



Jesus Loves You

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, and there are activity bags and a cry room for small children just beside the front door.

Service of Preparation

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Use this time in quiet preparation for the Lord's Supper, perhaps with the help of page 129 in the front portion of the hymnary.

OPENING PRAYER

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in your presence to hear your holy word. Please open our hearts by your Holy Spirit. Through the preaching of your word teach us to repent of our sins, to believe in Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake.
Amen.

HYMN

How Blessed Is the Little Flock | #585

CONFESSION OF SIN

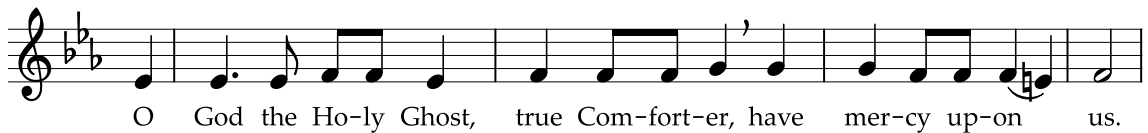
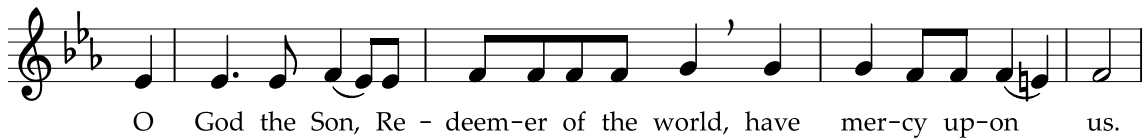
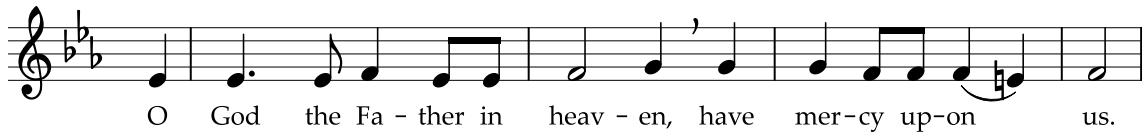
P: Let us confess our sins to God and pray: We poor sinners confess to you, O God, not only that we have been conceived and born in sin, but also that throughout life we have often and in many ways offended you, our Lord and Maker, with our thoughts, words, and actions. You could with perfect justice reject and condemn us for all eternity. Therefore we come before you with sorrow of heart, in dread and terror of your holy justice and of everlasting death. Our sins are a grievous foe, which we should hate in every way as long as we live.

P: O merciful God, in this hour you still remind us of your fatherly goodness. According to the promises in your word, we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy. We implore you, dear Father—on the basis of the work of Jesus Christ, your only-begotten Son, our Brother, who was handed over to death because of our sins and was raised to life again for our justification—forgive us all our sins through faith, which the Holy Spirit increases in our hearts to full assurance.

C: **We therefore pray you, O Lord, through your servant to declare to us the forgiveness of all our sins. We poor sinners are willing to forgive all who have offended against us. We earnestly desire to grow in true godliness. Help us, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

HYMN

Kyrie



ABSOLUTION

P: Upon this your confession, by the authority of God, I declare to you the gracious forgiveness of all of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May he who has begun this good work in you carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ. Peace be with you. Amen.

HYMN

Gloria

All glo - ry be to God on high, Who hath our race be -
friend-ed! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is
end - ed; God show - eth his good will to men, And
peace shall dwell on earth a-gain; O thank him for his good - ness!

Service of the Word

The Sixth Sunday of Easter describes the key characteristic in our relationships with each other — love. But what is love? Love finds a way to overcome any traditions, feelings, circumstances, ethnicities, or anything else that keep us separated from one another. That’s exactly what God’s love for us did—find a way to overcome the separation from him caused by our sin. That’s good news for people who feel unloved in this world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray that we love one another: Jesus, our loving friend and Savior, you have promised to give us your Spirit to be with us forever. Stay within our hearts, so that we love one another as you have loved us. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SERMON

John 15:9–17

Jesus has given us a new title—he calls us his friends. Friends share common interests; they have similar goals and similar likes and dislikes. Therefore, as Jesus’ friends, we are stirred to love one another in the same way he loved us.

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus | #385

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 4:7–21

You are the object of God's love. Even more, you are the channel of his love—a tool, an instrument through which he can show his love to other people too.

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

HISTORY READING

Acts 9:36–42

What a wonderful way for a Christian to be described: "She was always doing good and helping the poor."

³⁶ In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. ³⁷ About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. ³⁸ Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"

³⁹ Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

⁴⁰ Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. ⁴² This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN

My God, Accept My Heart This Day | #512

RITE OF CONFIRMATION (10:45)

ANTHEM (10:45)

Be Strong in the Lord

*Be strong in the Lord, and be of good courage;
Your defender is he who is always the same.
Mount up with wings as the eagle ascending;
Vict'ry is sure when you call on his name.*

*Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord;
And be of good courage for he is your guide.
Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord;
And rejoice for the vict'ry is yours.*

*Put on the armour the Lord has provided;
Place your defense in his unfailing care.
Trust him for he will be with you in battle,
Lighting your path to avoid ev'ry snare.*

*Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord;
And be of good courage for he is your guide.
Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord;
And rejoice for the vict'ry is yours.*

*Be strong in the Lord and be of good courage;
Your mighty commander will vanquish the foe.
Fear not the battle, for the vict'ry is always his;
He will protect you wherever you go.*

*Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord;
And be of good courage for he is your guide.
Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord;
And rejoice for the vict'ry is yours.
Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord;
And rejoice for the vict'ry is yours. Be strong!*

Service of Thanksgiving

OFFERING

The teaching and evangelism work of King of Grace is supported entirely by donation. You can support this work by giving a gift in the offering plate or at www.kingofgracelutheran.com/give.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

Service of the Sacrament

The members of King of Grace invite members of other ELS or WELS congregations to commune with us. We ask everyone else to please visit with our pastors before our next communion service.

P: Dear friends in Christ! In order that we may receive this holy sacrament worthily, it is good that we consider what we believe. From the words of Christ: "This is my body; this is my blood," we believe that Jesus Christ is himself present with his body and blood, as the words declare. From Christ's words "For the forgiveness of sins," we believe that Jesus Christ gives us his body and blood to actually deliver to us the forgiveness of all of our sins. And finally, we do as Christ commands when he says, "Take, eat; drink of it, all of you," and "Do this in remembrance of me."

We also unite in giving thanks to Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for so great a gift, and then love one another with a pure heart, and thus with the whole Christian church have comfort and joy in Christ our Lord. To this end, may God the Father grant us his grace; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

CONSECRATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND RECEPTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice | #378

THANKSGIVING HYMN

O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee | #325

PRAYER

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you, Lord God Almighty, that you have refreshed us with these your life-giving gifts. We ask you—out of your mercy—to strengthen us through them in faith toward you and in eager love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.



C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

CLOSING PRAYER

P: O Lord, we give you our heartfelt thanks that you have taught us what you want us to believe and to do. Help us, O God, by your Holy Spirit, on the basis of Jesus' work, to keep your word in pure hearts, so that by that means we may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

Meditate on how Psalm 89 relates to today's theme at home throughout this week.

Preacher..... Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad | **Liturgist**..... Pastor Bernt Tweit
Organist (Sunday)..... Karen Merseth | **Pianist (Monday)**..... Jenny Merseth
Choir Director..... Allen Labitzky



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Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Pastors Aaron Ferkenstad & Bernt Tweit | Principal Allen Labitzky

Confirmands

SAVANNAH CLAIR DAVIS

“Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

NATALIE CATHERINE JOSEPHITIS

“Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

ELENA GRACE MAGNUSON

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8–9).

NINA RAE MAROZICK

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you’” (Hebrews 13:5).

MARIA JOELLE MOLDSTAD

“The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1).

JULIET CLARICE ROEBER

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5–6).