

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Abiding in Christ's Love  
May 4 & 5, 2024

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### AS WE GATHER

A treasured children's song, "I Love to Tell the Story," has a refrain that follows each of the stanzas penned by poet Arabella Katherine Hankey, repeating the simple words: "I love to tell the story; 'Twill be my theme in glory, To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love." The original Greek language in which John wrote his Gospel uses the word "love" either as a noun or a verb some nine times in the section of Jesus' words heard in the Gospel for today. Jesus wants His disciples and us to know the abiding power of His love. It is that love that compels us to love one another—and the "others" beyond our circles of family, friends, and other close relationships. We are blessed in hearing the "old, old story of Jesus and His love" anew today. May we be blessed in telling it out in love as well!

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

### WELCOME

"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING HYMN #478 "The Day of Resurrection"

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,  
The Passover of gladness, The Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, From sin's dominion free,  
Our Christ has brought us over With hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil That we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light  
And, list'ning to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain,  
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful, Let earth its song begin,  
Let all the world keep triumph And all that is therein.  
Let all things, seen and unseen, Their notes of gladness blend;  
For Christ the Lord has risen, Our joy that has no end!

(Rise) All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son,  
All praise to God the Spirit, Eternal Three in One!  
Let all the ransomed number Fall down before the throne  
And honor, pow'r, and glory Ascribe to God alone!

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Praise the LORD!

**People: Praise the LORD, O my soul!**

Pastor: I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

**People: I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Pastor: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

**People: whose hope is in the LORD his God.**

Pastor: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.

**People: Praise the LORD!**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

**People:** Gracious God, in heartfelt repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are sin-stained people by nature. Each day we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we should be doing as your servants. We have not seen people through the eyes of your love. We have not always been ready to care and quick to help. We do indeed deserve your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in your mercy, we come to you for forgiveness. Abide with us and grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives, lead us into ways that reflect your goodness and love.

**Pastor:** God is loving and merciful. He sees us with loving eyes and graciously hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

#### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

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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. Lord Jesus Christ, while we were still in our sins you chose us, laid down your life for us, and called us friends. By your great love for us, inspire us to love one another that we may abide in your grace and may bear fruit according to your promise; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

(Be seated)

#### **☩ WORD ☩**

**FIRST READING** *Acts 10:34–48* (People from every nation are accepted by God.)

<sup>34</sup> So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), <sup>37</sup> you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: <sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> 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, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, <sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” <sup>44</sup> While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> 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. <sup>46</sup> For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, <sup>47</sup> “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup> And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

**Lector:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE** *1 John 5:1–8* (The victory of Christ overcomes the world.)

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. <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 this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.



## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.  
(Be seated)

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** 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 folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

## PRAYER 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 invite us freely to come and hear your Word. Bless and increase our faith, that we may rightly fear you and learn of your love for us.

**People: Strengthen us to walk in your ways, loving and forgiving others as you have loved and forgiven us in Christ.**

Pastor: Lord of all, you make known the good news of peace through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Bless and direct the work of missionaries around the world, especially our Together in Mission Partner, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family.

**People: Prosper their work that in every nation there would be people who fear God, do what is right and, believing in Jesus, receive forgiveness of sins through His name.**

Pastor: Father of love, out of great love for you and for sinners, our Lord Jesus laid down His life for the world.

**People: Help us to show His true love to all people in our lives: our family and friends, our neighbors, the poor and needy, and even our enemies.**

Pastor: Lord of the family, we thank you for the gift of marriage, especially for the 49th wedding anniversary of Gary and Wendy Knight.

**People: Bless them with many more years and fill them with your spirit to live in love and harmony all their days.**

Pastor: Almighty Father, you rule this world by your established authorities in ways that we do not always understand; as many nations are at odds with each other, in the name of Jesus, we ask you to bring an end to the conflict and restore temporal peace among the nations.

**People: Bless also our nation's leaders, and cause them to serve wisely for our good. Bring an end to injustice, violence and disdain for your truth, and lead us in the ways of truth and peace.**

Pastor: Lord God, the Giver of all that is good, grant your healing and support to all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity especially David, Carole, Ruth, Karen, Dick, Wendy, Michael, Margie, Anna, Eugene, Charlene, Danielle, Marlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Janice, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Helga, June, Shirley and Sarah. Give them also the gift of your grace to accept and bear their crosses with faith in you.

**People: Strengthen them to trust your will, to find peace and hope in Christ, and ultimately be prepared to depart this life and receive the gift of eternal life in your kingdom.**

Pastor: Father in heaven, the comfort of those in sorrow, bless and comfort the family and friends of Deloris Luling upon her departure of this life and entrance into glory.

**People: Direct her loved ones to the cross and the empty tomb, that they may find hope and peace through faith in Christ.**

Pastor: Loving Father, bless, comfort, and abide with all those affected by the tornados this past week that caused destruction and the loss of life.

**People: Give them strength of spirit as they move forward in life and fill them with hope and peace through faith in Christ.**

Pastor: Merciful God, at the death of your Son, you gave the testimony of your Spirit in the water and blood that poured from His wounded side, pouring out his life out of love for us.

**People:** Grant that, having received this testimony, we may also receive in repentant faith the body and blood of Jesus in the Holy Supper and so overcome the world by our faith in Him.

**Pastor:** O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before you, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to you alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

#### PREFACE

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

#### PROPER PREFACE

**Pastor:** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord our God, for you have called us as your people and have shown us your grace in all our days. Assured of your mercy, we come before you, asking that we may receive your blessings with heartfelt thanksgiving. Pour out upon us the gift of your Holy Spirit and grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and a foretaste of the feast to come in your eternal kingdom. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

#### SANCTUS

LSB p. 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

#### 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.**

#### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

##### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

**Pastor:** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People:** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**Pastor:** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us your body and blood to eat and to drink, you lead us to remember and confess your holy cross and passion, your blessed death, your rest in the tomb, your resurrection from the dead, your ascension into heaven, and your coming for the final judgment.

##### PAX DOMINI

**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 HYMNS

10:30 CHOIR

“Now”

### HYMN #738 “Lord of All Hopefulness”

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace:  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

### HYMN #804 “O Worship the King”

O worship the King, all glorious above.  
O gratefully sing His pow’r and His love;  
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

This earth, with its store of wonders untold,  
Almighty, thy pow’r hath founded of old,  
Established it fast by a changeless decree,  
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust and feeble as frail,  
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail.  
Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,  
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend!

O measureless Might, ineffable Love,  
While angels delight to hymn Thee above,  
Thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,  
With true adoration shall sing to Thy praise.

### HYMN #813 “Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng”

Rejoice, O pilgrim throng! Rejoice, give thanks and sing;  
Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

With voice as full and strong As ocean’s surging praise,  
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, The psalms of ancient days. **Refrain**

With all the angel choirs, With all the saints on earth  
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, True rapture, noblest mirth. **Refrain**

Yet on and onward still, With hymn and chant and song,  
Through gate and porch and columned aisle The hallowed pathways throng.

**Refrain**

Still lift your standard high, Still march in firm array,  
As pilgrims through the darkness wend Till dawns the golden day. **Refrain**

At last the march shall end; The wearied ones shall rest;  
The pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. **Refrain**

Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom we adore:  
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, One God forevermore. **Refrain**

### **COMMON DISMISSAL**

### **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, once again you have welcomed us at your Table of grace. Grant that this Sacrament that we have now received may strengthen us so that we may abide in loving service day by day. As we have shared in the blessings of your Table, grant that we live each day as your people who see people around us as you see them and love them as you love them. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**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.**

### **CLOSING HYMN #819 “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good”**

Sing Praise to God, the highest good, The author of creation,  
The God of love who understood Our need for His salvation.  
With healing balm our souls He fills And ev’ry faithless murmur stills:  
To God all praise and glory!

What God’s almighty pow’r made, In mercy He is keeping.  
By morning glow or evening shade His eye is never sleeping.  
Within the kingdom of His might All things are just and good and right:  
To God all praise and glory!

We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us.  
Our Savior saw our helplessness And came with peace to cheer us.  
For this we thank and praise the Lord, Who is by one and all adored:  
To God all praise and glory!

He never shall forsake His flock, His chosen generation;  
He is their refuge and their rock, Their peace and their salvation.  
As with a mother’s tender hand, He leads His own, His chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory!

All who confess Christ’s holy name, Give God the praise and glory.  
Let all who know His pow’r proclaim Aloud the wondrous story.  
Cast ev’ry idol from its throne, For God is God, and He alone:  
To God all praise and glory!

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender  
Pastor Josh Grotelueschen  
Mark Richardson, Elisabeth Matusewic  
Deaconess Carole King