



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA Waseca, MN

Sunday, May 5, 2024

6th Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

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.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

(Please stand)

Gathering Hymn: (cranberry) #715 Christ, Be Our Light

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.

Hymn of Praise: (cranberry) #848 Give to Our God Immortal Praise!

(Please be seated)

WE HEAR GOD'S 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?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

R: *Word of God, Word of Life*

C: **Thanks be to God!**

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.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

(please stand)

S:

Gospel Acclamation (cranberry) pg. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring

The Holy Gospel according to St. John fifteenth chapter.

C 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

(Please be seated)

Children's Message

Hymn: *(cranberry)*

#508 As Rain from the Clouds

Message: Hopes and Dreams Part 1

Pastor Kristen Venne

(Please stand)

Message Song (cranberry) #765 Lord of All Hopefulness

Prayers of the People

P Lord, in your mercy

Prayer Response: (cranberry) #178 Hear Our Prayer

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P We share Christ's peace with each other

(please be seated)

THANKSGIVING

Noisy offering

Offering Response: (cranberry) #870 We Praise You, O God (Vs. 1, 3)

Offering Prayer

P Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer (cranberry) pg. 112 (Our Father; who art in heaven)

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Blessing

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope
+ bless you now and always.*

C Amen.

(Please stand)

SENDING

Sending Hymn (cranberry) #856 How Great Thou Art

Sending

P Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C Thanks be to God.

Leaders in the Service

Pastor: Kristen Venne

Organist: Al Tonn

Acolyte: Jacob Knutson

Council Person: Pam Grunzke

Reader: Janet Wichmann

Ushers: Diane Blowers, Janet Wichmann

Video: Dennis Sommers

Thank you to all these members of St. John for offering their time and talents.

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