

# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 9th, 2021



**9:15am - Zoom and outdoor (weather permitting)  
Lutheran Church of the Living Christ**

*The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the gospel attributed to John. Many readings in this Easter season give attention to life lived in harmony with all of creation in light of Christ's resurrection. In a part of the world where Easter and springtime coincide, we take note of all of the newness and resurrection we see around us: butterflies, budding trees, spring rains, and lengthening days, and more. In worship we give thanks to God for gifts of creation, newness, and life!*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Come, let us dwell in God's shelter.

**C: Let us dwell in God's work of art.**

P: Come, because the Earth is the Lord's,

**C: And God's Earth is our home.**

P: We live in God's World; we are not alone.

**C: We share this life with the heavens and the earth,**

P: With the waters and the land,

**C: With trees and grasses,**

P: With fish, birds, and animals,

**C: With minerals and creatures of every form,**

P: And with all our human siblings.

**C: God is good and everything God makes is good.**

P: God is love and everything God makes is love's fruit.

**C: Let us worship God!**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things.

**C: Your voice thundered over the waters at creation.**

P: You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all that lives.

**C: Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety.**

P: Through the sea you lead your people Israel from slavery to freedom.

**C: In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.**

P: By the baptism of his death and resurrection, Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom.

**C: The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise.**

P: Jesus sends us out to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us; wash away our sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your children, no longer slave and free, no longer male or female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

OPENING HYMN - [Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee, ELW #836](#)



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
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.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
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.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
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.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

**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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

**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 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.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM - Psalm 98**

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

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

L: 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.

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

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

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

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

**C: Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to give justice to  
the earth.**

L: The Lord will give justice to 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.*

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.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **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.*

[Jesus said:] "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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY - [Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom, All Creation Sings #1064](#)



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,  
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.  
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffé.  
Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.  
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - jice  
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake  
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.  
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.  
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

## CREEDAL DIALOGUE

*Adapted from "Care of the Earth" liturgy by the Rev. Jennifer Edinger*

P: People of faith, we are gently shaped in the womb of God's creative power. The seed of Christ's new life is sown, and we are made a new creation. As God's new creation, we are nursed and sustained by the Holy Spirit. Together with rattling leaves, blooming flowers, wind, sun, and rain- we add our shouts of praise to God, who gives life in creation, who gives new life in Jesus Christ, and who nourishes that life by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

P: We believe God creates.

**C: God spoke. Light and darkness; heaven and earth; land, sea and plants; sun, moon and stars; fish and birds and animals came to be. God spoke and made us. God gave us responsibility to care for creation. God spoke and all life God creates is good.**

P: We believe God re-creates.

**C: God spoke in the living word, Jesus Christ. At the cross, Christ spent himself to reclaim us from our human brokenness, to shower renewing forgiveness into our lives, and to place us before new horizons of life, lived in harmony with God and people and creation.**

P: We believe God caresses.

**C: The Holy Spirit delivers us into a family of faith. The Spirit cultivates in our lives the fruit of holy living: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The Spirit leads us into community, connection, and compassion. By the work of the Spirit we are a new creation.**

#### LITANY FOR MOTHER'S DAY

P: To those who become mothers through adoption; to those who are pregnant and those who have given birth –

**C: we rejoice and celebrate with you.**

P: To those who know the ache of losing a child: through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away –

**C: we mourn with you.**

P: To those in the trenches with little ones who wear badge-of-honor food stains

**C: we appreciate you.**

P: To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment –

**C: we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.**

P: To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms; to those who have warm and close relationships –

**C: we need you and delight in you.**

P: To those who have lost their mothers; to those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children –

**C: we sit and sigh and grieve with you.**

P: To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother –

**C: We believe you.**

P: To those who are tested by motherhood and milestones –

**C: we are better for having you in our midst.**

P: To those who have had to make difficult and impossible decisions about their own health and the health of their children –

**C: we remember them and you with love on this day.**

P: To those who mother by loving nieces and nephews, students and neighbors –

**C: we give you thanks for your nurturing.**

P: To those who wish children had been part of the plan; To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren, yet that dream is not to be –

**C: we mourn that absence with you.**

P: To those who step-parent –

**C: we walk with you on these complex paths.**

P: To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year –

**C: we pray for your transition.**

P: To those who placed children up for adoption –

**C: we remember you and how you hold that child in your heart**

P: To all those who love fiercely and completely –

**C: we are grateful for God's compassion and love shining through you.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers reflect the wideness of God's mercy – for the church and its ministry; for the well-being of creation; for peace & justice; for the poor, oppressed, & sick; for all who suffer; for the congregation; & for special concerns/occasions.*

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. *A brief silence.*

Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church and hymnwriter. 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, burrowing and soaring, 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*). Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with the dying (*especially*). 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.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives (*especially*). Keep us united with them in your lasting love. 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.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Share a sign of peace by waving, flashing a peace sign, or other form of distanced greeting. If you are joining us online, type a message or share a brief word of peace.*

### **OFFERING AND PRAYER**

*We continue to be the church together during this time through prayer and financial support.*

*You can mail in your offering or send money through your bank. You can also take advantage of our online giving platform on our website. Your giving ensures that the ministries of this congregation continue during this time and into the future.*

P: Loving God, we are surrounded by the beauty of creation. We are supported by the abundance of creation. We gratefully receive your gifts of love and life--gifts which fill our lives with joy and satisfaction.

**C: In thankful response to your generosity, we place before you pieces of ourselves and of your creation--food from the earth we till, energy from the moments of our life, money from the skills you give, bread from the seeds that were sown and wine from the grapes that grow, and our abundance to share with others. Receive them as signs of our love and gratitude. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

### **COMMUNION LITURGY**

P: The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts

**C: We lift them to the Lord**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God **C: It is right to give God thanks and praise**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our savior Jesus Christ, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. With Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the witnesses to the resurrection, we praise your name, and join the unending refrain of all creation.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks for your gifts that tumble into and saturate our lives: for family and friends and strangers who enrich us; for the sunrise that energizes the day, and darkness that give quiet and rest at day's end; for rains that quench the thirsts of life and sun that warms the soil and germinates the seed; for winter snow that blankets the sleeping world.

As your fingerprint is upon all creation, your love is embossed on the human family. You sent the prophets to speak your comforting and cleansing word. You sent your son, Jesus the Christ, to proclaim your reign of forgiveness, justice, and peace.

Having been anointed by one whom he loved, and about to be betrayed by one whom he loved, Jesus took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. After they had finished eating, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying this cup is the new covenant of my blood, shed for you and for all people. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life, pour out your Holy Spirit on us. Bless us wherever we gather in your name. Grace our tables, counters, and laps with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of wine. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth to serve in your name. With your holy ones of all times, places, and locations, and with all of creation, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### **DISTRIBUTION**

P: As we are the body of Christ, we take this sign of Christ's body into ourselves. The body and blood of Christ given and shed for you. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER**

P: May this sign of God's presence, this shared bread between us, strengthen us and give us peace. **Amen.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. NO outdoor worship next week; Zoom only 5/16
2. Tuesday Bible Study
3. Constitution Town Halls: TODAY, May 23, June 6
4. Synod Anti-Racism Study: May 26th, 7pm via Zoom
5. Council Update - Randy

### **BENEDICTION**

P: Go out into the world in the joy and peace of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Care for God's redeemed creation; follow Christ as disciples in word and deed; be blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Alleluia! Amen!**

**SENDING HYMN - [This is My Commandment by Jonathan Rundman](#)**

*Lyrics*

This is my commandment that you love one another  
As I have loved you, as I have loved you  
This is my commandment that you love one another  
As I have loved you, as I have loved you

No- no- no- no one has greater love than this  
No- no- no- no one has greater love than this  
No- no- no- no one has greater love than this  
To lay down one's life for one's friends  
You are my friends, so... (back to the beginning)

**DISMISSAL**

**P:** You are the body of Christ raised up with all of creation. Go; share the good news!

**C:** Alleluia! Thanks be to God!