

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213
May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Introduction for the Day: 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.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

(Please stand as you are able)

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ.

We were baptized so that we might have a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God.

Therefore, let us confess our sins to God so that we may keep the commandments with a willing heart.

(We pause for meditation and self-examination)

Almighty and all-merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Christ is risen.

Risen indeed!

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins. In the name of Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others.

Amen.

Gathering Song

#640 Our Father, by Whose Name

Please meditate on the hymn text.

*Our Father, by whose name all parenthood is known, in love divine you claim
each fam'ly as your own.*

*Bless mothers, fathers guarding well, with constant love as sentinel, the homes in
which your people dwell.*

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Apostolic Greeting

The Lord is Risen!

He is risen indeed!

The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

(Please be seated)

Mother's Day Litany

For the women who gave us life and for all the women who have mothered us along the way,

We give God thanks and praise.

For mothers who have passed on but whose light shines on in our hearts and memories.

For women who have lost children born or unborn,

We pray for those who mourn.

For mothers who struggle, who are vulnerable or tired. For foster mothers and adoptive parents. For those who are anxiously waiting to be mothers, for those unable to conceive and for those who choose not to raise children,

We pray for peace and contentment.

For all the women in our lives who guide, nurture, strengthen, challenge, teach and lead us. For aunts, stepmothers, grandmothers and mentors. For mothers in their wide variety and myriad forms,

We give God thanks and praise. Amen.

Anthem [5-13-2012 Video]

We Celebrate This Day by Jeff Reeves - Praise Kids!

Lord of life and love, we celebrate this day Mothers/Fathers/Families everywhere and how they guide our way.

- 1. You give them hearts of tenderness that love us all day long and arms to hold us when we're sad that show us they are strong.*
- 2. You give them hands of gentleness that care for all our needs and words that teach us to be kind and live in honesty.*

Word

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.

A reading from Acts, Chapter 10.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 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, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” So, he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 98, Read Responsively

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)

Let us read responsively from Psalm 22.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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.

A reading from 1st John, Chapter 5.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

#708 **Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love**

Please meditate on the hymn text.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love; all these are neighbors to us and you.

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

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(Please stand as you are able)

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.

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed!

The holy gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O risen Lord!

[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 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. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

Praise to you, O risen Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Jim Holmberg

Hymn of the Day

#595 Jesus Love Me!

Please meditate on the hymn text.

*Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.*

[Refrain]

*Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me
so.*

*Jesus loves me! He will stay close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.* [Refrain]

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(Please stand as you are able)

Profession of Faith

Nicene Creed

**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

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.

...We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

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.

Stitches of Love Quilt Ministry Blessing

Let us pray. Lord, bind us together in one community of love, founded on the faith that your love and grace is everlasting. We ask for your presence today as we present these blankets for your blessing. We wrap these pews with offerings of cloth and thread.

Bless these quilts, O Lord, we pray.

We wrap these pews with offerings of time, energy, love, and care.

Bless these quilts, O Lord, we pray.

We send these quilts to wrap the people of this world.

Bless those wrapped, O Lord, we pray.

We send these quilts as fabric signs of warmth and care.

Bless those warmed, O Lord, we pray.

We are a blessed and warmed people. We give thanks for the many blessings out of which we share.

Continue to warm and bless us, O Lord, we pray.

The Peace of Christ

Jesus said: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled.” The peace of the risen Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Meal

Musical Offering [5-6-2018 Video]

You Are My Friends & I Have Chosen You

by James Chepponis – Senior Choir

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. You have sent your Son into our world and you have sent your Spirit into our hearts. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Through Jesus Christ, our branch, and Lord.

Amen.

The 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

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, your joy is in us and our joy is complete. Strengthen us through this meal's healing power. Then we will abide in your love.

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat, and be satisfied.

(Please be seated)

Please take your belongings with you to communion.

Communion Hymn

#470 Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Please meditate on the hymn text.

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name two or three are
met together, you are in the midst of them. Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we
now your garment's hem.*

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