



**Sixth Sunday of Easter May 5, 2024 10: 45 Blended Service**

Abiding in Christ's Love

**Prelude:** Handbells "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

**As We Gather**

In our Gospel John uses the word "love" either as a noun or a verb some nine times as Jesus speaks His last words before His death. Jesus wants His disciples and us to know the abiding power of His love.

## Welcome

**Opening Song** "How Deep the Father's Love for Us" SSP 40

**How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory**

**Behold the Man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished**

**I will not boast in anything  
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom**

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## Invocation

- A** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

- P** Praise the LORD!  
**C** Praise the LORD, O my soul!
- A** I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
**C** I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- P** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
**C** whose hope is in the LORD his God.
- A** The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.  
**C** Praise the LORD!

## Confession and Absolution

- A** Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.  
**C** Gracious God, in heartfelt repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are sin-stained people by nature. Each day we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We have not seen people in the loving way that You see them. We have not always been ready to care and quick to help. We do indeed deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Abide with us and grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives, lead us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.

**P** God is loving and merciful. He sees us with loving eyes and graciously hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

### **Easter Acclamation**

**A** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### **Song of Forgiveness** "My Chains Are Gone" SSP 39

**My chains are gone I've been set free**

**My God my Savior has ransomed me**

**And like a flood His mercy rains**

**Unending love amazing grace**

Text: Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio

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### **Prayer of the Day**

**A** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, while we were still in our sins You chose us, laid down Your life for us, and called us friends. By Your great love for us, inspire us to love one another that we may abide in Your grace and may bear fruit according to Your promise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **We Hear God's Word**

## First Reading

Acts 10:34–48

*(People from every nation are accepted by God.)*

<sup>34</sup>Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), <sup>37</sup>you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. <sup>46</sup>For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

1 John 5:1–8

*(The victory of Christ overcomes the world.)*

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. <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 this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup>For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup>For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup>the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

**L**This is the Word of the Lord.

**C**Thanks be to God.

## Gospel

John 15: 9-17

*(Obeying Christ's commands and remaining in His love)*

<sup>9</sup>[Jesus said:] "As the Father has loved me, so have I 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>These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

<sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his

master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup>These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

**A** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ

### **Apostles' Creed**

**C 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.**

## **Children's Song "Shine"**

**Shine from the inside out  
That the world will see You live in me  
Shine from the inside out  
That the world will see You live in me**

**You know me and You love me  
You fill me so send me to**

**Shine from the inside out  
That the world will see You live in me  
Shine from the inside out  
That the world will see You live in me**

Text: Nick Jackson

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## **Children's Message**

### **Hymn of the Day "Christ the Eternal Lord" LSB 829**

**Christ the eternal Lord,  
Whose promise here we claim,  
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured  
On all who name Your name;  
With thankfulness and praise  
We stand before Your throne,  
Intent to serve You all our days  
And make Your glory known.**

**Christ the unchanging Word  
To ev'ry passing age,  
Whose timeless teachings still are heard  
Set forth on Scripture's page;  
Transform our thought and mind,  
Enlighten all who read,  
Within Your Word by faith to find  
The bread of life indeed.**

**Christ the redeeming Son,  
Who shares our human birth,  
And by His death salvation won  
For ev'ry child of earth;  
Inspire our hearts, we pray,  
To tell Your love abroad,  
That all may honor Christ today  
And follow Him as Lord.**

**Christ the unfading Light  
Of everlasting day,  
Our Morning Star in splendor bright,  
The Life, the Truth, the Way;  
That light of truth You give  
To servants as to friends,  
Your way to walk, Your life to live,  
Till earth's brief journey ends.**

**Christ the ascended King  
Exalted high above,  
Whose praise unending ages sing,  
Whom yet unseen we love;  
When mortal life is past  
Your voice from heaven's throne  
Shall call Your children home at last  
To know as we are known.**

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926

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**Message** "Abiding in Christ's Love" John 15: 9-17

### **Prayer of the Church**

- A** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, we give You thanks and praise for the new life and salvation with which You have brought beauty into our lives and our world again through the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. We pray that You open the ears of all who hear Your Word, that this salvation come to many in true repentance and faith, the gift of Your own Holy Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- A** When suffering for Your truth comes our way, remind us of the certain victory that is ours by our Baptism into Christ. Give us the vision of Your mercy and grace, that we endure any opposition to the true faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Visit with Your peace and healing all who suffer illness, injury, or any painful difficulty, especially *Bill Nielsen, Mildred Pittman, Mary Fodor, Jan Peterson, Charles Barber, Ed Mischen, Jose Luna, Ken Wolski, Debra Berger, Janet Pollard, Greg Coleman, Carol Danner, James Allen, Joseph Davis, Janice Weikert, Chris Quakenbush, Tammy Tolbert, Dave Peterson, Erik, Peterson*. Let not their hearts be troubled or weighed down with any fear, but lift their eyes to Your sure and certain promises of eternal life and joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Lord, Give to Your Church Your Word and Your Spirit, that we hear Your voice and follow where You lead, proclaiming Your Gospel to every corner of the world. We lift to You our Re: Vitality Workshops as they move forward. Fill our congregation, and those on our LRPC, with Your Holy Spirit to unite us as one body in Christ. Grant gifts of discernment, wisdom, and faithfulness to the task of developing a plan for the support of the work of Your Kingdom here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Lord, we pray for Your presence and provision within our families and in the lives of our children. Be with each member of St. Paul, especially those we lift to You this day, Deanne Hyde, Kurt Hyde, Carl & Mary Lee Johnson, Gary & Liz Keith. Bless the children of our CLC Henry, Ian, Delilah, Karlee, along with their parents and our staff. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. Grant that we share with them our faith in Christ and live together as God's sanctified and thankful people. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** With reverence and affection, we remember before You, O everlasting God, all our departed family and friends who have followed Christ and now are with Him in glory. By Your grace, keep us faithful and steadfast, that we see the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord who taught 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.**

### **Passing of the Peace**

*(Having received the Gospel's grace, let us joyfully share "Peace of Christ" with one another.)*

### **Offerings Are Received**

## **Prepare our Hearts for Communion**

1. Do I believe that I am sinful, without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
2. Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
3. Do I believe that He is personally present with His Body and Blood?
4. Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

If this is what you believe, we invite you to come forward to share Communion with us. If this is not what you understand or believe you are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply cross your arms for the Pastor to bless you.

## **Communion Instructions**

*(For those who are intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)*

## **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

- A** Blessed are You, O Lord of heaven and earth. We bless You now for sending Your Son Jesus Christ to give us assurance of Your fatherly care, knowing that all of our days are spent in God's sight. Directed by Your Holy Spirit and reflecting Your limitless love toward us, grant that we abide in Christ's love, awaiting the fulfilled promise of eternal life in Your heavenly kingdom, where saints and angels gather around Your throne in glory everlasting.

## The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He 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 for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## "We Proclaim Your Death" SSP 9

**L** The Mystery of Faith

**C** We proclaim your death, O Lord,  
And profess your Resurrection  
until you come again

Text: Marty Haugen

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## "Lamb of God" SSP 10

**L** Lamb of God,

**C** You take away the sin of the world,  
Have mercy on us.

**L** Lamb of God,

**C** You take away the sin of the world,  
Have mercy on us.

**L** Lamb of God,  
**C** **You take away the sin of the world,  
Grant us peace.**

Text: Tony Alonso

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**Distribution Song** "He Will Hold Me Fast" SSP 94

**When I fear my faith will fail  
Christ will hold me fast  
When the tempter would prevail  
He will hold me fast  
I could never keep my hold  
Through life's fearful path  
For my love is often cold  
He must hold me fast**

**He will hold me fast  
He will hold me fast  
For my Savior loves me so  
He will hold me fast**

**Those He saves are His delight  
Christ will hold me fast  
Precious in His holy sight  
He will hold me fast  
He'll not let my soul be lost  
His Promises shall last  
Bought by Him at such a cost  
He will hold me fast**

**He will hold me fast  
He will hold me fast  
For my Savior loves me so  
He will hold me fast**

**For my life He bled and died  
Christ will hold me fast  
Justice has been satisfied  
He will hold me fast  
Raised with Him to endless life  
He will hold me fast  
Till our faith is turned to sight  
When He comes at last**

**He will hold me fast  
He will hold me fast  
For my Savior loves me so  
He will hold me fast**

**He will hold me fast  
He will hold me fast  
For my Savior loves me so  
He will hold me fast**

Text: Jonathan Smith | Mia Fieldes | Zach Williams; Ada Ruth Habershon |  
Matthew Merker

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**Distribution Hymn "Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice" LSB 556**

**Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,  
With exultation springing,  
And with united heart and voice  
And holy rapture singing,  
Proclaim the wonders God has done,  
How His right arm the vict'ry won.  
What price our ransom cost Him!**

**Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;  
Death brooded darkly o'er me.  
Sin was my torment night and day;  
In sin my mother bore me.  
But daily deeper still I fell;  
My life became a living hell,  
So firmly sin possessed me.**

**My own good works all came to naught,  
No grace or merit gaining;  
Free will against God's judgment fought,  
Dead to all good remaining.  
My fears increased till sheer despair  
Left only death to be my share;  
The pangs of hell I suffered.**

**But God had seen my wretched state  
Before the world's foundation,  
And mindful of His mercies great,  
He planned for my salvation.  
He turned to me a father's heart;  
He did not choose the easy part  
But gave His dearest treasure.**

**God said to His beloved Son:  
"It's time to have compassion.  
Then go, bright jewel of My crown,  
And bring to all salvation.  
From sin and sorrow set them free;  
Slay bitter death for them that they  
May live with You forever."**

**The Son obeyed His Father's will,  
Was born of virgin mother;  
And God's good pleasure to fulfill,  
He came to be my brother.  
His royal pow'r disguised He bore;  
A servant's form, like mine, He wore  
To lead the devil captive.**

**To me He said: "Stay close to Me,  
I am your rock and castle.  
Your ransom I Myself will be;  
For you I strive and wrestle.  
For I am yours, and you are Mine,  
And where I am you may remain;  
The foe shall not divide us.**

**“Though he will shed My precious blood,  
Me of My life bereaving,  
All this I suffer for your good;  
Be steadfast and believing.  
Life will from death the vict’ry win;  
My innocence shall bear your sin,  
And you are blest forever.**

**“Now to My Father I depart,  
From earth to heav’n ascending,  
And, heav’nly wisdom to impart,  
The Holy Spirit sending;  
In trouble He will comfort you  
And teach you always to be true  
And into truth shall guide you.**

**“What I on earth have done and taught  
Guide all your life and teaching;  
So shall the kingdom’s work be wrought  
And honored in your preaching.  
But watch lest foes with base alloy  
The heav’nly treasure should destroy;  
This final word I leave you.”**

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.

Text: Public domain

**Song of Blessing** "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace" LSB 937

**Lord, bid Your servant go in peace,**

**Your word is now fulfilled.**

**These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,**

**This child so long foretold.**

**This is the Savior of the world,**

**The Gentiles' promised light,**

**God's glory dwelling in our midst,**

**The joy of Israel.**

**With saints of old, with saints to come,**

**To You we lift our voice;**

**To Father, Son, and Spirit blest**

**Be honor, love, and praise.**

Text (sts. 1–2): James Quinn, 1919–2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948

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## Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, once again You have welcomed us at Your Table of grace. Grant that this Sacrament that we have now received may strengthen us so that we may abide in loving service day by day. As we have shared in the blessings of Your Table, grant that we live each day as Your people who see people around us as You see them and love them as You love them. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**C** Amen.

## We Depart in His Peace

### Benedicamus

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Benediction

**A** 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 favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## **Easter Acclamation**

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## **Dismissal**

- A** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
- C** **We go in His Name.**

## **Closing Song "We Believe" SSP 67**

**In this time of desperation  
When all we know is doubt and fear  
There is only one foundation  
We believe we believe  
In this broken generation  
When all is dark You help us see  
There is only one salvation  
We believe we believe**

**We believe in God the Father  
We believe in Jesus Christ  
We believe in the Holy Spirit  
And He's given us new life  
We believe in the crucifixion  
We believe that He conquered death  
We believe in the resurrection  
And He's coming back again, we believe**

**So let our faith be more than anthems  
Greater than the songs we sing  
In our weakness and temptations  
We believe we believe**

**We believe in God the Father  
We believe in Jesus Christ  
We believe in the Holy Spirit  
And He's given us new life  
We believe in the crucifixion  
We believe that He conquered death  
We believe in the resurrection  
And He's coming back again**

**Let the lost be found and the dead be raised  
In the here and now let love invade  
Let the church live loud our God will save  
We believe we believe  
And the gates of hell will not prevail  
For the pow'r of God has torn the veil  
Now we know Your love will never fail  
We believe we believe**

**We believe in God the Father  
We believe in Jesus Christ  
We believe in the Holy Spirit  
And He's given us new life  
We believe in the crucifixion  
We believe that He conquered death  
We believe in the resurrection  
And He's coming back again**

**He's coming back again  
He's coming back again  
We believe we believe**

Text: Travis Ryan; Richie Fike; Matthew Hooper

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## **Postlude**

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