



Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 5, 2024

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

St. Paul
Lutheran



Taylor, TX
LCMC

***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor***



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Announcement

Elections for Church Council – Today

Immediately following the service.

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of God,
who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us,
and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Amen.

Holy One,
**we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us!
Forgive us and turn us again to you.
Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,
the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.
In + Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.
God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in
love.

Amen.

Gathering Song

“Come, We That Love the Lord”

Hymn # 625

**¹ Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet
accord,**

Hymn # 625

**join in a song with sweet
accord**

**and thus surround the throne,
and thus surround the throne.**

Hymn # 625

[Refrain]

**We're marching to Zion,
beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to
Zion,
the beautiful city of God.**

Hymn # 625

**2 Let those refuse to sing
who never knew our God;
but children of the heav'nly
King,**

Hymn # 625

**but children of the heav'nly
King**

**may tell their joys abroad,
may tell their joys abroad.**

[Refrain]

Hymn # 625

[Refrain]

**We're marching to Zion,
beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to
Zion,
the beautiful city of God.**

Hymn # 625

**Final The hill of Zion yields
a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heav'nly
fields,**

Hymn # 625

**before we reach the heav'nly
fields,
or walk the golden streets,
or walk the golden streets.
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 625

[Refrain]

**We're marching to Zion,
beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to
Zion,
the beautiful city of God.**

Hymn # 625

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

*For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord*

Lord, have mercy.

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being
of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us
pray to the lord*

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their
worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord
A-men.

THIS IS THE FEAST

***This is the feast of victory
for our God.***

Alleluia, alleluia

(sung twice)

***Worthy is Christ,
the Lamb who was slain
whose blood set us free
to be people of God***

***Power, riches, wisdom, and
strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory
are his***

***This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia***

(sung twice)

***Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all
creation:***

***Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever.
Amen.***

***This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia***

(sung twice)

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

***This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia***

(sung twice)

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.

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.

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?"

48 So 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.

PSALM: Psalm 98

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

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

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

³ *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.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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. Lord, to
who shall we go?
You have the words
of eternal Life.
Alleluia.***

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to John 15:9-17

Glory to you, O Lord.

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:] 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.

Children's Message

Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley



Hymn of the Day

“Beautiful Savior”

Hymn # 838

**1 Beautiful Savior, King of
creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee,
truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my
crown.**

Hymn # 838

**2 Fair are the meadows, fair are
the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming
spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit
sing.**

Hymn # 838

**3 Fair is the sunshine, fair is
the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on
high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus
shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.**

Hymn # 838

**Final Beautiful Savior, Lord of
the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise,
adoration,
now and forevermore
be thine!**

Hymn # 838

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

CREED

The 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

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 children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and all those who are ill (especially). Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. 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.

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries; for Cheryl Kruckemeyer our missionary in Tanzania, for Thomas, Nadine and family in South Asia serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Elizabeth Lutheran Church in Caldwell, TX and Church of the Cross in Evergreen, Colorado. Bless and protect all our local nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders, our students, teachers and school administrators. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you send out your people to make disciples of all nations, to baptize, and to teach the faith. We pray for this work throughout the Texas District of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. Bless and prosper the work of our District staff as they support your mission: Bryce Formwalt, Alyssa Moore, and Doris Engelhardt. Today we also pray for Living Word in Grapevine, Texas and their pastors, David Eibel & Kari Malinak. By your Holy Spirit, give them the strength of faith to answer your call to make disciples. 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.

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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you. 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***

It is indeed right, our duty and our
joy...

...we praise your name and join their
unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,
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.***

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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

*Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle line
and at the altar rail.*

Lamb of God

***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, grant us peace.***

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

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.

Sending Song

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Hymn # 836

**1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs
before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.**

Hymn # 836

**Melt the clouds of sin and
sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt
away.**

**Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**

Hymn # 836

**2 All thy works with joy
surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy
rays,
stars and angels sing around
thee,
center of unbroken praise.**

Hymn # 836

**Field and forest, vale and
mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing
fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.**

Hymn # 836

**Final Thou art giving and
forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!**

Hymn # 836

**Thou our Father, Christ our
brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each
other,
lift us to the joy divine!**

Hymn # 836

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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