

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sunday, May 9, 2021
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day

Introduction to the day

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.

P: This is the day that the Lord has made.

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Mothers' Day Litany

P: All who gather here are sons or daughters.

All: We praise God for the women who gave us life.

P: For mothers brave, strong, compassionate, full of wisdom and grace,

All: We give God thanks and praise.

P: For mothers vulnerable, worried, frustrated, and hurried,

All: We pray for peace.

P: For relationships that are strained and no longer a source of joy,

All: We pray for healing.

P: For mothers who have died, that live no longer with us, but whose light shines on in our hearts and memories,

All: We pray for those that mourn, and give God thanks for life eternal.

P: For mothers who grieve, who have lost children born or unborn,

All: We weep with those with broken hearts.

P: For those who are struggling to raise children, who are tired and weary,
All: We pray that we may be their village, offering real help in hard times.

P: For those who are preparing emptier nests,
All: We both celebrate and mourn with you, and hope their wings are as strong as their roots are deep.

P: For stepmothers, navigating the pitfalls and joys of creating a new family,
All: We pray for wisdom and patience.

P: For Grandmothers who are doing the hard work of raising children again,
All: We pray the caregivers have those who care for them.

P: For those who are waiting and sometimes struggling with the biological process to bring new life, and for those who are waiting for adoptive process to be fulfilled.
All: We wait eagerly with you, and offer you our hand to hold in the trial.

P: For women who do not have children, but instead teach, lead, care for, and guide the children of others,
All: We give God thanks and praise.

P: For the mothers, sisters, daughters in our midst and around the world. For the women who, created in the image of God, give not just life, but abundant life. For women fighting, struggling, and sweating for the sake of others. For women caring, compassionate, and crying with the heart of Christ. For the caregivers, teachers, leaders, shepherds, healers. For Moms, in their wide variety and many forms,
All: We give God thanks and praise.

Permission to use this litany for public worship is granted. If it will be reprinted in worship bulletin, please attribute with link to <http://fatpastor.me>.

GATHERING SONG: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (ELW 631)

GREETING

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Faith of Our Mothers* Tune: “Faith of Our Fathers”

1. Faith of our mothers, those who lean on God in heav'n for all their needs, teaching that faith in Christ is seen in loving words, but most in deeds, O faithful God, we give Thee praise for mothers' faith through all our days.
2. Love of our mothers, those who see as sacred trust each child they bear; who glimpse in us what we could be, and show us by their love, they care. O loving God, we give Thee praise for Mothers' love through all our days.
3. God of our mothers, living still in spite of all That doubt can do, help us to want Thy perfect will as godly mothers taught us to. God of our mothers, Thee we praise for gifts of grace through all our days.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: 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. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

L: A reading from Acts.

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: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 98 read responsively

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

L: A reading from 1 John.

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: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

SERMON

Silence for meditation

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Jesus Loves Me!* (ELW 595)

CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

A: Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church and hymnwriter. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering (*especially*). Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with the dying (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives (*especially*). Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Our Offerings

This is our response to God's grace.

This ministry is funded by those who call St. John home and are excited about what God is doing through this ministry. If you are new to church, please don't feel any obligation to give. As much as we welcome your gifts for the Lord's work in this place, we care a whole lot more about you than money. We're just thrilled you're here.

CHOIR ANTHEM - *Sheltered in the Arms of God*

OFFERTORY

Offertory Hymn: Create in Me

(ELW 186)

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir-it with-in me.

Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me.

Re-store to me the joy of your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERING PRAYER

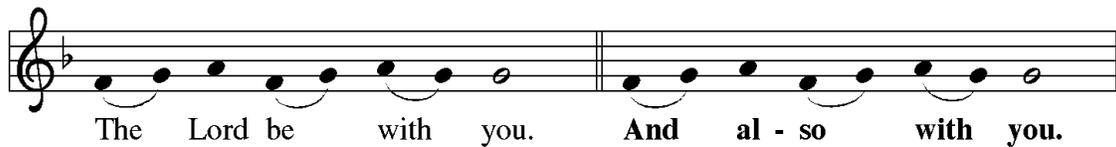
A: Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

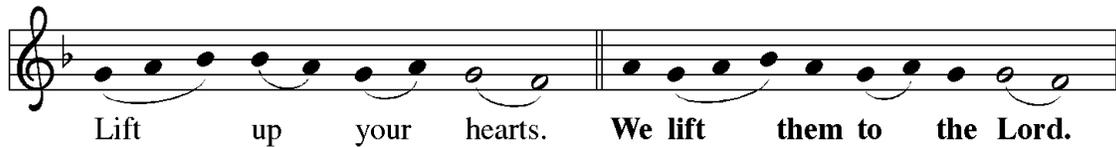
C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

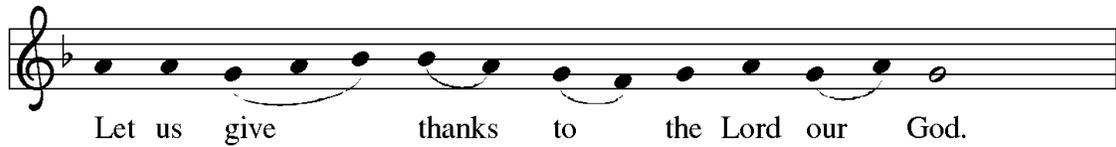
DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With [name/s and] your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

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

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord -----

Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.

{Repeat} Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord -----

Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word ---.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,

Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG *What Wondrous Love Is This* (ELW 666)

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude



The youth of St. John are honoring all the Women of St. John with a gift today for Mother's Day. Please stop in the tower outside the nave and choose your gift.

If you were unable to attend worship please contact the church office 570-398-1676 to make arrangements to get yours. We are so thankful to all the Women in our lives.

Announcements

Remember in prayer: Rowen Aldridge, Luke Antolick, Connie Barker, Bob Braucht, Dawn Hauser, Linda and Ralph Lehman, David Mitchell, Ginny Moffitt, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Kathy Neal, Rev. Donald and Ruth Nice, Jean Ann Snyder, John Truax, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal, Adam Shaffer, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Family Promise and the homeless in our counties. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; and for the New Love Center as it seeks to build a new food hub.

Special Thanks to this week's helpers: Lectors –Karen Aucker; Assisting Ministers -Bill Ely and Ken Dougherty; Acolyte –Madison Beasley; Head Usher - Shane Snyder; Teller-Shane Snyder and Christine Barner; Bulletin sponsor -; Bread Sponsor –.

Next week's helpers: Lector –Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers -Gary Johnson and Karen Aucker; Acolyte –Emilee Eisner; Head Usher -Shane Snyder; Teller-Shane Snyder and Christine Barner; Bulletin Sponsor -; Bread Sponsor –.

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our Mothers and Grandmothers and in honor of all women who have inspired us all to be the people we are today by Gary and Gina Johnson.

The Lutheran Church **Women's Prayer Chain** is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran. Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597

Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659

Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

Homemade Sandwiches

Please fill out an order form and return it in the offering basket or Church office by May 19. Cost is \$4.00 per sandwich there will be Ham/Cheese or Turkey/Cheese. The Women of St. John will be making the sandwiches on Saturday, May 22 beginning at 8:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed and encouraged to come and help. Please wear your mask and plastic gloves will be provided. All proceeds benefit Jersey Shore Summer Rec Program. You can pay and pick up sandwiches on Sunday, May 23 after worship.

Phil-it-Up Fundraiser

On Saturday, May 22, from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Stop by and enjoy some ice cream or dinner at Phil-It Up and 20% of your total will be donated to the Summer Recreation Program. Spread the Word the busier Phil-It-Up is during these hours the more we raise for Summer Rec. Thank you to Phil-It-Up and the Bowes Family for your help.

Giving Plus+

Download the “Giving Plus+” app from your app store for your cell phone.

Also available on our web site. Enter your email, make up a password, and walk through the choices to give the church an electronic donation by check or debit/credit card. People were asking if they could give electronically by debit/credit card.

Give+ Text:

Simply send a text message to 570-865-1101 with the amount you would like to contribute.

Within a few minutes, you’ll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email.

Youth Ministry

“Grab-a-Tab”

The youth of St. John would like to ask for donations of little tabs from beverage, soup and dessert cans. It doesn't matter what color the tab, just grab them and deliver them to the church office. This project will benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Danville. “Grab-a-Tab” program allows people of all ages to join in the effort of providing a “Home-away-from-Home” to children with cancer or other serious illnesses and their families.



Summer Camp

Sign up for Summer Camp at Camp Mt. Luther. Registration forms and Camp Brochures are available please see Molly. Our Christian Education Ministry encourages all our youth to attend camp and we will pay your registration fees. Church camp is a great place to grow in your faith.

Camp Mt. Luther Clean Up Day

Practice stewardship through service at camp at Camp Mount Luther at the Annual Spring Work Day on Saturday, May 22, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We need your help getting the camp grounds and facilities ready for summer. There will be plenty to do and everyone in the family can help! A light lunch will be served. We will be meeting at St. John on Saturday, May 22 at 8:00 a.m. and returning around 2:00 p.m. to go to Camp Mt. Luther to spring clean the cabin St. John sponsors. Anyone interested in joining us please contact Molly.

Confirmation

We will be celebrating Affirmation of Baptism with Emilee Eisner, OceAnn Green and Brayden Wehler on Sunday, May 23rd. Please join us downstairs following the 9:30 a.m. worship service for a tea in honor of the new confirmands.

Honoring the 2021 Graduates

We will be recognizing and celebrating the accomplishments of our 2021 Graduates from High School and College on Sunday, June 13 at the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Please join us downstairs for a tea following the service.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

7:00 p.m. NA meeting

Monday, May 10, 2021

11:00 a.m. Pick Hymns

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

10:00 a.m. Conference Clergy

7:00 p.m. A.A. and N. A. meetings

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

10:00 a.m. Prayer/Communion Trinity Episcopal Church

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time/Restless Oakes

Thursday, May 13, 2021

4:00 p.m. Pack Boxes

Friday, May 14, 2021

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Food Distribution

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Seventh Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

Catechism Review after worship

7:00 p.m. NA meeting

