

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**May 5, 2024**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Prelude** Susan Berg, Organist

**Announcements**

**Opening Songs** "Friend of Sinners"  
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"  
"Jesus Messiah"  
Praise Band and Congregation

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of 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.**

Look, here is the water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

### **Prayer of the Day**

**P:** We pray together ...

**C:** O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **FIRST LESSON**

Acts 10:44-48

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

#### **Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit**

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

### **SECOND LESSON**

1 John 5:1-6

#### **Faith Conquers the World**

**5** Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ<sup>[a]</sup> has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. **3** For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not

burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it who conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

### **Testimony concerning the Son of God**

<sup>6</sup> This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

### **GOSPEL**

John 15:9-17

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

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

**Sermon**

"HOW TO LOVE"

**Sermon Hymn**

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"  
Song Leaders and Congregation



## Prayers of the People

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

Heavenly Father, we ask: How do we please God? Today's texts give the simple answer: *"We love God and obey his commandments"* Yes, the Jewish people had abundant laws and regulations, but we know the first ten God gave us. And our lesson says that *"His commandments are not burdensome."* Following the Ten Commandments is not popular in today's world, but adherence to that short list is God's way of protecting us and giving us well-being. ***Lord in your mercy...***

We all break those simple ten prohibitions continually. Original sin has a way of infecting our lives, our thoughts and our actions. The solution is to stay close to the Lord, to abide in His love. Our lesson from Acts explains how baptism and being filled with the Holy Spirit are tools to abide in God. That's the way we can have victory over the sin that dwells within us. 1 John tells us, *"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith."* ***Lord, in your mercy...***

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world. When we walk in God's ways, we live in joy. Jesus says, *"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."* He continues, *"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."* What a gift God has given humankind! The Creator of All Things loves us and promises to answer our prayers and fill our lives with joy. ***Lord in your mercy...***

Remember this congregation, its pastor and people, as we share the love of Jesus. Touch those who have asked for prayer with healing, comfort and resurrection victory. We name those among us who have asked for prayer. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? ***Lord in your mercy...***

Jesus says, *"You are my friends if you do what I command you. 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."* And Jesus' final word to us is, *"This I command you, to love one another."* In His mighty name, we pray. ***Amen.*** ***Carolyn T. Linn***

**Special Music**      "When the Saints Go Marching In" Arr. By Tim Curd; @ Tim Curd CCLI #2032355  
John Montgomery, Cello Solo

## Scripture Reading: John 15:9-17

*Knowledge is knowing what to say. Wisdom is knowing when to say it.*

—Anonymous

I don't know what my IQ is — fairly confident that it's over 100, and equally certain that it's below 150. The problem with IQ tests is that they only assess analytical intelligence. They do not address the creative, emotional and practical aspects of human intelligence.

When we were growing up, we were taught very little about how to be wise. Maybe we picked up a few things in Sunday school. But we were definitely advised as to the necessity of getting good grades, scoring well on tests, passing entrance exams and so on.

And then, suddenly, we were 25, and we're supposed to be mature and make decisions with the wisdom of Solomon. Remember those days? We were young — and foolish. Is there a correlation between old age and wisdom?

Wisdom, often regarded as the pinnacle of human intellect, transcends mere knowledge and intelligence. You can't go to a university and get a B.A. in Wisdom. You can't declare Wisdom as a college major. Wisdom is the result of a deep understanding of life, a profound sense of empathy, and a commitment to making thoughtful and ethical decisions.

So, would you consider yourself wise? Most people would agree that wise people are *empathetic*. Perhaps this is what Jesus is getting at when he says in today's Bible reading that we should "love one another" (v. 12). People with love in their hearts possess the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. They can put themselves in someone else's shoes and see the world from their perspective. This empathetic approach fosters compassion, tolerance and the ability to resolve conflicts peacefully. No wonder wise people are able to offer valuable support and guidance to those in need.

There are other indicators of wisdom, of course. Wise people are also *prudent*. They are *humble*. Wise people are also persons of *integrity*.

But mostly, wise people have *spiritual* intelligence. And at the top of the list of what it means to be spiritually intelligent is *love*. See 1 Corinthians 13:13.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: O God, give me the wisdom to follow in the paths of righteousness. Amen.*





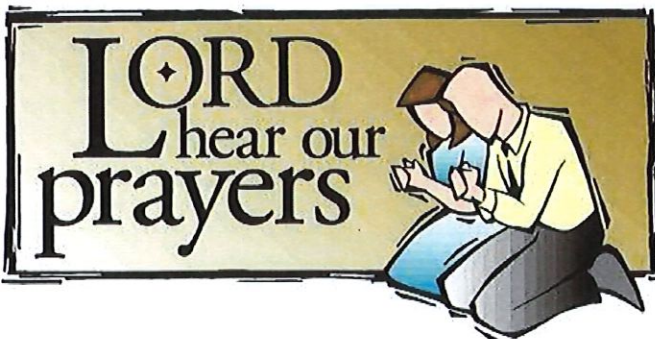
### Prayer Concerns

#### Members in Need of Prayer:

Don Dueker  
 Bob Boehringer on the passing of his wife, Sheila. Sheila has entered the church triumphant.  
 Irene Pierini family and friends on her passing. Irene has entered the church triumphant.  
 Betty Montgomery  
 Jennifer Neer  
 Diane Fake  
 JoAnn Huebner  
 Dee Wright  
 Yvonne Smith  
 Mona White  
 Neil and Verna Walden  
 Robert Harris  
 Jackie Miller  
 Mary Schmidt  
 Liz Smith  
 Bill Biggs  
 Mary Norris & Family  
 Connie Alvarado  
 Irene Pierini  
 Jocelyn Miller  
 Kirsten Linder  
 Jim Thompson

#### Family and Friends:

Baby Owen (Fake)  
 Claire and family upon the death of Claire's husband, Dale Baumbach  
 Claire (Vonny)  
 Janet Sharp (Fake)  
 Debbie (Sullivan Family Friend)  
 Owen (Fake)  
 Josue & Maria Zamora (Visitor)  
 Jim & Judi ( Werfelmann)  
 Anthony Collichio (Norris)  
 Mickey Cecil (Norris)  
 Jeanne Grant (Anderson)  
 Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)  
 Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)  
 Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)  
 Kevin & Collee (Pastor)  
 Brad, Sam, & Luke Kossow  
 Karl & Pauline Ritterbush (Fake)  
 Art & Children (Anderson)  
 Debbie West's Daughter, Christine  
 Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)  
 Bob Knous (Anderson)  
 Melissa (Sandy T.)  
 Joy Kensinger (Miller)  
 Jenna Vance (Kossow)  
 Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)  
 Jim D. (Norris)  
 Jade Dixon (Julie)  
 Pam (Smith)  
 Grace Johnson (Fake)  
 Sandy Robbins (Robbins)  
 JJ Werfelmann (Julie)  
 Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)  
 Roger Robbins (Robbins)  
 Hudson Otten (Anderson)  
 Karen Ohanesian (Hays)  
 Rosemary (Vonny)  
 Nathan Robbins (Robbins)



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,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.  
Matthew 6:9-13

**Blessing**

**Communion Hymn** "Let Us Break Bread Together"  
Song Leaders and Congregation

**Closing Song** "Let Everything that Has Breath"  
Praise Band and Congregation

**Sending**

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

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

**Postlude** Susan Berg, Organist

**Daily Bible Readings**

- Sunday:** Luke 14-17  
**Monday:** 1 Samuel 4-7  
**Tuesday:** 1 Samuel 8-10  
**Wednesday:** 1 Samuel 11-13  
**Thursday:** 1 Samuel 14-16  
**Friday:** 1 Samuel 17-20  
**Saturday:** Psalms 43-45

*Verse to Remember*

*“Why are you cast down, O my soul ... Hope in God.”*

*—Psalm 43:5*

May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## HIDDEN MESSAGE

Using the clues provided, write the word in the spaces provided. The first letter of each word should reveal a hidden message when read vertically from top to bottom.

1. King of the beasts      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
2. Short for margarine      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
3. Montpelier is its capital      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
4. Electrical fish      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
5. Greasy      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
6. Counterpart to monk      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
7. Second book of the Bible      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
8. Continent south of Europe      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
9. Ark-builder      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
10. Egg-shaped      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
11. A levy on one's income      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
12. Top of human body      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
13. Associated with tides      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
14. Decay      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**Message:**

\_\_\_\_\_

## DOUBLE TROUBLE

Below are four 5-letter words. ALL of the letters are used only twice. Notice that there are two O's, so you can't use another O. Notice the J in the first word, for example. There's another J in these four words. Where is it? Fill in the blanks.

J \_ \_ T \_ \_ y  
 \_ \_ O \_ \_ R \_ \_  
 B \_ \_ A \_ \_ D  
 \_ \_ N \_ \_ O \_ \_

**Answers to Double Trouble:**  
 JETTY  
 BOARD  
 BRAND  
 ENJOY

**Answers:**  
 1. lion  
 2. oleo  
 3. Vermont  
 4. eel  
 5. oily  
 6. nun  
 7. Exodus  
 8. Africa  
 9. Noah  
 10. oval  
 11. tax  
 12. head  
 13. cbb  
 14. rot  
**Message:**  
 Love one another.



ABOVE ALL, LOVE EACH  
OTHER DEEPLY, BECAUSE



COVERS A  
MULTITUDE OF SINS.

1 PETER 4:8



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Follow Us Now on Instagram

GSLC is now on Instagram and has been on Facebook so don't forget to follow us to see what is happening. Please follow us on Instagram and like the posts to create an algorithm for our church. We need to be proactive to spread the word so we can grow .



### Pantry Needs Restocking



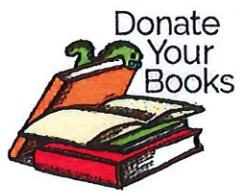
We could use: Rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, canned vegetables (Corn, Green Beans), canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple), canned chili beans, egg noodles, Cream of mushroom or chicken soup, Mayo, canned tuna, chicken or beef, ramen noodles, Mac N Cheese, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter and grape jelly. Donations can be dropped off at the office M - F, from 9AM - 1PM.

### Bring a Friend to Worship

There are business cards paper clipped in stacks of 5 to use to invite people to worship service. Hand them out in your neighborhood or at your local stores. You can ask an usher for the cards if you can't find them.



### Roeding Summer Reading Project - Books Needed!



Hey everyone - it's that time of year again! Time to start searching for children's books to give to our adopted school's children for summer reading. New and gently used books for ages preschool through 8th grade reading levels may be brought to church and put in the labeled bin. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with our adopted students @ Roeding Elementary!

### Pentecost Barbecue on May 19th

Please plan to stay after worship on 5/19 to celebrate the birthday of the Church! Pentecost is the day we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of our mission to the world as Jesus's ambassadors and representatives. How exciting is that?!?

We plan to celebrate by grilling up hot dogs and providing chili to top them. (You are also welcome to bring other meats/proteins to grill if you'd rather.) We will also be supplying everything for ice cream sundaes! The congregation is invited to bring salads and sides to complete the meal. Remember to wear red, and feel free to bring your friends! All are welcome. ❤️





## OWLS May 20 @ 1PM—OWLS SUNDAES & RUMMIKUB



Hooties will land for an afternoon treat of ice cream in the garden of Dee Wright on May 20, Monday at 1 pm. Tables will be set for Rummikub pros (visors not provided) and learners. Nonplayers may chat over another scoop. Call Dee for ride arrangements. Sandy will contact members for ingredient signups. PS. Counting calories is forbidden.

## Kingsmen/Kingskids—May 29th @ 6:30pm



The next date for Kingsmen/Kingskids will be May 29th. Marty will be providing a BBQ dinner. As always, side dishes are welcomed if possible. Thank you, William Hayes



## Directory Update—Photo, Address, Email Address or Phone Number



We will once again be updating the directory. If you are fine with us using the current picture then there is nothing that you need to do but if you never had a picture or want to update the current one you can send it to the office email at [gslcfresno@att.net](mailto:gslcfresno@att.net) or text it to Kathy's cell phone: 559-593-5321. Also, if there have been any changes to your address, email address, or phone number, please send that information to the office email as well.

