

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
at Swan's Trail

Sunday, May 5, 2024

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

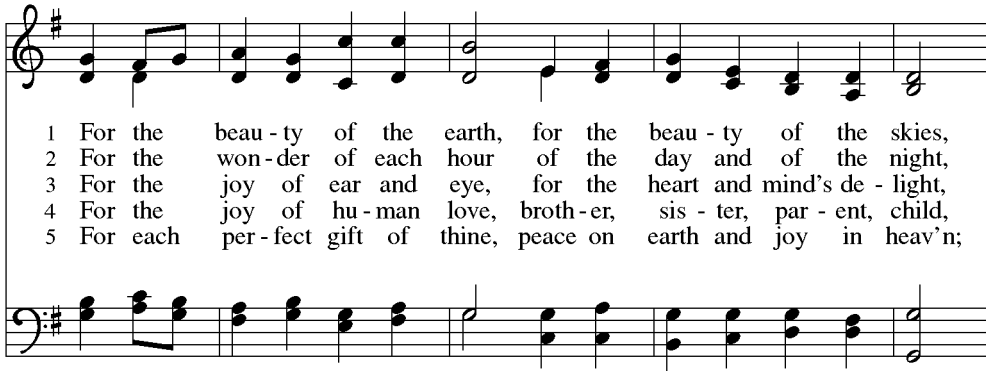


REVEREND JOSEPH PAXTON (PASTOR JP)  
MUSIC DIRECTOR BONNIE THORESON

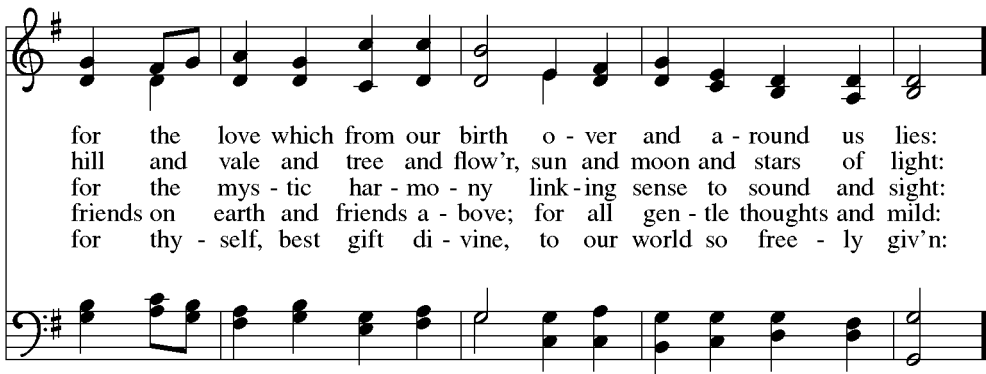
\*Please stand as you are able

# \*GATHERING HYMN

# “FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH”

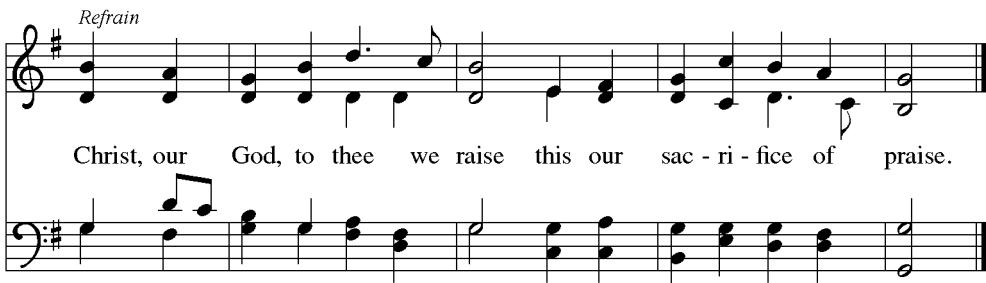


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

*Refrain*



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

## GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

P This is the day the Lord has made.

C **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

## SONG OF PRAISE

## “YOURS, LORD, IS THE GLORY”



- 1 Yours, Lord, is the glo - ry, and hon - or as well;
- 2 Yours, Lord, the do - min - ions, and pow - er as well;
- 3 To you I sur - ren - der my be - ing, my life;
- 4 Glo - ry in the high - est, and on earth as well.



yours, Lord, now and al - ways.  
yours, Lord, now and al - ways.  
all, Lord, I sur - ren - der. A - men, a - men.  
Glo - ry, al - le - lu - ia.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26563. 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. Hymns reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net Annual License A-707986.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray. (*Brief silence is kept*) 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.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### FIRST LESSON Acts 10:44-48

*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.*

A reading from Acts:

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The Word of God, the Word of Life.

**C      Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 98 (Read responsively)**

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

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.

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

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

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

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

## SECOND LESSON 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.*

A reading from 1 John:

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This 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 God, the Word of Life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH"

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

## **HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 15:9-17**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**C** **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*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:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I 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. <sup>16</sup>You 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. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

This is the gospel of our Lord. **C** **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**HOMILY**

**REVEREND JOSEPH PAXTON**



**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“A NEW COMMANDMENT”**

A new com-mand-ment I give un - to you, that you love one an - oth-er as

I have loved you, that you love one an - oth-er as I have loved you.

By this shall peo-ple know you are my dis - ci - ples, if

you have love one for an - oth - er; by this shall peo-ple know

you are my dis - ci - ples: if you have love one for an - oth - er.

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

## **NICENE CREED**

**P** God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**ALL** 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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**

*(Between the first and last prayer, congregation please share in reading the prayers)*

**P** 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.



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.**

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. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,  
**C     hear our prayer.**

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. God of grace,  
**C     hear our prayer.**

God of Peace, we pray for all those places in the world where there is war and violence. Protect all who are in harm's way and comfort those who mourn. Give wisdom to those in authority, that they put an end to conflict, and work towards peace. God of grace,  
**C     hear our prayer.**

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,  
**C     hear our prayer.**

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

**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.**

## SHARING OF PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of God's peace with one another in whatever way you feel most comfortable.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERING

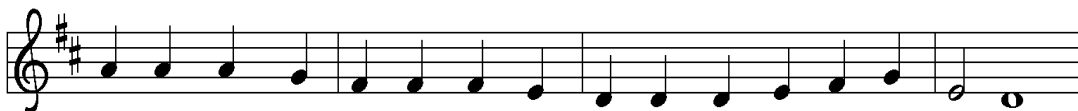
*Offering plates are available to accept your gifts at the front windows of the sanctuary.*

### \*OFFERTORY

### “IN THE SINGING”



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,  
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,  
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. (*Brief silence is kept*) 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.**

## CELEBRATING THE HOLY SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

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 God thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for you are the Lord of wonderful deeds who fills the earth with mercy, justice and love. You created the world and all that live there; and the seas, rivers and hills roar their praise. Through your people you revealed your commandments and your merciful love to all the world. You came among us in your beloved Son, Jesus, who makes us your friends by planting your word within us and leading us to abide in your love forever. He was crucified and buried, but through your victorious power he was born again from the deep waters of death, and his resurrection power will conquer the world. Now he is pouring out your Holy Spirit on all who believe, without distinction, and bringing everyone who loves you and follows your ways to new birth as your children. And so, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C **Holy, holy, holy, are you, God of power and might;**

**Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in your name.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

P 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 this bread, and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

P Remembering his command to love one another, his life and death, and his glorious resurrection and ascension, we pray for his coming again even as we cry: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

**C Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation. Empower us by that same Spirit, to love and forgive, that our lives may anticipate that day when you will make all things new. Amen! Come, Holy Spirit.

**C Amen! Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**C Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P The risen Christ is in our midst, so with Christ we pray.

**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.**

## **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.

## **DISTRIBUTION**

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

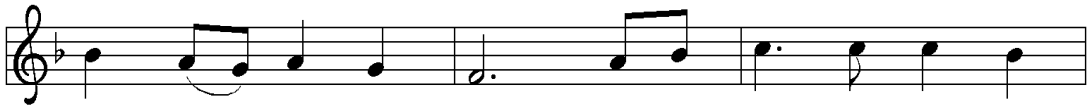
**“ALL ARE WELCOME”**



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.

## **\*GOD'S BLESSING**

**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.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Let us pray. (*Brief silence is kept*) 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.**

## **BENEDICTION**

**P** And now may the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor, and grant you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**



**SENDING HYMN**

**“JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE”**

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

## **DISMISSAL**

**P** Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**C** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**