

**As the Father has loved Me
so have I loved you**

Abide in My love

John 15:9



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

Portions from *Sundays & Seasons 2024* and *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress License #1271-L

Lord of Life Liturgy [Dr. Bradley C. Hunnicutt]

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.

Welcome

Pastor Wolfgang Herz-Lane

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

C. **Amen**

P. Look, here is water!

C. **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P. Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

C. **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P. At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C. **Amen.**

P. Look, here is water!

C. **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

The Peace

P. Jesus said: Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled.

May His peace be with you always.

C. **And also with you.**



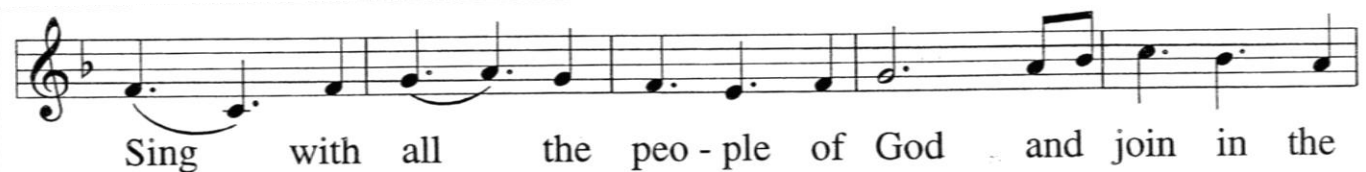
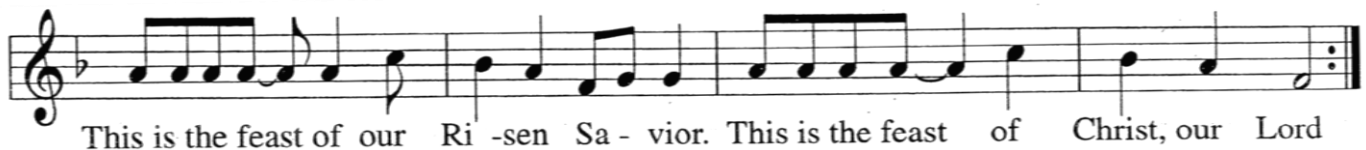
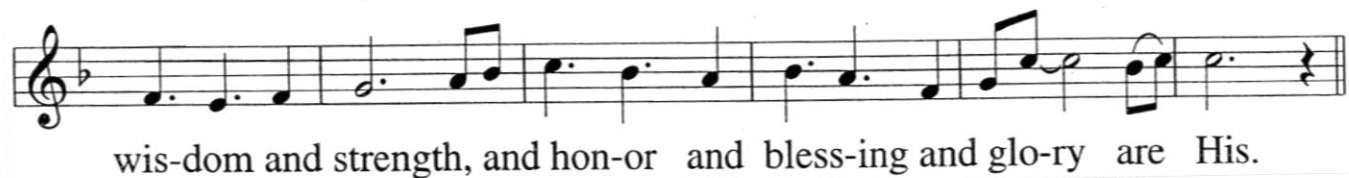
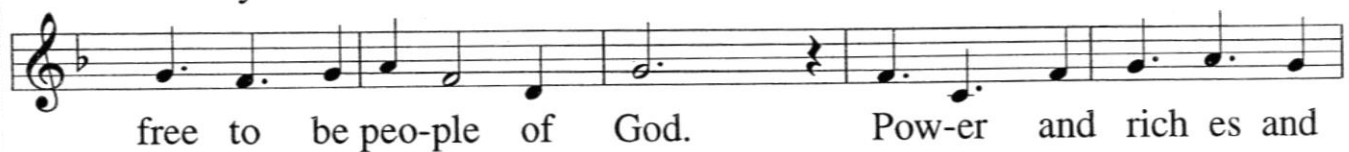
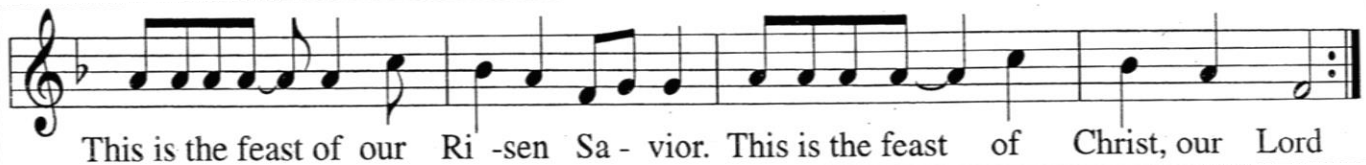
Greeting

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

***This is the Feast***

might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A - men.

This is the feast of our Ri-sen Sa-vior. This is the feast of Christ, our Lord

P. This is indeed the feast of our Risen Savior . . .
 . . . And His glorious resurrection has indeed become the Lord of Life!

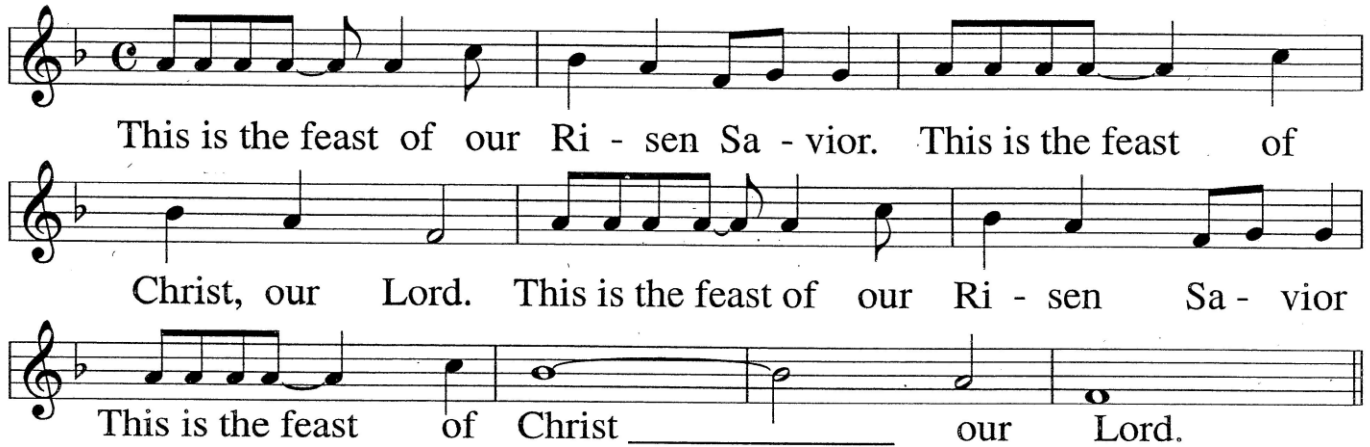
C:

For the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le
 lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.
 This is the feast of our Ri-sen Sa-vior. This is the feast of Christ, our Lord

C
H
O
I
R

Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. A-men.
 Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. A-men. A-men.

C:



This is the feast of our Ri - sen Sa - vior. This is the feast of
Christ, our Lord. This is the feast of our Ri - sen Sa - vior
This is the feast of Christ _____ our Lord.

Prayer of the Day

A. Let us pray ... 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

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.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge 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.

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.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

C
H
O
I
R

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

C:

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le-lu -ia. Al-le- lu -ia.

P. The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter fifteen.

C: Glo - ry, glo - ry to you, O Lord. Al - le - lu - ia.

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.

- P. [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, Praise to you, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.



Children's Church

Sermon

"Love in its Many Forms"

Pastor Wolfgang

Hymn of the Day

Reckless Love

Words and music by Caleb Culver, Cory Asbury, and Ran Jackson

Before I spoke a word You were singing over me
You have been so so good to me
Before I took a breath You breathed Your life in me
You have been so so kind to me

O the overwhelming never-ending reckless love of God
O it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it; still You give Yourself away
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless love of God; yeah

When I was Your foe still Your love fought for me
You have been so so good to me
When I felt no worth You paid it all for me
You have been so so kind to me

There's no shadow You won't light up,
mountain You won't climb up, coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down,
lie You won't tear down, coming after me
There's no shadow You won't light up,
mountain You won't climb up, coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down,
lie You won't tear down, coming after me

O the overwhelming never-ending reckless love of God
O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it; still You give Yourself away
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless love of God; yeah

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen



Prayers of Intercession

A. Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,

C. hear our prayer.

A. You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,

C. hear our prayer.

Other prayers

P. Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C. Amen.

The Offering

Anthem

With What Shall I Come Before the Lord? ~ John Ness Beck Choir

Offertory: *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless-ing. Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and
fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest
from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of
life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the
prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble with your
pres-ence, Lord, your pres-ence, Lord, your pres-ence, Lord.
Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, Lord, and give us a fore-taste,
give us a fore-taste, give us a fore-taste of the
feast to come. A-men.

Offertory Prayer

- A.** 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.**

The Great Thanksgiving

- 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 our thanks and praise.

- P.** 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, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might: heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
slower san - na in the high - est. *a tempo* Bless - ed, bless-ed is the one
who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est

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

Invitation to Communion

- P.** The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.
- C.** Amen.

Lamb of God

slowly

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer-cy, have mer-cy on us.

Je - sus, bear-er of our sins, have mer-cy, have mercy on us.

Je - sus, re-deem-er of the world, give us your peace.

Communion Hymns

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

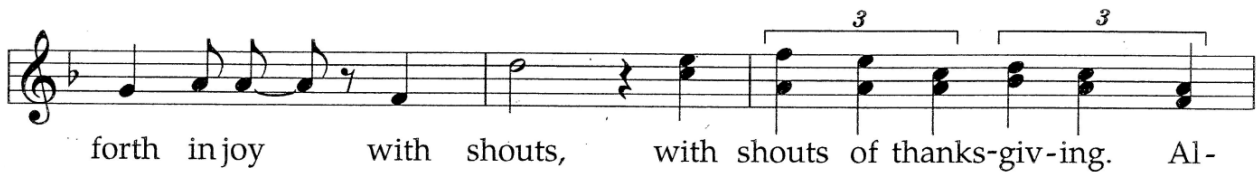
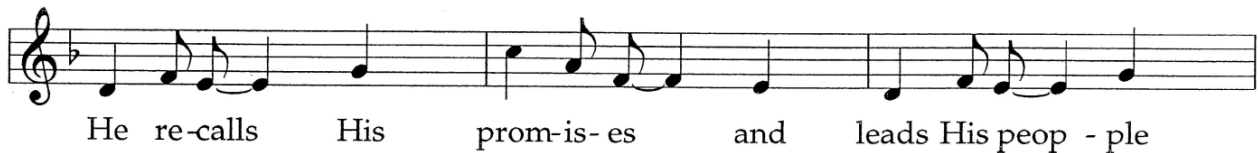
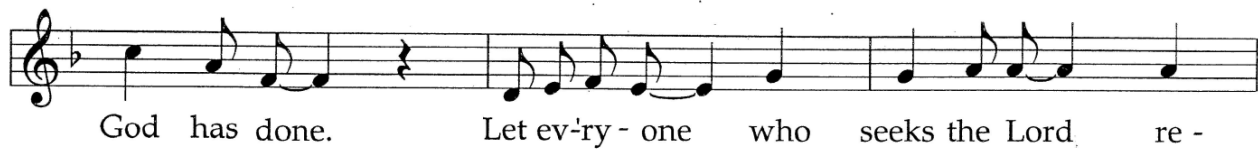
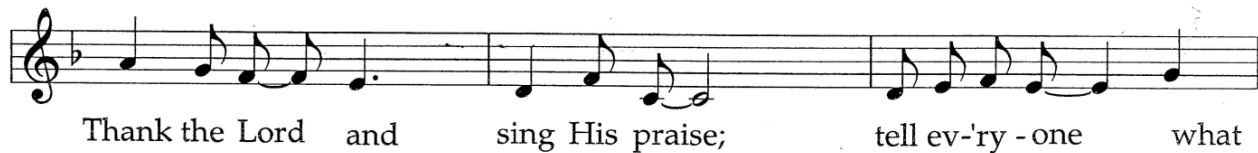
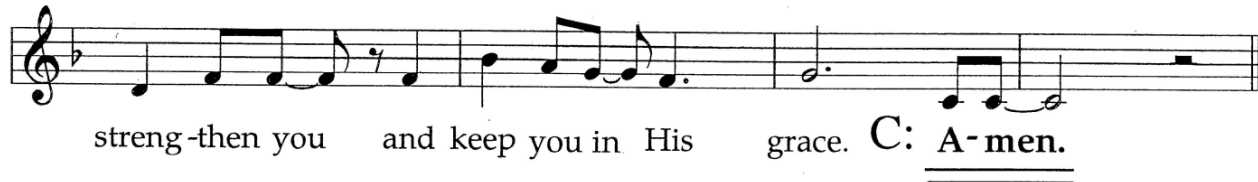
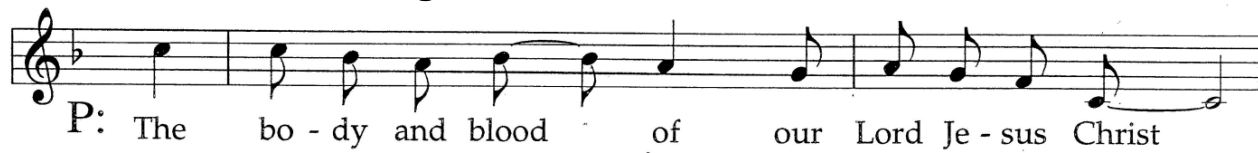
ELW 413

I Love to Tell the Story

ELW 661



Post Communion Blessing and Canticle



Al-le-lu-ia!

Post Communion Prayer

A. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C. Amen.



Temple Talk: Camp Agapé – Lucas Welsh

Benediction

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.

Sending Hymn

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

ELW 774

Dismissal

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

C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Dr. Brad Hunnicutt

Document Shred Day

May 11th - 9 am to Noon

**All available men AND women are
needed to assist!**



Servers for Sunday, May 5th

Assisting Minister Shannon Thomsen
Reader Gale Isaacs
Altar Guild Grace Barnes
Greeters / Counters .. Shannon Thomsen / Enid Weatherwax
Acolyte Antonio Smith
Guest Musician Dr. Brad Hunnicutt

Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway. Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.

Candles for the month of May are given by Clyde & Rena Bogle in honor of their children & grandchildren.



Flowers this week are provided by Ginny King in celebration of family Birthdays.

Honor a loved one by making a donation for the candles in the sanctuary for the month or the flowers that beautify the church each Sunday. Sign-up sheets are on the board in the hallway.