

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus: The Love of God Overcomes the World

May 5 & 6, 2018

### AS WE GATHER

The Father has loved the Son, and the Son has loved all people, making a home for us with Him in the Father's love. Dwelling in the Father's love by faith in Jesus, we keep His commandments. As we come to realize that we are loved by God, we discover that keeping His commandments is not burdensome, but a joy. Jesus' word of promise fills us with joy. He has chosen us to be His fruit-bearing friends who love people the way He does. Alleluia!

### WELCOME

"In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy,  
always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you  
for a reason for the hope that is in you;  
yet do it with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15, ESV)

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING HYMN #482 "This Joyful Eastertide"

This joyful Eastertide Away with sin and sorrow!  
My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow:

**Refrain: Had Christ, who once was slain,  
Not burst His three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ arisen,  
Arisen, arisen; But now has Christ arisen!**

Death's flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the river;  
Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver: **Refrain**  
My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season slumber  
Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number: **Refrain**

(Rise)

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song,

**People: for He has done marvelous things!**

Pastor: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him. The LORD has made known His salvation;

**People: He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

Pastor: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

**People: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God, who overcomes violence by your love:

**People: We confess that we are born immersed in the corruption of this world. As we grow and develop, we cannot help but be willingly infected by this world's greed, lust, and pride. Violence is all around us and within us, and it threatens to overwhelm us. We ask you to heal us for Jesus' sake with your love and forgiveness.**

Pastor: God hears your confession and speaks to each of you His healing Word of forgiveness for Jesus' sake. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE

#### "This Is The Feast"

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

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God. **Refrain**  
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. **Refrain**  
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. **Refrain**  
For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.  
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, the giver of all that is good, by your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

### **✠ WORD ✠**

#### **FIRST READING** *Acts 10:34–48*

So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

**EPISTLE 1** *John 5:1–8* (We are born of God and overcome the world through faith in Jesus.) Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 15:9–17* (Loving one another, we abide in God’s love and experience the fullness of joy.) As the Father has loved me, so have I 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. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

(Be seated)

### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

#### **SERMON HYMN #700 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n to earth come down!  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev’ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev’ry troubled breast;  
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee,  
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav'n we take our place  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

**SERMON**      *"A Faith and Love that Overcomes the World"*      **1 John 5:1-8**

(Rise)

**APOSTLES' CREED** *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

**OFFERING** As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Heavenly Father, you promise to hear our prayers for the sake of your Son. Help us to regularly accept your invitation to ask.

**People: Fill us with the desires to ask you for all things good & right and to ask with boldness and confidence.**

Pastor: Almighty God, we face all kinds of adversity, both physical and spiritual. Strengthen our faith and trust in Christ as we face difficulties and struggles.

**People: Give us the conviction of faith that we possess the love that overcomes the world and fill us with the confidence that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.**

Pastor: O Lord, we live in a world plagued by sinful doubt and skepticism over your Word and salvation. By your Holy Spirit, open our hearts this day to pay attention to what you proclaim to us.

**People: Soothe our doubting consciences with the certain knowledge that your Gospel promises are true for each of us,**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we give you thanks and praise for servants in your church, especially our Together in Mission partners, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family serving in Indonesia and Asia as well as Rachel Meyer serving in Uganda.

**People: Bless all your servants to teach and preach according to the truth and make them to be good models of Christian life.**

Pastor: Creator of heaven and earth, abide with all homeless and destitute people. Despite their temporary problems, give them faith to confess that you richly and daily provide everything they need to support their bodies and lives.

**People: Stir up generosity in our hearts as we respond to your goodness by sharing your good gifts with those in need.**

Pastor: Lord of the nations, bring order where there is instability, peace where there is strife and safety where there is danger. Especially protect those who live and serve in dangerous areas of our cities. Give wisdom to those you place in authority over these locations as they deal with violence and danger.

**People: Through residents and authorities, make our neighborhoods safe and lead everyone to work together to promote peace and tranquility.**

Pastor: Eternal God, through your servant John you give us a vision of the life of the world to come. By this heavenly vision, sustain those who suffer in any way especially Pastor Bender, Junie, Carlene, Pat, RoseMarie, Tony, Nancy, Sue, Janet, Donna, Dolores, Pat, Cliff, Shirley, Gladys, Herb, Matthew, Russ, Arlene, Dorothy, John, Arlene, Jack, Shirley, Jonathan, Helen, Leonard and Sarah. Use John's testimony to strengthen their faith as they face their current afflictions.

**People: Bless them to look forward to the glory that will be revealed to them on the Last Day.**

Pastor: Dear heavenly Father, we give thanks for the gift of marriage and rejoice with Bill and Judy Jochem as they celebrate 55 years of marriage along with Gary and Wendy Knight as they celebrate 43 years of life together.

**People: Bless them with many more joyful years together filled with happiness and love.**

Pastor: Dear Father in heaven, we yearn for the day when the holy city of Jerusalem will come down out of heaven, when you will dwell visibly in the midst of your people.

**People: Until that day arrives, strengthen our faith in your promises as you dwell in our midst, through your Word, your sacraments, and your Spirit.**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

## THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI

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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.

(Be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION** Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

## HYMN #822 "Alleluia! Let Praises Ring"

Alleluia! Let praises ring!

To God the Father let us bring Our songs of adoration.

To Him through everlasting days Be worship, honor, pow'r, and praise,

Whose hand sustains creation. Singing, ringing:

Holy, holy, God is holy; Spread the story Of our God, the Lord of glory.

Alleluia! Let praises ring!

Unto the Lamb of God we sing, In whom we are elected.

He bought His Church with His own blood, He cleansed her in that blessed flood,

And as His bride selected. Holy, holy, Is our union And communion.

His befriending Gives us joy and peace unending.

Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto the Holy Ghost we sing For our regeneration.

The saving faith in us He wrought And us unto the Bridegroom brought,

Made us His chosen nation. Glory! Glory! Joy eternal, Bliss supernal;

There is manna And an endless, glad hosanna.

Alleluia! Let praises ring!

Unto our triune God we sing; Blest be His name forever!

With angel hosts let us adore And sing His praises evermore

For all His grace and favor! Singing, ringing:

Holy, holy, God is holy; Spread the story Of our God, the Lord of glory!

## HYMN #542

## "When I Behold Jesus Christ"

When I behold Jesus Christ, True God who died for me,

I wonder much at His love As He hung on the tree.

**Refrain: What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?  
You showed Your love, Jesus, there To me on Calvary.  
What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?  
You showed Your love, Jesus, there To me on Calvary.**

For me You gave all Your love, For me You suffered pain;

I find no words, nothing can Your selflessness explain. **Refrain**

You had no sin, holy Lord, But You were tortured, tried;

On Golgotha there for all My sins You bled and died. **Refrain**

What love is this? Greater love No one has ever known.

My life with God-This I owe To You, and You alone. **Refrain**

**HYMN #770      “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”**

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank you that for His sake you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask you not to forsake your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICAMUS**

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and  
✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN #692 “Praise to You and Adoration”**

Praise to You and adoration, Blessed Jesus, Son of God,  
Who, to serve Your own creation, Came to share our flesh and blood.

Guide me that I never may From Your fold or pastures stray,  
But with zeal and joy exceeding Follow where Your steps are leading.

Hold me ever in Your keeping; Comfort me in pain and strife.  
In my laughter and my weeping Be with me throughout my life.  
Give me greater love for You, And my faith and hope renew  
In Your birth, Your life, and passion, In Your death and resurrection.

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Acolytes  
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender  
Pastor Gregg Stanton  
Dan Vaclav, Bob Reynolds, Jim Laux  
Sophia Moravec, Ashton Poritz, Luna Ramos  
Michelle Prince

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