

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, May 5, 2024

9:30 AM

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

PRELUDE

Improvisation on *Welcome be Our Song*

+ Gathering +

WELCOME & RINGING OF THE BELL

Alleluia, Christ has Risen!

He has risen indeed, Alleluia! (x3)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The congregation may stand.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
the fountain of living water,
the radiant sun of dawn,
our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and with your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
Through lion's dens, wilderness exile, and fiery furnaces you protected and guided us. At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By our baptism into Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,

through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

God, We Gather as Your People



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

Refrain



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman, b. 1961
Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lohman
Text and music © 2007 Welcome Song Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

GLORIA

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

- ¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done ¹ marvelous things,
 whose right hand and holy arm have ¹ won the victory.
- ²**O LORD, you have made ¹ known your victory,
 you have revealed your righteousness in the sight ¹ of the nations.**
- ³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the ¹ house of Israel;
 all the ends of the earth have seen the victory ¹ of our God.
- ⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, ¹ all you lands;
 lift up your voice, re- ¹ joice, and sing. *Refrain***
- ⁵Sing to the LORD ¹ with the harp,
 with the harp and the ¹ voice of song.
- ⁶**With trumpets and the sound ¹ of the horn
 shout with joy before the ¹ king, the LORD.**
- ⁷Let the sea roar, and ¹ all that fills it,
 the world and those who ¹ dwell therein.
- ⁸**Let the rivers ¹ clap their hands,
 and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to ¹ judge the earth.**
- ⁹The LORD will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
 and the peo- ¹ ples with equity. *Refrain*

READING 2

1 John 5:1-6

A reading from First John.

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

⁶This 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.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation may stand.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

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

HOMILY

The congregation may be seated.
Pastor Tom Gehring

HYMN OF THE DAY

The congregation may be stand.
Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love (ELW 708)

Refrain

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show
us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent-ly wash-es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent-ly wash-ing their feet:

Refrain

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.
Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin
Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE NICENE CREED

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

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. You may assume a posture of prayer.

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,
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,
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,
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. We pray especially for Buck Crist. God of grace,
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,
hear our prayer.

People of God, for what else do we pray for this day? You may share your prayers aloud or in the silence of your heart...
God of Grace,
hear our prayer.

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

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.
Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (wave, handshake, hug, etc.), honoring the personal boundaries of all. Those online may unmute and verbally share the peace.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Meal +

OFFERTORY

We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“As with Rosy Steps the Dawn” from *Theodore* HWV 68 by G. F. Handel

As with rosy steps the morn,
Advancing, drives the shades of night,
So from virtuous toil well-borne,
Raise Thou our hopes of endless light

Triumphant savior, Lord of Day,
Thou art the life, the light, the way!

OFFERTORY VERSE

*The congregation may stand.
Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

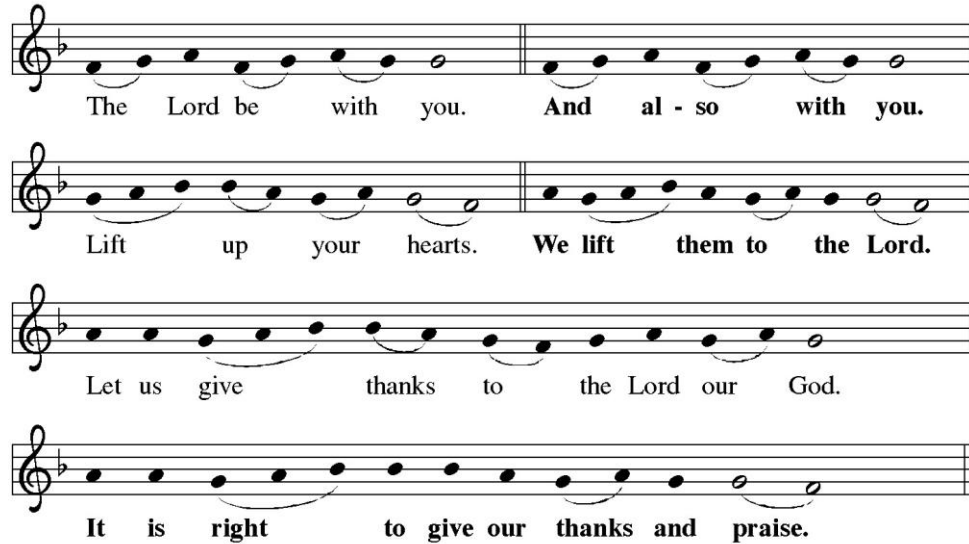
May the gifts that we offer here

be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

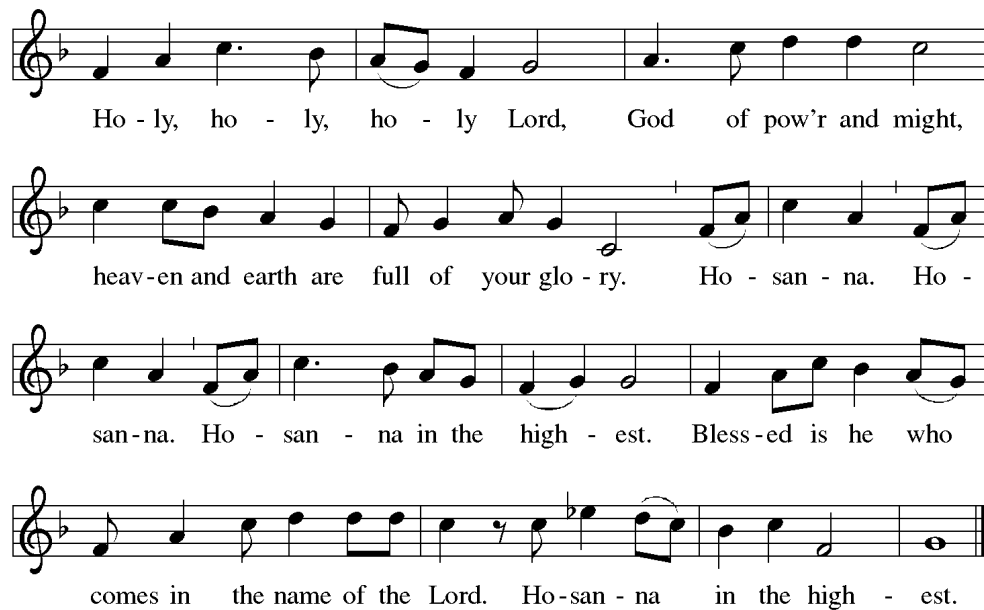
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

“... we praise your name and join their un-ending hymn:”

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and foreve



A - men, a - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us in the many and varied languages we hold dear...

**Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Come, for Christ first welcomed us.

COMMUNION

The congregation may be seated.

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table without exception! Please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. Please take a glass of wine (dark colored) or a glass of grape juice (light colored). After drinking, please place your empty glass in the basket before returning to your seat via the side aisle. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the sacrament will be brought to you.

LAMB OF GOD

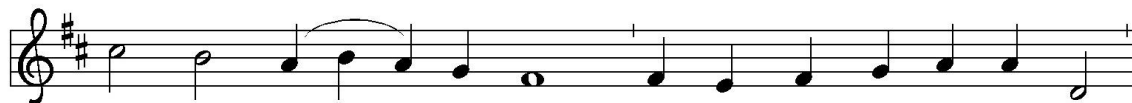
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

At the Lamb's High Feast, vs. 1, 6, 8 (ELW 362)



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
 2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide
 sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
 through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty victim from the sky,
 hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie;
 you have conquered in the fight,
 you have brought us life and light.
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
 This alone can sin destroy;
 from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
 newborn souls in you to be.
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
 now no more the grave enthrall;
 you have opened paradise,
 and your saints in you shall rise.
 Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,
 Savior, by whose death we live,
 Spirit, guide through all our days:
 Three in One, your name we praise.
 Alleluia!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The congregation may stand.

Let us pray together.
Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

+ Sending +

BENEDICTION

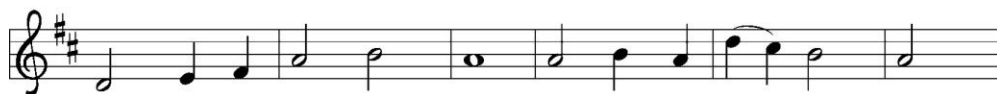
The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope

✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Come Down, O Love Divine (ELW 804)



1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine
2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn
3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,
4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,



and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—
shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,
no soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place



and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.
where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833–1890
Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Music from *The English Hymnal*, outside the USA © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Dialogue sure Les Grans Jeux et Deo Gracias” from *Messe pour Les Convents*

by François Couperin

Worship materials adapted this day from multiple ecumenical partners and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (2023).

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SERVING TODAY

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| <i>Guest Pastor:</i> | The Rev. Thomas Gehring |
| <i>Director of Youth & Families</i> | Evergreen Edwards |
| <i>Director of Music:</i> | Luke Duroc-Danner |
| <i>Cantor:</i> | Audrey Neace |
| <i>Assisting Minister:</i> | Jason Shutters |
| <i>Reader:</i> | Margye Smith |
| <i>Ushers:</i> | Finny Maglocchi |
| <i>Livestream Camera:</i> | Luke Rasmussen |
| <i>Altar Guild:</i> | Cindi Rachowicz |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome, Pastor Tom!

This morning we welcome back Pastor Tom Gehring as our guest pastor, and thank him for his ministry among us.

Sing with us for Pentecost!

This year, St. John's is joining with other local Lutheran churches for a joint Pentecost service at St. John's, and as part of that service, we're putting together a joint choir! Singers from Grace, Immanuel, and St. Timothy's have already signed up, so help represent St. John's in song. All the music will be simple, and there will be a short rehearsal at 9:30am before the 10:30 am service. Singers of all ages are welcome. If you are interested or have further questions, contact Luke Duroc-Danner (luke@stjohnswilmette.com)

Audrey Neace's Senior Recital

Come help us celebrate our wonderful soloist, Audrey Neace, at her senior recital. She will be performing in Northwestern's Galvin Recital Hall at 8:30pm on Sunday, June 2nd. The concert will be an hour long, and there will be a reception held afterwards. For more information or questions, contact Luke Duroc-Danner (luke@stjohnswilmette.com)

Are you a socially conscious individual?

Would you like to help us help our community? If so, you would be a great fit for St. John's EMF Team! This team steers annual distributions from our Extended Ministries Fund to ministries which align with our Vision, Mission, and Values. The Extended Ministries Fund has a few openings for Trustees and the commitment is light, but gratifying. This team typically meets once or twice in the spring and membership is for a three-year term. Please connect with Michel or Mylene if you might be interested.

Michel Hauser: michelhauser@outlook.com, 847-293-3113

Mylene Pollock: mylene.pollock@comcast.net, 312-656-6867

Migrant Response Project

Buses continue to arrive at the Wilmette train station with migrants who have been transported here from Texas. The buses arrive unscheduled, and the Wilmette Police and volunteers try to assist the migrants to get "Take Care" packages and coats before they get on the train to Chicago processing centers. In connection with SaLT an organization in Highland Park, volunteers have packed bags with hygiene items, water and snack bars to give to the migrants when they leave the bus, along with winter coats that have been donated by the public.

Residents Heather Oliver and Debora Morris (also of the Wilmette Rotary Club) are the primary coordinators for the Wilmette rapid response team of volunteers. They are using our "Colorful" room downstairs to collect, sort and pack donations. **Heather and Debora will be at coffee hour this morning to talk about the project and answer questions and tell you how you can help!**

IN OUR PRAYERS

- † Family & friends of Rena
Leinberger, wife of Karl and
mother of Shayna, Brandon and
Jordan, who passed away
4/26/24
- † Sandy Kaspar, sister of Bill
Kaspar, recovering from
abdominal surgery
- † Tom Fries, friend of Jim Dossa,
cracked vertebrae
- † Family & friends of Lorraine
Beutelspacher, who died 3/6/24
- † Buckley Crist
- † Family & friends of Peter
Knobel, who died 1/13/24
- † Dottye Wolf, sister of Margye
Smith
- † Family and Friends of Hing
You Tam Siu, mother-in-law of
Jim Dossa, who passed away
- † Family & friends of Viola
Gonder, mother of Craig
Gonder, who died 8/7/23
- † Congratulations to Dano
Johnson & Emily Mock, who
were married June 17, 2023
- † Family & friends of Richard
Rusz, who died 6/6/23
- † Family & friends of Karen
Daugherty, aunt of Erin
Rasmussen, who died 5/8/23
- † Margaux Tauszig,
granddaughter of Wolf
Peddinghaus
- † Natalie Domchenko & Hilaire
Sainson, sister of Olga
Domchenko and sister's
husband, in need of healing
- † Karen Brunn, daughter of Dave
& Lyn Brunn, recovering from
spinal cord injury

NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

Georg Friedrich Handel (1685-1759) is one of the most well-known composers of the Baroque period along with J.S. Bach. Originally from Halle, Saxony, Handel studied the organ as a young boy under Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow, and he later learned the violin, harpsichord, and oboe as well. He would go on to study in Italy where he wrote his first oratorios before settling in London to write Italian-style opera. Handel was also a notable organist, and he composed more than 20 concertos for organ - most of which Handel used as intermission features during the performances of his oratorios. As Italian opera began to fade in popularity, Handel switched to composing oratorio in English - most famously including the *Messiah* in 1743. *Theodora* premiered in 1750, and it was Handel's penultimate oratorio. Though it was not popular in its day, *Theodora* was revived in the 20th century and is regarded as one of Handel's final masterpieces.

François Couperin (1668-1733), also known as Couperin le Grand ("the Great"), was a composer, keyboardist, and the most renowned of the Couperin family of musicians. The Couperin family were deeply engaged with the musical life of Paris throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. By the age of 10, François was offered the position as organist for the Church of Saint-Gervais, and he would later serve as the harpsichord teacher to the royal children beginning in 1694. Over his career, Couperin composed four books of suits for harpsichord, a variety of motets, and the *Concert Royaux* - special chamber music for the King's Sunday evening entertainments. He is most well-known for his *Leçons de Ténèbres* (c. 1715), a set of three vocal pieces for Holy Week. Early music expert Jordi Savall has described Couperin as the "poet-musician par excellence."