

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Boundless Love Bound to Christ

May 9 & 10, 2015

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

The end of the Easter season is all about love—the love God has manifested to us in His crucified and risen Son and the love He works in us and through us. The Lord is at work in His people breaking down walls and barriers by the love of Christ. Through the proclamation of this Gospel, the world comes to know the love of God for sinners. This love shows its power as the barrier between Jew and Gentile is transcended by Christ. Without exception, Christ died and rose for all people. This common life is reflected in our baptismal life together around the Word and Table of the Lord and in our common witness and confession of Christ to the world.

WELCOME

The Fifth Pledge “I Am A Church Member”

I will lead my family to be good members of this church as well. We will pray together for our church. We will worship together in our church. We will serve together in our church. And we will ask Christ to help us fall deeper in love with this church because He gave His life for her.

FELLOWSHIP GREETING

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #785 “We Praise You, O God”

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship You, God of our father, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o’er take us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us come before God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hid, and confess our sins in the name of Him who died and rose again to give us forgiveness and life.

People: I confess that I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. I have not honored my Lord’s name as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me, and my love for others has failed. There are many whom I have hurt and many whom I failed to help. My thoughts and desires are soiled with sin. I have sinned against God and against my brothers and sisters. Except for the promise of Christ, I could not hope for reconciliation and peace. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, O Lord, so that I may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 #805 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'n-ly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Blessed Lord, you sent forth your own Son as love come down from heaven to enter our death and to bestow upon us new and everlasting life. Give us such love so that we may believe rightly and live faithfully in Christ, bearing the good fruit that lasts by loving our neighbor as Christ has loved us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST LESSON Acts 10:34–48 (*All the prophets bear witness to Christ.*)

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

EPISTLE 1 John 5:1–8 (*Everyone who is born of God overcomes the world.*)

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes

the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify; the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

5:00

Halle, Halle choral setting by Hal Hopson

St. Paul's Choir

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL John 15:9–17 (*Abide in Christ and bear the good fruit that endures.*)

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON 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.

SERMON

B/F/F

John 15:9-17

(Rise)

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

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS 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.

8:00 MUSIC DURING OFFERING *“Crusader’s Theme” St. Paul’s Lutheran School Band*

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray to the God of all grace, that we and all people may know the treasure of His grace for this life and His peace for the life to come.
Make our joy full, O Lord, that our hearts may have no room for fear.

People: **Deliver us from our enemies and from those who would wrest the Kingdom from us.**

Pastor: Make our joy full, O Lord, that we may learn the obedience of faith and be faithful in our various vocations and callings.

People: **Help us to live fully the new life imparted to us in our Baptism.**

Pastor: Make our joy full, O Lord, that we may be bold in the proclamation of Jesus Christ.

People: **Give us courage that by the faithful confession of the cross, many may be brought to redemption by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: Make our joy full, O Lord, that we may learn to love and care for one another as we have known through those faithful women who have shown to us a mother’s love and kindness.

People: **Make our homes places of blessing and love where Jesus Christ is known and cherished. Bless also the work of Elizabeth Ministry as they serve women among us.**

Pastor: Make our joy full, O Lord, that we who have heard the Good News of Jesus Christ may respond with faith and thanksgiving.

People: **Bless those who proclaim to us the full counsel of God’s Word and who steward your gifts for our blessing.**

Pastor: Make our joy full, O Lord, that we may rejoice to support the work of Christ’s kingdom through our tithes and offerings. Bless especially the work our Together in Mission partner, Pastor Chuck Ferry.

People: **Fill our hearts with the understanding of the joy and privilege of supporting the furtherance of the Gospel.**

Pastor: Make our joy full, O Lord, that in the sorrow of grief, the pain of illness and the shadow of death, we may be patient in heart and steadfast in hope. Especially we ask you to remember in your kindness Ron, Russ, Kathleen, Gretchen, Eleanor, Hermine, Jack, Marge, Ruth, Sharon, Helen, Shirley, Dennis, Marion, Jack, Gretchen, Sarah and Lois.

People: **Give to the suffering relief, the lonely comfort, the grieving hope and the dying your peace, in accord with your gracious will. Bless also Anna as she remembers Sue and Dorothy as she remembers Art.**

Pastor: Make our joy full, O Lord, as we acknowledge all your blessings given us in this life, especially rejoicing with Jean as she celebrates her 80th birthday.

Pastor: **Help us never to take for granted all your goodness and fill us with thankfulness day by day.**

Pastor: Make our joy full, O Lord, that we may not return evil for evil but show forth your mercy, even within the darkness of this world.

People: **Make our leaders wise and honest, and lead them in the ways of peace and virtue, here and in every place.**

Pastor: Make our joy full, O Lord, as we rejoice with the Ferrell family as Thaddeus Myron is baptized into Christ this weekend.

People: **Grant us all to rejoice in the promises you give us all in baptism and inspire our hearts to grow to know you better day by day.**

Pastor: Make our joy full, O Lord, that we who receive the body and blood of our Lord today may eat and drink in faith, humility, and sincere repentance.

People: **By your Spirit, inspire us to show forth in our lives what we have received with our lips, to the praise of your glory.**

Pastor: Make our joy full, O Lord, that we may know the peace of a clear conscience through forgiveness and, with confidence, deliver into your wisdom and merciful care all the prayers and supplications of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

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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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(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 #698 "May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill"

May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfill And do on earth our Father's will

As angels do above; Still walk in Christ, the living way,

With all Thy children and obey The law of Christian love.

So may we join Thy name to bless, Thy grace adore, Thy pow'r confess,

From sin and strife to flee. One is our calling, one our name,

The end of all our hopes the same, A crown of life with Thee.

Spirit of life, of love and peace, Unite our hearts, our joy increase,

Thy gracious help supply. To each of us the blessing give

In Christian fellowship to live, In joyful hope to die.

HYMN #556 "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" Stanzas 1-5 & 10

Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, With exultation springing,

And with united heart and voice And holy rapture singing,

Proclaim the wonders God has done, How His right arm the vict'ry won.

What price our ransom cost Him!

Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay; Death brooded darkly o'er me.

Sin was my torment night and day; In sin my mother bore me.

But daily deeper still I fell; My life became a living hell,

So firmly sin possessed me.

My own good works all came to naught, No grace or merit gaining;
Free will against God's judgment fought, Dead to all good remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair Left only death to be my share;
The pangs of hell I suffered.

But God had seen my wretched state Before the world's foundation,
And mindful of His mercies great, He planned for my salvation.
He turned to me a father's heart; He did not choose the easy part
But gave His dearest treasure.

God said to His beloved Son: "It's time to have compassion.

Then go, bright jewel of My crown, And bring to all salvation.

From sin and sorrow set them free: Slay bitter death for them that they
May live with Your forever."

"What I on earth have done and taught Guide all your life and teaching;
So shall the kingdom's work be wrought And honored in your preaching.
But watch lest foes with base alloy The heav'nly treasure should destroy;
This final word I leave you."

HYMN #617 "O Lord, We Praise Thee"

O Lord we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,

In thanksgiving bow before Thee.

Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish

Our weak souls that they may flourish: O Lord, have mercy!

May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary, That our sins and sorrows did carry,

And Thy blood for us plead In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy!

Thy holy body into death was given, Life to win for us in heaven.

No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;

May this feast there-of remind us! O Lord, have mercy!

Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.

All our debt Thou hast paid; Peace with God once more is made:

O Lord, have mercy!

May God bestow on us His grace and favor That we follow Christ our Savior

And live together here in love and union Nor despise this blest Communion!

O Lord, have mercy!

Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us; Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;

Give Thy Church, Lord, to see Days of peace and unity: O Lord, have mercy!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. You turned us from enemies into friends, O Lord, by the reconciliation of your Son. Keep us in Christ that we may resist temptation and endure the troubles of this mortal life. Send us forth in Christ as instruments of your love to the world, that with good works we may glorify you and praise your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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.

RECESSIONAL HYMN #655 “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son And bring to naught all He has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow’r make known, For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we May sing Your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth, Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife And lead us out of death to life.

8:00 POSTLUDE *“Fantasy on a 17th Century Hymn Tune”*

St. Paul’s Lutheran School Band

Preacher	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Lectors	Marc Stefanic, Carri Wolcyk
Acolytes	Adam Biedenbender, Josh Elmer
Puppeteer	Laurel Privatt
5:00 Choir Director	Nancy Hoelke
St. Paul's School Band Director	Shannon Krueger
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller