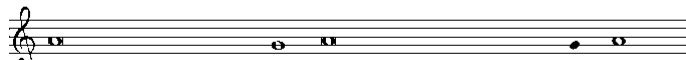
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**




A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



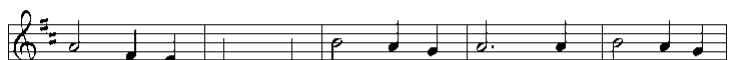
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men**




A This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.




**Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us**



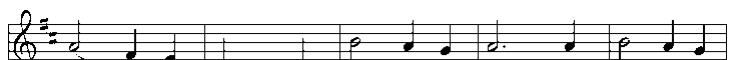
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and




strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.




Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



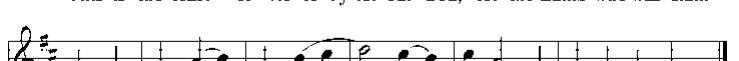
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray. . .

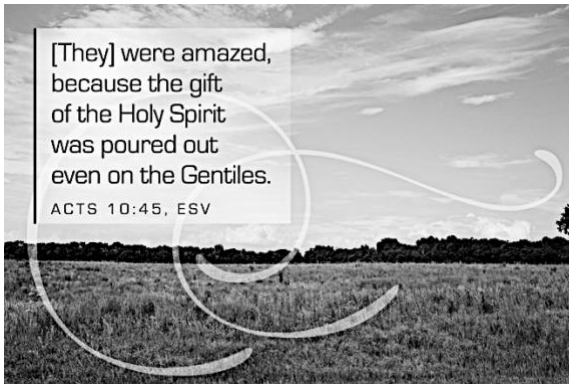
O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,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

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING:

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.

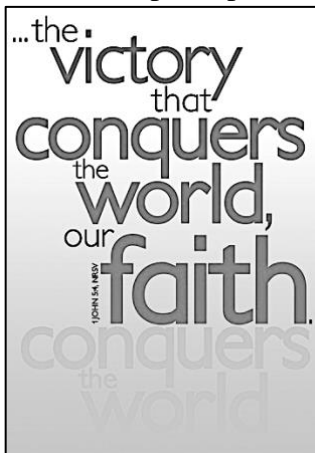
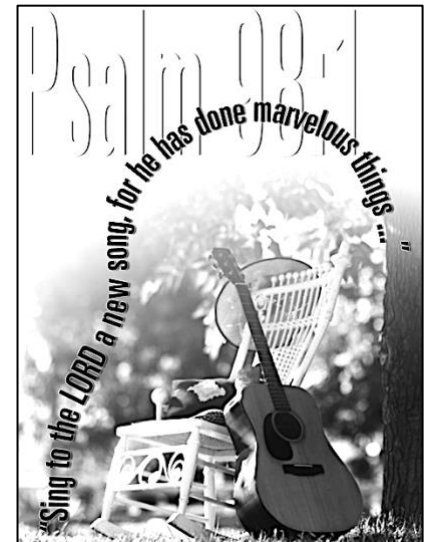
## Acts 10:44-48



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

## PSALM 98

- <sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done <sup>1</sup> marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have <sup>1</sup> won the victory.
- <sup>2</sup>**O LORD, you have made <sup>1</sup> known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight <sup>1</sup> of the nations.**
- <sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the <sup>1</sup> house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory <sup>1</sup> of our God.
- <sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the LORD, <sup>1</sup> all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- <sup>1</sup> joice, and sing.**
- <sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD <sup>1</sup> with the harp,  
with the harp and the <sup>1</sup> voice of song.
- <sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound <sup>1</sup> of the horn  
shout with joy before the <sup>1</sup> king, the LORD.**
- <sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and <sup>1</sup> all that fills it,  
the world and those who <sup>1</sup> dwell therein.
- <sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers <sup>1</sup> clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to <sup>1</sup> judge the earth.**
- <sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the <sup>1</sup> world with righteousness  
and the peo- <sup>1</sup> ples with equity.



## Second Reading:

*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.*

## 1 John 5:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for

whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This 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.

Here ends the reading.

**Thanks be to God.**



### **GOSPEL: 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.*

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

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I 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. <sup>16</sup>You 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. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



### **SERMON: Pastor Gordon Putnam**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY “Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me” (LBW 336)**

### **APOSTLE’S CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith by using the words of the Apostle’s Creed.



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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**



## **THE PRAYERS**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. We especially pray for Norma, Gillian, Cecilia, Jean, Betty, Inez, Zeby, Claire, Charles, Ellen, Jerry, Bill, Josh, Mike, Melvin, Joe, and Charles. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

(For whom else and what else shall we pray...)

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

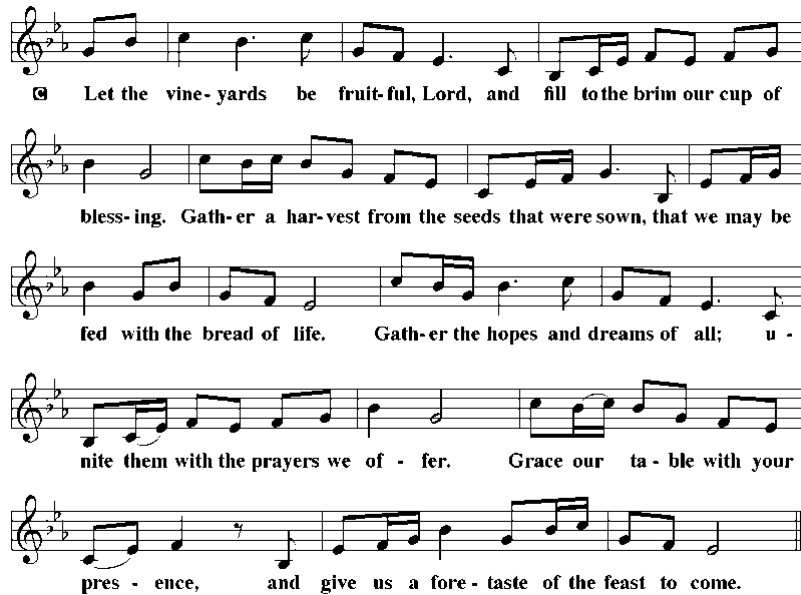
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

(Greet each other in the peace of the Lord.)

**Anthem: “O How I Love Jesus”** Text, Frederick Whitfield, American melody

### OFFERING



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. . .

Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here  
be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

**Amen.**

### 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 him thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection

of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

May  
 5<sup>th</sup> Anne Putnam  
 12<sup>th</sup> Flora Williams  
 19<sup>th</sup> Debbie Snyder  
 26<sup>th</sup> Tammy Jones

## THANKSGIVING

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.  
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**MAY**  
**BIRTHDAYS**

4 <sup>th</sup>	Betty Bartley
4 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth Foreman
8 <sup>th</sup>	Sam Diehl
9 <sup>th</sup>	Christopher Diehl
9 <sup>th</sup>	Cameron Dull
13 <sup>th</sup>	Sherie Whiting-Rohal
14 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Putnam
15 <sup>th</sup>	Norma Turak
15 <sup>th</sup>	Luke Jordan
15 <sup>th</sup>	Russell Diehl
21 <sup>st</sup>	Ivan Diehl
25 <sup>th</sup>	Eleanor Sander
28 <sup>th</sup>	Kaleb Bartley
30 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Rohal

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. . .

Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.

Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN "Blessed Assurance" (WOV 699)

## BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope

✝ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Thank you to all who helped clean up  
the church yard.

Paul	Andre
Sherie	Mark
Steve	John W.
Bambi	Flora
Joyce	Pastor
Debbie	Anne
Becky	



We filled the back  
of John's truck.

## Prayer Concerns

### Ongoing Need for Prayer

Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Gillian Taylor, Claire Viette, Ellen McDonald, Charles McDonald, Zeby (Ellen & Charles' grandson), Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie's aunt), Jerry Hill and Bill Bayes (friends of Pastor Gordon and Anne), Josh Thornhill (Norma Turak's grandson-in-law), Mike Martin (friend of Phillip Snyder), and Melvin Glass (friend of Ivan).

### Prayer Concerns

Joe McCune (friend of Ronnie), Charles Driver (Sam and Lynda's neighbor), and Betty Diehl.

## Community Conversations

- May flowers will be given by Debbie Snyder and Becky Dick.
- May 7<sup>th</sup> Open Circle will meet at 1 pm at the home of Flora Williams our hostess.
- May 8<sup>th</sup> Church Council meeting at 9 am.
- May 12<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting after worship for the election of two new Council members. The nominees are Debbie Snyder and Steve Straw.
- May 14<sup>th</sup> SVWO Bible Study at 10 am at Salem Lutheran Church.
- May 21<sup>st</sup> Quilt Group meets at 1 pm.
- Choir practice every Tuesday at 6pm at Betty Bartley's home.
- Men's Group meets every Friday at 9:00 am.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month
  - May—Gene Giltner
- Hannah will be gone for the summer. If you know anyone who would be interested in playing the keyboard for our outdoor service, please talk to Pastor Gordon or Flora.





The Back Packs Program is ending for the school year. Many thanks for your continual support. We'll start up again in August when the kids return to school.

**FOSTER FAMILY CARE**

Our SVWO service project is to support foster families in our area. New and used items are needed. A list of items needed is in the Narthex. A container for the items is in the Narthex. Collections go through May 14<sup>th</sup>.

From sundaysandseasons.com.  
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Sam Diehl and Bambi Straw,  
Assisting Ministers