

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 4, 2024 ~ 6:00 pm



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.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (elca.org)
425 N. Main Street, Russell, KS 67665 ~ 785-483-5358
email: stjoh@ruraltel.net ~ website: stjohrussell.com
Pastor Teri Sutherlin (620-521-6454) ~ John Dumler, PMA (785-483-1382)

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024 ~ 6:00 PM
LITURGY FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND COMING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

Please stand as you are able

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: 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,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: 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.

THE GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"; Verses 1 & 2; LBW 158/ELW 392

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in

his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -

vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -

Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our

out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?"

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

PRAYER OF THE EVENING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Please join me in prayer. O God,

C: 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.

Congregation may be seated

THE READING OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: ACTS 10:44-48 (*Easy-to-Read Version*)

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came down on all those who were listening to his speech. ⁴⁵ The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the Holy Spirit had been poured out as a gift also to people who were not Jews. ⁴⁶ They heard them speaking different languages and praising God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ "How can anyone object to these people being baptized in water? They have received the Holy Spirit the same as we did!" ⁴⁸ So Peter told them to baptize Cornelius and his relatives and friends in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God

A READING FROM PSALM: PSALM 98

L: ¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

C: ²O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

L: ³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

C: ⁴Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

L: ⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

C: ⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

L: ⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

C: ⁸Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

L: ⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness 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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”; ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

P: The Holy Gospel according to John 15:9-17

C: 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation may be seated

HYMN OF THE EVENING "Jesus Loves Me!"; Verses 1 & 2; ELW 595

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.
 Music: JESUS LOVES ME; William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

THE SERMON..... Pr. Teri Sutherlin

Please stand as you are able.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P: With our faith in Jesus Christ, let all the people of God confess their faith of the church:

C: 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 to the dead. 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: 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.

P: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer. *(repeat response after each petition)*

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

C: 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.

THE SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Congregation members may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace as you are comfortable doing so, saying, "Peace be with you", or similar words.

THE OFFERTORY....."Lord of All Good"; Verse 3; LBW 411



3 Fa - ther, whose boun - ty all cre - a - tion shows;



Christ, by whose will - ing sac - ri - fice we live;



Spir - it, from whom all life in full - ness flows; to



you with grate - ful hearts our - selves we give.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.

Music: MORESTEAD, Sydney Watson, 1903–1991

Text and music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

THE OFFERING PRAYER

P: 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.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"; Verses 1 & 3; LBW 551

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922
 Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.

BLESSING AND SENDING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless us now and always.

C: Amen.

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

- From *sundaysandseasons.com*.

- Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS024243.

- New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

- Holy Bible: Easy-to-Read Version™; Taken from the HOLY BIBLE: EASY-TO-READ VERSION™; © 2006 by World Bible Translation Center, Inc. and used by permission.

- Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.



CALENDAR

Mon, May 6 Prayer Shawl Ministry (10:00 am)

Tues, May 7 Quilting Ministry (1:30 pm)

..... Executive Committee (5:30 pm)

Wed, May 8 425 Youth Group (6:30 pm)

..... St. John Ringers (6:30 pm)

Thurs, May 9 Women's Bible Study (10:00 am)

..... Bible Study with Pastor (1:30 pm)

..... RCAOC (5:30 pm)

Fri, May 10 Otto & Tinzlee Rohleder Private Baptism (6:00 pm)

Sat, May 11..... Seventh Sunday of Easter with Communion (6:00 pm)

Sun, May 12 Seventh Sunday of Easter (8:15 am)

..... Sunday School and Confirmation (9:15 am)

..... Seventh Sunday of Easter; Graduation Celebration (10:30 am)

May 13 through May 24..... Pastor Teri will be in New Mexico (no Bible Study with Pastor May 16 or 23.
Bible Study with Pastor will resume Thursday, May 30 at 1:30 pm)

Mon, May 13..... Prayer Shawl Ministry (10:00 am)

Tues, May 14..... Quilting Ministry (1:30 pm)

Wed, May 15 425 Youth Group (6:30 pm)

..... St. John Ringers (6:30 pm)

Thurs, May 16... Church Council (6:30 pm)

Sat, May 18 NO 6:00 pm Service (Gather As One to celebrate Pentecost at 10:30 service on
Sunday, May 19)

Sun, May 19 NO 8:15 am Service (Gather As One to celebrate Pentecost at 10:30 service)

..... Last day of Sunday School - breakfast served to all students (9:15 am)

..... Gather As One for Pentecost Worship, Communion; St. John Ringers (10:30 am)

Wed, May 22 St. John Ringers Annual Polish and File (6:30 pm)

LOOKING AHEAD

Sat, May 25 Holy Trinity Worship with Communion (6:00 pm)

Sun, May 26 Holy Trinity Worship with Communion (8:15 am)

..... Holy Trinity Worship with Communion (10:30 am)

Mon, May 27..... St. John Offices Closed (Memorial Day)

ADDITIONS TO THE PRAYER LIST

Joetta Mai
Larry Mrvinec
Byrne Wood

OUR SYMPATHIES AND GOD'S COMFORT TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The **2024 Graduation Celebration** will be held during the 10:30 Service on Sunday, May 12.
- We will Gather As One at the **10:30 am Service on Sunday, May 19 to celebrate Pentecost**. John Dumler, PMA will lead worship with communion. There will be NO services at 6:00 pm, Saturday, May 18 OR 8:15 am, Sunday, May 19.
- The **last day of Sunday School is May 19**. We will have a breakfast for the kids and celebrate the close of the school year. We will be **sending home “Families Celebrate Summer” family activity cards** with each child family unit.
- Application links for the **Mai Family Scholarship and the Earlin Nuss Memorial Scholarship** will be posted in the near future on the St. John website (stjohrussell.com). Applications must be submitted no later than Monday, July 1, 2024. Award notifications will be made in writing to each recipient (awards will be presented directly to the education institutions). Recipients (or a representative) must be present at the 10:30 Service on Scholarship Recognition Sunday, July 28, 2024.