



“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No 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 5, 2024

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available on the lower level by the elevator for children who need a break from the worship service. The service is livestreamed in this room. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the upper level by the elevator.*

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day and offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

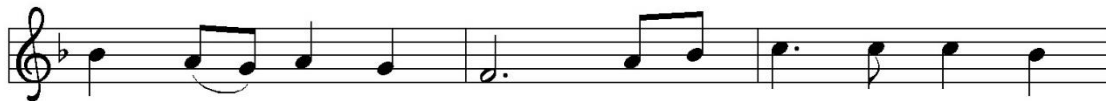
*GATHERING SONG *All Are Welcome* (ELW 641)



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

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, you created us in your image
and placed us in a well-watered garden.**

In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.

**When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.**

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.**

In your baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

We give you thanks, O God


for in these waters, you promise welcome, forgiveness, and life everlasting,
and you claim us as your beloved children.

**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.**

Alleluia!

*Kyrie


Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain




let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*THIS IS THE FEAST


Refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be




peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain




hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and




join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



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

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **God of seed-time and harvest, we humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the fruitfulness of the land and the seas; and may prosper all who labor, that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-2, 11-12, 29-31

A reading from Genesis

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. (...) ¹¹Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. (...) ²⁹God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104:1, 13-23, 1

Bless the Lord, O my soul O Lord my God, you are very great!

You are clothed with majesty and splendor. From your dwelling on high, you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your works.

**You make grass grow for the cattle, and plants to serve humankind;
that they may bring forth food from the earth, wine to gladden human hearts, oil to make
the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.**

The trees of the Lord are well supplied, the cedars of Lebanon that you planted, in which the birds build their nests, while the stork makes the fir trees its dwelling.

**The high hills belong to the mountain goats,
and the stony cliffs are a refuge for the badgers.**

You made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows the time of its setting.

You bring on darkness that it may be night, in which all the beasts of the forest prowl.

The lions roar for their prey seeking their food from God.

The sun rises, and they withdraw and lay themselves down in their dens.

People go forth to their work and to their labor until the evening.

Bless the Lord, O my soul O Lord my God, you are very great!

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-4

A reading from 1 John.

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.

The word of the Lord.

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

*GOSPEL READING: John 15:9-17

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

ROGATION SUNDAY BLESSING

Let us praise God, the creator of all things. God has given us the earth to cultivate, so that we might receive the bounty of its fruits. Just as the rain falls from heaven and waters the earth, bringing forth vegetation, so God's word will flourish and will not return empty.

Let us pray:

Abundant God, we give you thanks for the fruitful earth, which produces what is needed for life. We pray the seeds and seedlings, the tools of the field and garden, and the resources represented here bring life and sustenance to your creation this growing season. Bless those who work in the fields; grant favorable weather to all engaged in agriculture; and help us to ensure that all people share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY *Love's Wide Embrace* (Bret Hesla)

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



1, 4. We have been called. We have been called to cel - e - brate our
2. We have been held. We have been held in ten-der care as
3. We have been sent. We have been sent and glad-ly go to



home here in love's wide em - brace. To bear in mind, to bear in
we lay wound-ed by the road. Re-ceiv - ing grace. Re-ceiv - ing
stand where bor - ders must be crossed. To chal-lenge powers, to chal-lenge



mind all that we share; to join the song of love's good ways. Hal - le -
heal - ing at the hands of stran - gers with the face of God. Hal - le -
powers, to wel-come all, em - bra - cing love's full joys and costs. Hal - le -



lu - ya, we have been called to join the song of love's good ways.
lu - ya, we have been healed by strang-ers with the face of God.
lu - ya, we have been sent em - bra - cing love's full joys and costs.

***NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the 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**

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.*

God of seed time and harvest, 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,
hear our prayer.

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Nurture the fields under the care of farmers sowing seed and raising livestock to feed the world. Protect farmers vulnerable to climate changes. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Guide policy makers, planners in land use and food production, and community educators in nutrition, especially in communities where fresh food is out of reach or in short supply. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those who go to bed hungry at night. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. We pray especially for Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember in our hearts. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, especially the ministries that feed the hungry and food insecure, that we may embody your love for the world. Bless the donors, volunteers, and staff of soup kitchens, food banks, and aid agencies as they show your love through feeding ministries. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us . At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Living God, we carry in our hearts joys and concerns known only to you. We bring to you all that weighs us down and celebrate in you all that lifts us up. We offer the prayer we bring into this space on this day (*blue prayer cards are read*) and all the prayers we do not yet have the words to speak. 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.
Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN *Holy God, Holy and Glorious* (ELW 637)

Rise on verse 5



1	Ho	-	ly	God,	ho	-	ly	and	glo	-	ri	-	ous,
2	Ho	-	ly	God,	ho	-	ly	and	pow	-	er	-	ful,
3	Ho	-	ly	God,	ho	-	ly	and	beau	-	ti	-	ful,
4	Ho	-	ly	God,	ho	-	ly	and	on	-	ly	wise,	
5	Ho	-	ly	God,	ho	-	ly	and	liv	-	ing	one,	



glo	-	ry	most	sub	-	lime,	you	come	as	one	a	-	mong	us			
pow	-	er	with	-	out	peer,	you	bend	to	us	in	weak	-	ness;			
beau	-	ty	un	-	sur	-	passed,	you	are	de	-	spised,	re	-	ject	-	ed;
wis	-	dom	of	great	price,	you	choose	the	way	of	fol	-	ly:				
life	that	nev	-	er	ends,	you	show	your	love	by	dy	-	ing,				



in	-	to	hu	-	man	time,	and	we	be	-	hold	your	glo	-	ry.
emp	-	tied,	you	draw	near,	and	we	be	-	hold	your	pow	-	er.	
scorned,	you	hold	us	fast,	and	we	be	-	hold	your	beau	-	ty.		
God	the	cru	-	ci	-	fied,	and	we	be	-	hold	your	wis	-	dom.
dy	-	ing	for	your	friends,	and	we	be	-	hold	you	liv	-	ing.	

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, strengthened by the gifts of your meal of grace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

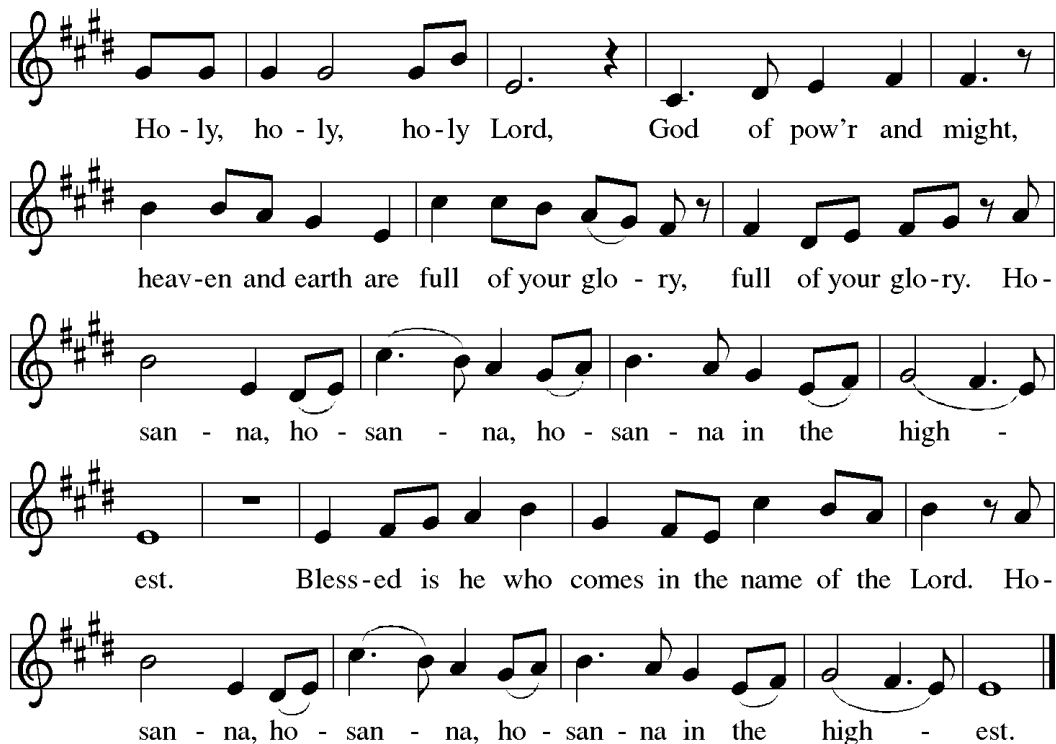
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:



The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

Alleluia!

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.

Alleluia!

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.

Alleluia!

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 mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

Alleluia! Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

**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 is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

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, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMN *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* (ELW 708)

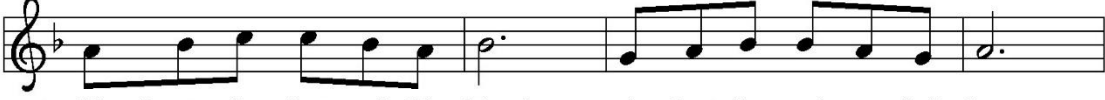
Refrain



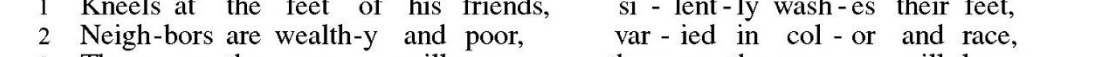
Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.



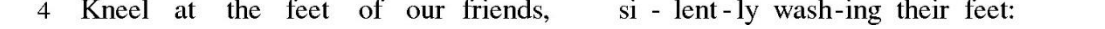
1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,



2 Neigh - bors are wealth - y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,




3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;

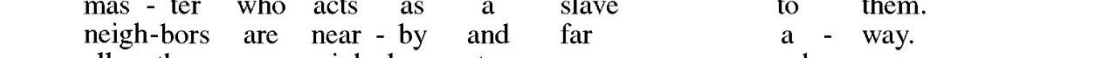


4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

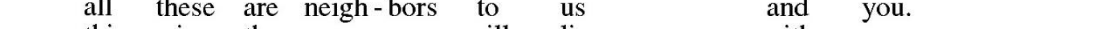
Refrain



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.



neigh - bors are near - by and far a - way.



all these are neigh - bors to us and you.



this is the way we will live with you.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

Amen

***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise* (ELW 207)**



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



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice 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:

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.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

May the God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

Alleluia! Amen.

***SENDING SONG *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* (ELW 383)**



- 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!

***DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar today are from Jeff and Deb Martin to the Glory of God.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Jonathan Ciora

Acolyte: Emma N

Ushers: Missy Kramer

Greeters:

Offering: Luca K & Eva K

Attendance on 4/21: 70 + 4 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

Stewardship of creation is an ongoing ministry in the church. The creation that God declared good is entrusted to the care of humankind. Exercising that care is one dimension of daily Christian discipleship. Rogation Days are a way for the church to honor God for the gift of creation and to pray for the land, the gift of labor, and the needs of all people.

In today's readings we celebrate God's hand in creation as we are called to love God through loving our neighbor. One way that we share care and love for our neighbors is to be sure that all are fed and clothed.

Today's Music

All Are Welcome. Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, Music: Marty Haugen. GIA Publications, Inc.

Love's Wide Embrace. Bret Hesla.

Holy God, Holy and Glorious. Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952, Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950. GIA Publications, Inc. /Augsburg Fortress.

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love. Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt., Music: Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP).

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise. Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927. Augsburg Fortress.

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936, Music: Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP) /Augsburg Fortress .

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Next Week's Readings

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 *Matthias added to the apostles*

Psalms 1 *The Lord knows the way of the righteous*

1 John 5:9-13 *Life in the Son of God*

John 17:6-19 *Christ's prayer for his disciples*