

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 15th, 2022



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
Parish Assistant: Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
Business Manager: Karen McCumber business.manager@christlutheransc.ca
Secretary: Pat Kimpel secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Facebook: Lisa Gall www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email: Judy Mason chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

Prayer: O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will; therefore grant to Your people that they may love what You command and desire what you promise, that among the manifold changes of this age our hearts may ever be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR UKRAINE: A prayer for peace in the midst of conflict.
Heavenly Father, from the beginning you have been our life in the midst of death, and our peace where there is no peace. Look upon Your servants in Ukraine and Russia with Your grace and assure them that in the darkness of political unrest You remain the Light of the World.
Dearest Jesus, through the cross you defeated all that keeps us from the peace that passes understanding. In these tense days, we pray, be the Good Shepherd of Your flock in Eastern Europe and around the world and give all persons and countries aching from social and political turmoil Your Good News of sins forgiven, and life restored. Holy Spirit, You gather us into Your Church where we are made new by Your Holy Word. Keep us from civil strife, from the aggressive spilling of blood, and turn back all misfortunes that lead to hostility and death. Grant a speedy reconciliation to those on opposite sides of the conflict; soften the hearts of the unmerciful and bring them to the knowledge of You. Triune God, grant peace in our world, especially in Ukraine and Russia, and in Your whole Church on earth, that with one heart and mind we may sing Your praises, and have peace at the last, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE TODAY: Psalm 148: 13 <https://youtu.be/3UvkqLEH0vY>

Children’s Message: Please be aware that during recorded services the children will be heard but no actual video will be taken as the camera will be focused on a still shot.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Eph. 4: 17-24 Wed.: 1John 4: 7-14 Friday: 11 Cor. 5: 16-21
Tuesday: Eph. 4: 25-32 Thurs: Acts 17: 22-23 Saturday: Rom. 1: 18-25

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE: We know each of us should all be working to memorize God's Word! You are invited to listen to our Children's Messages where we are focusing on understanding and memorizing a Psalm verse each week. This week is Psalm 148:13.

Organist: 9 a.m. – The Band 11 a.m. – Louise Gondosch
Readers: 9 a.m. – Daniel Figeroua 11 a.m. – Gloria Meyer
Greeters: 9 a.m. – Ralph & Mary Muller 11 a.m. –

WORSHIP NOTE:

- A recording of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKTI9c_OIBbMqGwLw
- Archived videos of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to christlutheransc.ca – “Worship” page.

Any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (<http://christlutheransc.ca/>), contact Judy Slingerland (chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca) or Pastor Todd (pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com). or phone the church office (905-685-8294). May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

MARY MARTHA: Please join us for our **Tuesday, May 17th meeting at 7 p.m.!** We will enjoy a very informative Bible Study!

VOTER’S MEETING: **Sunday, May 29th at 2:00 p.m.** Please plan to attend!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS—coming soon! Rev. Dr. John Nunes, former president of Concordia College, Bronxville NY, originally from Hamilton, ON [who preached for Pastor Todd's installation] will be coming to Christ Lutheran on **MAY 24! From 7-9 PM** he is giving a "book talk" work shop style in the sanctuary on his 2020 paperback, "**MEANT FOR MORE**". Pastor Todd has some copies to share with any who would like to read ahead before he arrives. More information yet to come. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

LUTHERAN CHURCH - CANADA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING:

Lutheran Young people from across Canada will be gathering together this **July 15-19, 2022 in Winnipeg, Manitoba**. The theme for the gathering is "**IN NOT OF**" from Philippians 3:20 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ." Information packages are available from Louise. Save the date, check out the website at <http://www.lccnyg.ca>, start following the Facebook and Instagram pages and check out this fun announcement from Pastor Glenn Worcester <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68gXVYofMYY>

LWML- CONVENTION REGISTRATION: The convention registration form is in our League Tidings and is also included in the special newsletter on page 6. Zone Presidents will also have copies which they can forward, if you require a copy. Please ensure that you **register on or before May 23rd, 2022**. Our convention committee needs to provide the caterer with the number of meals required. Also, as a note, since our lunches are going to be scrumptious box lunches, you ladies may want to bring a lawn chair so that you are able to take your lunch outside and enjoy the sunshine. Tables will be available in the basement of the church for those who wish to eat indoors.

Last Sunday Attendance: *May 8th, 2022* **Attn: 9 A.M. – 74; 11 A.M. – 50; Total: 124**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or - (--)</u>
Current:	283,291.00	5,554.73	3,666.00	78,858.63	(24,651.54)
LCC Missions	20,000.00	392.16	650.00	5,750.50	(1,557.19)
Property Improvement:			284.00	2,629.50	

THE NEW DIGITAL OUTDOOR CHURCH SIGN is given to the glory of God for a lifetime of blessings from our departed sister in Christ, Erna McBride, along with her son, David McBride, who offered both the passion and the financial generosity to achieve this. May this sign be a constant witness to the tireless mission & ministry of Christ Lutheran Church.

EXTRA HANDS & BODIES NEEDED: we continually need extra people assisting in our services. With offering both 9 am and 11 am services, we are finding ourselves short staffed of volunteers. Particularly for the late service, we need your help in the following areas:

- 1) Greeting of Worshippers at entrance and Covid Protocol Preparation of our PowerPoint worship services [editing the Google Doc Slides, can be done at home]
- 2) Operation of the PowerPoint during church services [training with written instruction will be provided]
- 3) Taking a turn preparing the Altar for Communion and seasonal colour cloth changes [Altar Guild]
- 4) Ushering people to pew seats and directing people to line up for communion
- 5) Lighting and extinguishing of altar candles

Recording services using newly installed equipment [training with written instructions will be provided] We pray that you consider helping. We need participation from all ages. Should you wish more information about what is involved, please speak to Judy Slingerland, Tom Kuhl or Pastor Todd.

GREETERS: - What a wonderful way to get to know everyone in the congregation and at the same time enjoy a little fellowship! Greet members at the door, encourage hand sanitizing and provide them with a copy of the Bulletin and Worship Folder. It's as easy as that! A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board and everyone is encouraged to sign up.

Notice to Church Extension Fund Depositors: The Church Extension Fund (CEF) is winding down its operations and as of now all depositors with current addresses have received their deposited funds plus the interest owing. However, we have a number of unclaimed savings accounts and savings certificates as we do not have current contact information for these. If you or someone you know thinks they may have a CEF account which has not been redeemed, please contact Darryll Holland at: 800-465-8179 ext4 or dholland@lcceast.ca. Also if you are in possession of God Bank Savings Stamps or Tracky Stamps, these too can be redeemed by returning the books or stamps to: Lutheran East District, 275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3.



THE MARY MARTHA is collecting items for Medical Missions that they will take to the Ingathering at the LWML District Convention this coming June, we invite everyone to help by adding items to the container sitting on the Narthex Table. Below is a list of supplies which Medical Missions use on an ongoing basis. Please ensure that you check expire dates to ensure that the dates are well into the future:

Monetary Gifts made payable to “Christ Lutheran Church” and placed in an envelope designated for “LWML Ontario District Medical Missions”. Everything appreciated with Thanks

- Antibiotic Ointment (Polysporin, etc.)
- Vicks VapoRub
- Tylenol, Advil, Acetaminophen for Adults and Children
- Disposable Gloves
- Vitamins for Adults and Children
- Zinc Oxide/Diaper Rash Cream
- Antihistamines – Benadryl
- Q-Tips
- Voltarin (Arthritic Ointment)
- Band Aids/Adhesive Tape
- ACE Elastic Bandages

PRAISE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Adapted from the Lutheran Church of Australia Worship Materials

May 15, 2022 + 9 AM worship

GOD WELCOMES US

FIRST SONG:

“The Servant Song”

**Will you let me be your servant, Let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I might have the grace to, Let you be my servant too**

**Verse 2 We are pilgrims on a journey; We are brothers on the road
We are here to help each other ; Walk the mile and bear the load**

**Verse 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you In the night time of your fear
I will hold my hand out to you, Speak the peace you long to hear**

**Verse 4 I will weep when you are weeping When you laugh I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow Till we've seen this journey through**

**Verse 6 Brother sister let me serve you Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I may have the grace to Let you be my servant too**

CCLI Song # 72673 Richard Gillard © Words: 1977 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) -- Music: 1977 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com -- CCLI License # 775293

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

Amen.

PSALM 138

I give you thanks, O Lord, with all my heart;

I will sing your praises before the gods.

I bow before your holy Temple as I worship.

I praise your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness;

for your promises are backed by all the honor of your name.

As soon as I pray, you answer me;

you encourage me by giving me strength.

Though the Lord is great, he cares for the humble,

but he keeps his distance from the proud.

Though I am surrounded by troubles,

you will protect me from the anger of my enemies.

You reach out your hand, and the power of your right hand saves me.

The Lord will work out his plans for my life—

for your faithful love, O Lord, endures forever.

Don't abandon me, for you made me.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with all of His creation. As our sinful rebellion separates us from God and our neighbors, let us together as one people confess our sins:

O gracious and merciful God –

we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We pray God to show mercy, forgive our sins and bring us to life eternal. Amen.

Gracious God, through water and the Spirit you have made us your own. You promise restoration and renewal. You give us wisdom and understanding, council, might and holy awe in Your presence. So by the word of Christ and in His place, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAISE SONG: *"How Great Is Our God"*

**The splendor of the King; clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide; And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice**

Chorus **How great is our God! Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great --how great is our God**

Verse 2 **And age to age He stands--and time is in His hands
Beginning and the End; beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb -- The Lion and the Lamb**

Bridge **Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God**

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We pray: O God, form the minds of Your faithful people into a single will. Help us love what You teach us and desire what You promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

The First Reading: *Acts of the Apostles 11:1-18*

Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." But Peter began and explained it to them in order: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. Looking at it

closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading: *St. John's Revelation 21: 1-7*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL SONG VERSE

"This is My Commandment"

This is my commandment that you love one another, that your joy, may be full.

This is my commandment that you love one another, that your joy, may be full.

That your joy, may be full; that your joy, may be full!

This is my commandment that you love one another, that your joy, may be full.

Holy Gospel: *St. John 13: 31-35*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 13th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

When [Judas Iscariot] had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

This is the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to You, O Christ!

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

GOSPEL SONG:

"Praise Is Rising"

Praise is rising
Eyes are turning to You
We turn to You
Hope is stirring
Hearts are yearning for You
We long for You

Pre-Chorus

'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence
All our fears are washed away
(Washed away)

Chorus:

Hosanna hosanna
You are the God who saves us

Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Verse 2

Hear the sound of
Hearts returning to You
We turn to You
In Your Kingdom
Broken lives are made new
You make us new

Ending:

Hosanna hosanna

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MESSAGE

GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS

SONG RESPONSE TO THE WORD: *"Make Me A Servant"*

**Make me a servant humble and meek
Lord let me lift up those who are weak
And may the prayer of my heart always be
Make me a servant make me a servant
Make me a servant today**

CCLI Song # 33131 --Kelly Willard ; © 1982 CCCM Music (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)
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PRAYERS

Dear Gracious Father, thank You for making your love for the world known through the sacrifice of our Lord on the cross, and by his glorious resurrection from the dead. Give your people the will and strength to love each other as Christ has loved us, burying sin by mercy and forgiveness, and bringing to life righteousness and peace by faith and hope. Move our congregation to express such love in our life together.

God of power and might: **come and make all things new.**

Guide the church throughout the world in all truth and in loving service. Give courage and firm faith to those who are persecuted or suffer violence because they follow Christ. And dear Father, make your love known to others through the love and life of your people.

God of power and might: **come and make all things new.**

Have mercy on the world and purify what is wrong and unclean. Forgive those caught up in all manner of selfish living or who abuse power, and direct all into right paths. Help all families live in peace and work together that many more generations may believe in Your Son and have life in His name.

God of power and might: **come and make all things new.**

Bring reconciliation and harmony between all races, cultures and nations. Curb all crime and bring to justice those who are wrong. Guide all in authority to serve our country well, and bring all people to honour and respect those you have placed over us. Prosper all rightful work, eradicate hunger and disease, and let the earth be kind to us in her provision of sun and rain.

God of power and might: **come and make all things new.**

Lord, you share our tears and wipe them away. Let all who need comfort and healing receive them from you. Give strong faith and patient hope to all who are not well, [*particularly (insert names)*]. Support them in their need and give strength to those who help them.

God of power and might: **come and make all things new.**

Father in heaven, as you raised Jesus Christ to be the first fruits of the resurrection, raise up all the world to be a new creation in him, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all glory and honour, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE 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.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord God, we thank you that you have taught us what you would have us believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep your Word in pure hearts, that we may be strengthened in faith, perfected in good works, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

BLESSING:

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

And so with you.

May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit, be with you always.

Amen.

CLOSING SONG:

"Brothers & Sisters In Christ"

Sing Allelulia! Amen!

Let your prayers and your praises ascend.

Lift up your voices and sing to our Lord God, our Savior, our King!

Here brought together by grace, we are gathered as friends in this place.

Chorus:

***And assembled as one, in the name of the Son,
lifting hearts, lifting hands, celebrating as friends,
and proclaiming the Lord, all our praises afford.***

We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Man walked alone and in need,
without faith, hope or promise or creed;
wandering aimlessly lost unaware of the staggering cost;
that God in his mercy would save all his people from death and the grave.

Chorus:

*And assembled as one, in the name of the Son,
lifting hearts, lifting hands, celebrating as friends,
and proclaiming the Lord, all our praises afford.
We are brothers and sisters in Christ.*

Lord, teach us how to proclaim
all your goodness, your love and your name!
Lord, teach us how to forgive, and in love, teach us Lord, how to live.
Raising our voices in song, help us tell all the world we belong.

Chorus:

*And assembled as one, in the name of the Son,
lifting hearts, lifting hands, celebrating as friends,
and proclaiming the Lord, all our praises afford.
We are brothers and sisters in Christ.*

Words & Music by TERRY DITTMER Arr. by Craig Alea <http://orlc.worthyofpraise.org/songs/brothersnsistersinchriss>

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Bread of Life Creative Lutheran Worship Setting

May 15, 2022 + 11 AM Worship

OPENING HYMN: **"Christ the Lord Is Ris'n Today"**

www.hymnary.org



1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" saints on earth and an - gels say.
2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high; sing, O heav'ns, and earth, re - ply.
Lo, our sun's e - clipse is o'er; lo, he sets in blood no more.

5 Soar we now where Christ has led, 6 Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
foll'wing our exalted head. Praise to you by both be giv'n!
Made like him, like him we rise; God has now fulfilled his Word;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies! praise the resurrected Lord!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, abr., alt.
Tune: Pierre de Corbeille, d. 1221; adapt. Richard Redhead, 1820–1901;
setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, alt.
Text and music: public domain

ORIENTIS PARTIBUS
77 77

Lk 24:14-7; 1 Pe 1:18-21; Ac 2:124; 1 Co 15:55; Php 3:21

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

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

Amen.

O God our Father, since You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son, we confess our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, our reluctance to bear the cross:

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Forgive our poverty of worship, our neglect of fellowship and the Sacraments of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibility in Your service, our imperfect stewardship of Your gifts: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Forgive us that so little of Your love has reached others through us, that we have been thoughtless in our judgements, hasty in condemnation, grudging in reconciling, unwilling to help all in need: **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Have mercy on us, O God:

According to Your never-ending love, blot out our sins, wash us through and through from sinful stains, creating clean hearts in us, with new and right spirits. Amen.

With mercy and compassion, our Father in Heaven saves you. The Light of the promised Holy Spirit guides your feet into the way of peace. And so in the place of Jesus Christ and by His Holy Command, I forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SPOKEN KYRIE: **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

(Tune: Hymn to Joy)



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.

2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:

Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;

Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.

Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.

For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you:

And also with you.

We pray: O God, form the minds of Your faithful people into a single will. Help us love what You teach us and desire what You promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE SCRIPTURES

The First Reading: *Acts of the Apostles 11:1-18*

Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." But Peter began and explained it to them in order: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made

clean, do not call common.' This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life." This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading: *St. John's Revelation 21: 1-7*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

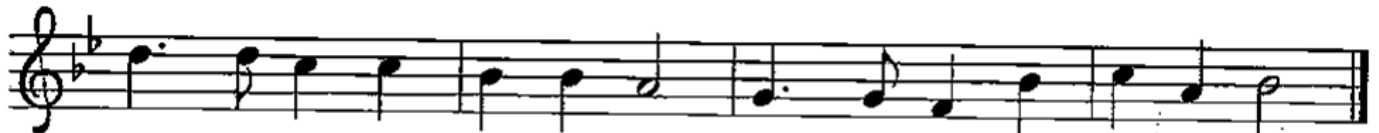
Tune: "Open Now Thy Gates"



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Holy Gospel: St. John 13: 31-35

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 13th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

When [Judas Iscariot] had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." This is the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to You, O Christ!

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

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

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the + life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON HYMN:

"Alleluia! Jesus Lives!"

www. Hymnary.orgLBW

- 1 Alleluia! Jesus lives!
He is now the Living One;
from the gloomy house of death
forth the Conqueror has gone,
bright forerunner to the skies
of his people, yet to rise.**
- 2 Jesus lives! Let all rejoice;
praise him, ransomed ones of earth.
Praise him in a nobler song,**

- cherubim of heav'nly birth.
Praise the Victor-King, whose sway
sin and death and hell obey.**
- 4 Jesus lives! And thus, my soul,
life is yours eternally;
joined to him, your living head,
where he is, you too shall be;
you with him at God's right hand
victor over death shall stand.**

Carl Garve, 1763-1841; Jane Borkwith, 1813-97; J. Lindeman FRED TIL BOD

MESSAGE

ORDER OF BLESSING:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, today we seek God's Blessing as we gather in humble thankfulness to bless this outdoor digital church sign to the glory of God.

PSALM 145: 1-7

- I will exalt you, my God and King,
and praise your name forever and ever.
- ² I will praise you every day;
yes, I will praise you forever.
- ³ Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise!
No one can measure his greatness.
- ⁴ Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts;
let them proclaim your power.
- ⁵ I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor

and your wonderful miracles.

⁶Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue;

I will proclaim your greatness.

⁷Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness;

they will sing with joy about your righteousness.

Hear us now, O God,

For Your mercy is great—

We pray -- Almighty God, in Holy Scripture you say that you desire us to share the Good News of your love in word and in deed with all whom you have made. We thank you for the opportunity provided us by this new digital church sign to open hearts and minds to the news of your grace, offering Your invitation to relationship with You and we, the Body of Christ on earth. We pray that you will use this church sign to draw the people of our community to Him who is the Light of the world, our Risen Lord Jesus Christ--

I bless and dedicate this sign to this most high purpose of visible Gospel centred witness, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May all people of Christ Lutheran's family be moved by the Lord Himself to live in such a way that the welcome others see on this sign will always be matched by the welcome people receive among us.

Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Dear Gracious Father, thank you for making your love for the world known through the sacrifice of our Lord on the cross, and by his glorious resurrection from the dead. Give your people the will and strength to love each other as Christ has loved us, burying sin by mercy and forgiveness, and bringing to life righteousness and peace by faith and hope. Move our congregation to express such love in our life together.

God of power and might: **come and make all things new.**

Guide the church throughout the world in all truth and in loving service. Give courage and firm faith to those who are persecuted or suffer violence because they follow Christ. And dear Father, make your love known to others through the love and life of your people.

God of power and might: **come and make all things new.**

Have mercy on the world and purify what is wrong and unclean. Forgive those caught up in all manner of selfish living or who abuse power, and direct all into right paths. Help all families live in peace and work together that many more generations may believe in Your Son and have life in His name.

God of power and might: **come and make all things new.**

Bring reconciliation and harmony between all races, cultures and nations. Curb all crime and bring to justice those who are wrong. Guide all in authority to serve our country well, and bring all people to honour and respect those you have placed over us. Prosper all rightful work, eradicate hunger and disease, and let the earth be kind to us in her provision of sun and rain.

God of power and might: **come and make all things new.**

Lord, you share our tears and wipe them away. Let all who need comfort and healing receive them from you. Give strong faith and patient hope to all who are not well, [*particularly (insert names)*]. Support them in their need and give strength to those who help them.

God of power and might: **come and make all things new.**

Father in heaven, as you raised Jesus Christ to be the firstfruits of the resurrection, raise up all the world to be a new creation in him, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all glory and honour, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to 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

BLESSING & BENEDICTION:

Let us praise the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour and + give you peace.

Amen

SENDING HYMN:

"When All Your Mercies, O My God!"



1 When all your mer - cies, O my God, My wak - ing soul sur - veys,
2 Ten thou - sand thou - sand pre - cious gifts My dai - ly thanks em - ploy;
3 Through ev - 'ry pass - ing phase of life Your good - ness I'll pur - sue,
4 Through all e - ter - ni - ty, to you A joy - ful song I'll raise;



Trans - port - ed with the view, I'm lost In won - der, love, and praise.
Nor is the least a cheer - ful heart That tastes those gifts with joy.
And af - ter death, in dis - tant worlds, The glo - rious theme re - new.
But, oh, e - ter - ni - ty's too short To ut - ter all your praise!

Text: Joseph Addison, 1672-1719
Tune: attr. George Kirbye, c. 1560-1634

WINCHESTER OLD
CM

REV. TODD HOFFFS

EASTER 5 (series C)

Scripture: St. John 13: 31-35

Title: "What's Love Got Ta Do With It?"

May 15, 2022

Being our brother's keeper has always been a tough sell. We want to be independent, self-sufficient and wish others' attain the same self-sufficiency. Even love with the best motives can grow inward, be very me-centered.

When I worked as a teen in a grocery store I recall some manager's chit chatting about high taxes, people on welfare, and how certain folks aren't very deserving. An elderly WW 2 vet, whom I knew well from his weekly shopping habits, who fought all 4 years in the army, even lived through D-DAY, pulled his shopping cart up to the grumbling cadre of managers and softly, quietly said: "well, ev'ryone's gotta eat ya know." He then shuffled over to me and told me that he didn't fight all those years so people at home would suffer and go without....

Love covers a multitude of sins. Love does no harm to our neighbour. That's Apostle Paul's word. Centuries before God told Israel to love their LORD GOD and to love their neighbour as themselves, even the stranger at their gate.

Love is an essential part of your life. It's can make or break a relationship. It either causes anxiety or brings a sense of peace. It's what makes life miserable or worth living.

To the individual, love has a lot to do with the self: Am I lovable enough? Do I love someone enough? Or on the flip side: I don't care if someone loves me or not. I don't care if I love this person enough or not. But Jesus takes this self centered way of thinking and turns it around, showing us how love doesn't start or end with you (or me).

Love always begins with Jesus.

John's Gospel captures the MOMENT as Jesus' life on earth reaches the final climactic end. He's with His disciples in Jerusalem celebrating the Passover. He looks at Judas and says, "What you're about to do, do quickly." Judas, the money holder, the passionate zealot, misled, wishing violence on the oppressive Romans, lets fear run his life. He leaves. Goes quickly into the night for his 30 pieces of silver payment from the religious leaders for Jesus' capture. Judas' act of selfishness unravels the divinely planned events surrounding what Jesus calls his hour of glory.

"Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him." There's so much about God that is glorious. His creative acts at the beginning of time. Hanging the stars in the sky, carving out the mountains and valleys, rolling out the oceans and breathing life into humanity. Jesus performed some pretty glorious acts like raising the dead. Feeding hungry crowds with very little. But here, after one of his own disciples leaves to betray him, Jesus says that THIS MOMENT is glorious. And by glorious, Jesus means that all Heaven, earth, and God's very Kingdom is praised because of this.

Seeing impending suffering, pain, rejection, death as glorious is so foreign to the disciples' thinking, even strange to our way of viewing things. So Jesus re-enforces this glory with some specifics: "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me..[but] where I'm going, you cannot come."

Jesus calls His disciples children with affection. Bringing to mind the beginning of John's Gospel that all who "receive" and "trust" Jesus are given "power to become children of God" (1:12). This power comes from God, and not from ancestry or family affiliations. Ancestry and

heritage and community identity are not what makes one a "child of God." Christ makes us God's children. Because...

He's going to the cross. He'll be abused by His own people. God will turn His back on Him in His most painful, horrific hour. He will die. And out of all the things He could've chosen: his birth with angels singing, His miracles, His healing. He chooses His death on a cross as glorious.

We humans don't understand glory the way God does. Only Christ Jesus could carry God's ancient plan from beginning to end to save us. Love moved Him lay down and die to win back all of creation from ruinous sin, death and the devil, winning that horrible war by shedding blood, THAT IS God's Glory. Dying to bring life is glory. Ripping the world from Satan's evil clutches IS glory. Christ Who is life, Whose death brings us life, IS true GLORY. The Truest of love.

We do have an advantage over the disciples in that we know what happens after the cross. New life. Easter life. After Jesus' suffering and death He rises again. Death and life are a package deal. This isn't just about Jesus taking a victory lap and bragging about what's going to happen. He's not just fulfilling an obligation. Jesus' death is His reason for coming to earth in the 1st place. Dying to win us life is His purpose and God's glory. And as His children none of us can do what HE did, we follow in His way as the sinner in us daily dies and what rises anew is a forgiven child of God.

As God's children, we're open to receive Christ with faith and trust. Being bathed into God's Kingdom by Water and the Word makes one a child of God.

And by being washed and restored and made open to this, Jesus gives a NEW COMMANDMENT.

Not like a military order, or a demand, or another rule to follow. Its like a link in an iron— links joined together – where they can't work unless bonded as a strong formidable chain. A new way to live which is biding and certain. That's how this NEW COMMAND comes to us.

Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. The love Jesus' disciples have is like His. In fact, it IS His love in them. His love makes it possible to LOVE. The love that drove Jesus to the cross. A love which begins and ends in Jesus.

So new and yet so ancient. THE OT Scriptures consistently called God's people to love. What's new in this command is how we must LOVE as Christ HAS loved us.

Jesus showed how to love by washing His disciples' feet. An example of how they will take care of people from now on. Wash and love. Love each other. Wash each other. Baptize and show love. Easy ministry. This is how the world will see and know that Christ is present among us...not in our good behaviour, not in having all the right answers, not in being part on an in-crowd....but in loving. Putting ourselves last and placing others and their needs 1st.

Its hard living up to Jesus' command for love, isn't it? And maybe we're afraid that we can never be loved because we're still so self absorbed and unlovable. Deep down, maybe we don't even want to?!

This is part of Jesus' glory. Gave up all His heavenly joy to be one of us. And he lived on this earth which can be a pretty unloving place and he shared His presence with everyone he came across -- for you, for every person of the world. Dying and rising started this mission for the disciples to continue, right down to us in the church today.

Its easy today being cynical, hopeless, in denial of things. The people with power hold on to it, in part, by training you to say,

“Nothing will ever change, so why bother?” But even more is Jesus’ new command ever new and important, to love as He loves.

And this love isn’t about how you feel. It doesn’t give to get. It’s not about the satisfaction you might receive from loving someone else. Love doesn’t start or end with you.

Love doesn’t even draw a line in the sand and say, “I’m willing to do this for someone but not that.” I’ll complete this much of the Godly to-do list but not that. Love has no limits. No ceiling or cap. If we’re caring and helping and loving we can’t say, “I have been loving enough to this person and I am done.”

And this isn’t a love you have to find. Jesus gives you all the love you need. And that love will flow out of you, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, by loving one another.” As we join in the feast of love, the new Passover celebrated with betrayers and doubters and liars and unworthy and sad and hurting, we eat and drink the power to continue living in Love. This meal celebrates Jesus’ glory. You come forward in faith hoping to receive freedom and forgiveness and life and you get more than you can ever give. You get Jesus.

Glory & Love. Jesus’ glory is wrapped up in his love for you. And when you love, You belong to Him. Because Love starts and ends with our glorious Saviour. Amen. And there’s no better witness than that!

Amen.