



“¹²This 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.”

-John 15:12-13

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sixth Sunday of Easter– May 10, 2015

PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-0411

www.stjohnchurchmars.org

Phone: 724-625-1830 email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Rev. Marcella Esseck, GuestPastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION
Sixth Sunday of Easter– May 10, 2015

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: *Trumpet Tune on "Christ Is Alive" – J. Wayne Kerr*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

***GATHERING SONG #641: All Are Welcome**

***GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***THIS IS THE FEAST**

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

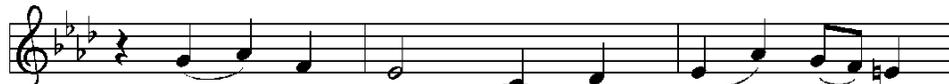


Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



Refrain

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



Refrain

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44–48 (page 130 in New Testament)

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, ⁴⁷Can 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98



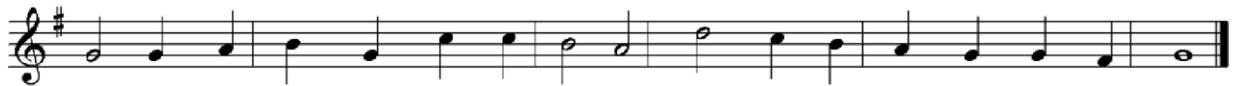
1. New songs of cel - e - bra - tion ren - der to God who has great won - ders done.
2. Joy - ful - ly, heart - i - ly re - sound - ing, let ev - 'ry in - stru - ment and voice
3. Rive - rs and seas and tor - rents roar - ing, hon - or the Lord with wild ac - claim;



Love sits en - throned in age - less splen - dor: come and a - dore the Migh - ty One.
peal out the praise of grace a - bound - ing, call - ing the whole world to re - joice.
moun - tains and stones look up a - dor - ing and find a voice to praise God's name.



God has made known the great sal - va - tion which all the saints with joy con - fess;
Trum - pets and or - gans set in mo - tion such sounds as make the heav - ens ring;
Right - cous, com - mand - ing, ev - er glo - rious, prais - es be sung that nev - er cease;



God has re - vealed to ev - 'ry na - tion truth and un - end - ing righ - teous - ness.
all things that live in earth and o - cean, sound forth the song, your prais - es bring.
just is our God, whose truth vic - to - rious es - tab - lish - es the world in peace.

Text: Psalm 98; para. Erik Routley

Music: Louis Bourgeois

Text © 1974 by Hope Publishing Company. Used by permission. CCLI #3219012

RENDEZ À DIEU

98 98 D

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6 (page 241 in New Testament)

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.

Everyone 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Those who love me will keep my word and my Fa-ther will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

Repeat alleluia

***GOSPEL READING: John 15:9–17** (page 109 in New Testament)

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.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹As 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.

¹²This 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #383: *Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

1. Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
2. Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.
3. Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.

Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.

In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.
Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.
Tell its grim, de - mon - ic chor - us: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"

Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.
Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
God the First and Last is with us, Sing Ho - san - na, ev - 'ry - one!

Text: Brian A. Wren
Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, adapt. Edward Hodges

HYMN TO JOY
87 87 D

***NICENE 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**

Confident that the resurrection of Christ has defeated sin and death, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For the church on earth, for those who proclaim the gospel, and for the ministry of congregations throughout the world, that the Holy Spirit guide all to love and service, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For seas and fields, plants and animals, for the well-being of the earth, and for those who advocate for the just use of God's gifts, that all creation continue to thrive, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the nations of the world, those who govern and those who serve, that leaders accomplish their duties faithfully and judge people with equity, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the sick, the lonely, those who mourn, those afflicted with malaria, and those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit especially Nan, Jim, John, Robert, Frieda, Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen, that God provide them with compassionate caregivers, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For diverse families in all places, for mothers celebrating this day, and for all parents and caregivers as they teach their children to know and love God, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For this congregation and our pastoral candidate, that your Spirit lead us in our discernment, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for all the saints who have died in Christ, that their faithfulness to the gospel inspire us every day, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Holy God, by the death and resurrection of your Son, you have granted new life, abundant renewal, and salvation. Hear our prayers for the sake of the one who has set us free, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN #595: *Jesus Loves Me!*

(Please stand for the final stanza.)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

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.

Amen.

***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

And also 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**

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:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

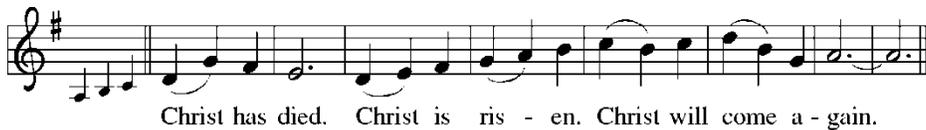
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

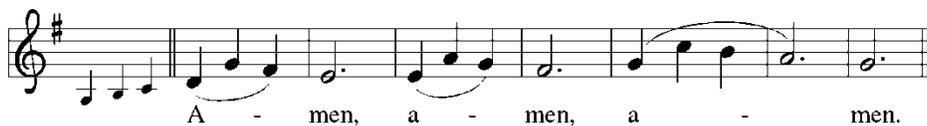
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



***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

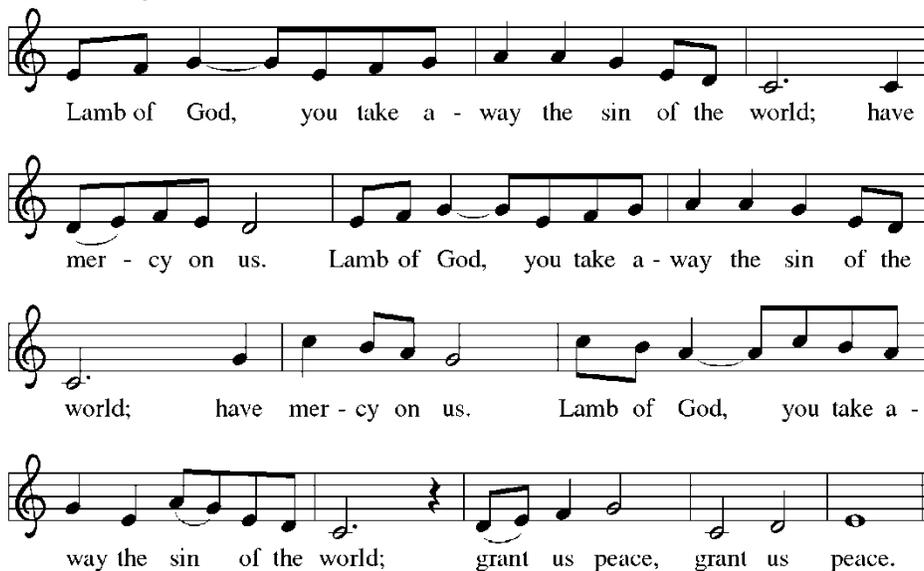
***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*



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, grant us peace.



COMMUNION HYMN: *Be Not Afraid*

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let

ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - jice and bear the name of Christ.

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

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.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing.

Amen.

May God, who through the waters of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever.

Amen.

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

Amen.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG #389: *Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE: *Christ Is Alive* – Charles Callahan

The flowers this week are given by Ruth Ann and John Tully in honor of all mothers.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Matt Claus

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher: Dave Knauff

Attendance Last Week: 65

Weekly Budgeted Need: \$ 2,755.44

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 52,353.40

YTD Actual Expense: \$ 48,857.23

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Sally Foster

Communion Assistant: Denise Hager

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher:

Attendance last year: 106

Last Week's Giving: \$4,034.00

Year to Date Receipts: \$ 52,098.35

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #39383.

Be Not Afraid ©1998 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc. agents. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net #A-724822.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.