

Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas

**"This is my
commandment,**



**that you love
one another as
I have loved you."**

John 15:12

6th Sunday of Easter

LIVING IN LOVE

May 5, 2024

TODAY'S MESSAGE: LIVING IN LOVE

The Lord never tires of loving His people. God continuously shows and gives His love to us through the preaching of His Word, the giving of His sacraments (baptism and the Lord's Supper), and through the love and care of pastors, teachers and all of our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. Just as He loves us, the Lord calls us to love one another genuinely – with a love that exceeds emotions, but dares to invest time, talent and treasure for the sake of our neighbor. God invests His Son in order to save the world from Satan – who would seek to distort and destroy a Christ-like love. God's love for us and our love for one another is the answer for the well-being and preservation of God's people. In Christ, we are living in love.



In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord's Supper is also a very sacred and intimate proclamation of fellowship among those who confess the same faith (doctrine, teachings) concerning God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. Therefore, we practice close communion and ask that those who are not confirmed members of an LC-MS congregation receive instruction prior to receiving the Lord's Supper.

Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Before receiving the Lord's Supper, we need to examine ourselves in the following way:

(1) Am I truly repentant (sorry) for all of my sins and do I truthfully desire to change my sinful life? (2) Do I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior and that in the Lord's Supper I receive His body and His blood for the forgiveness of all my sins? And (3) Have I been instructed in the Scriptures and have I publicly confessed my belief that the teachings of this church and the LC-MS are faithful to God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ?

If you have questions about what God's Word says concerning the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor and/or pick up our brochure titled "Fellowship in the Lord's Supper".

Those not confirmed are welcome to come to the altar, keep your hands down and folded and receive a blessing. For those who will be communing: **Non-alcoholic** wine is located in the center of each tray for those who have concerns with alcohol. We offer the **chalice** as well as individual cups. If you desire the chalice, do not take an individual cup from the tray and the pastor will serve you from the chalice. Christ is present in both to grant you forgiveness.

✝ ORDER OF SERVICE WITH COMMUNION ✝

["Divine Service: Setting One" from LSB p.151]

Please silence – or turn off – all phones and electronic devices before and during the service.

Welcome

Opening Hymn

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

LSB 700

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion. Pure, unbounded love Thou art.
Visit us with Thy salvation. Enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit, into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning. Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning. Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all Thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing. Serve Thee as Thy hosts above.
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing. Glory in Thy perfect love.**

**Finish then Thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation, perfectly restored in Thee.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place.
Till we cast our crowns before Thee. Lost in wonder, love and praise!**

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(sung)* A - - - men.

Confession of Sins

1 John 1:8-9

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

ALL: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

C: *(sung)* A - - - men.

Entrance Psalm [ESV]

Psalm 133

P: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

C: **It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!**

P: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!

C: **For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.**

P: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers (and sisters) dwell in unity!

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“Brothers and Sisters in Christ”

[AGPS 78]

**Sing Alleluia! Amen! Let your prayers and your praises ascend.
Lift up your voices and sing, to our Lord God, our Savior and King!
Here brought together by grace, we are gathered as friends in this place.**

**REFRAIN 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.**

**REFRAIN 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.**

**REFRAIN 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.**

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Opening Prayer

ALL: Crucified and RISEN 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 and to go out into the world to bear fruit according to your promise; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading [ESV]

Deuteronomy 10:12-22

And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?

Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. Yet the LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.

For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen. Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to our RISEN Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

Epistle Reading [ESV]

1 John 5:1-8

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. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 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. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to our RISEN Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

Gospel Reading [ESV]

John 15:9-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

C: *(sung)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus says:] “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 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. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. 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. 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. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* Praise to You, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon Hymn

“Blest be the Tie that Binds”

LSB 649

**Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds, is like to that above.**

**Before our Father’s throne, we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.**

**We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows, the sympathizing tear.**

**When here our pathways part, we suffer bitter pain.
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, we hope to meet again.**

**From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free,
And perfect love and friendship reign, through all eternity.**

Sermon

LIVING IN LOVE

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offertory *(sung)*

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people;

In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Offering *(Take this time to greet those seated near you with a handshake and the words, "The peace of the Lord be with you.")*

[If you are a guest, please feel under no obligation to give anything, but receive this worship service as our gift to you. For the members and friends of this congregation, our mission and ministry is dependent upon your generous giving, a significant act of our worship.]

Offering Prayer

[LSB 781 (v.1-2)]

P: We give Thee but Thine own, whatever the gift may be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

C: May we Thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive. And gladly, as Thou blessest us, to Thee our first-fruits give! Amen.

Prayers

✝ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ✝

VISITORS and MEMBERS

Please read the message inside the first page of this bulletin re: participation in the Lord's Supper.

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: (sung) And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

C: (sung) We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalm 136*

C: (sung) It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy, Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. We praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, which was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name evermore praising you and saying:

Sanctus (sung) *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

ALL: 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.

Words of Our Lord

Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P: 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 $\text{\textcircled{X}}$ 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 is my $\text{\textcircled{X}}$ blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

John 20:19

C: *(sung)* A - men.

Agnus Dei *(sung)*

John 1:29

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.

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

Distribution Hymns

"Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"

LSB 623

**Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray, that we may feast on You today.
Beneath these forms of bread and wine, enrich us with Your grace divine.**

**Give us, who share this wondrous food, Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n, the certain joys of heirs of heav'n.**

**By faith Your Word has made us bold, to seize the gift of love retold.
All that You are we here receive, and all we are to You we give.**

**One bread, one cup, one body we, rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come, to bring Your scattered loved ones home.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray: O keep us steadfast till that day,
When each will be Your welcomed guest, in heaven's high and holy feast.**

**O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee and adore Thee, in thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish, our weak souls that they may flourish:
O Lord, have mercy!**

**May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary, that our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead, in all trial, fear and need: O Lord, have mercy!**

Thy holy body into death was given, life to win for us in heaven.

No greater love than this to Thee could bind us. May this feast there-of remind us!

O Lord, have mercy!

**Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee, that Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
All our debt Thou hast paid. Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mercy!**

**May God bestow on us His grace and favor, that we follow Christ our Savior,
And live together here in love and union, nor despise this blest Communion!**

O Lord, have mercy!

**Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us. Grant that heav'nly minded He make us.
Give Thy Church, Lord to see, days of peace and unity: O Lord, have mercy!**

**Soul, adorn yourself with gladness. Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness.
Come into the daylight's splendor. There with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded, this amazing banquet founded.
He, though heav'nly, high and holy, deigns to dwell with you most lowly.**

Hasten as a bride to meet Him, and with loving rev'ence greet Him.

For with words of life immortal, He is knocking at your portal.

Open wide the gates before Him, saying, as you there adore Him:

Grant, Lord, that I now receive You, that I nevermore will leave You.

**He who craves a precious treasure, neither cost nor pain will measure,
But the priceless gifts of heaven, God to us has freely given.**

**Though the wealth of earth were proffered, none could buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven, and His blood, for you once given.**

**Now in faith I humbly ponder, over this surpassing wonder,
That the bread of life is boundless, though the souls it feeds are countless:
With the choicest wine of heaven, Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation, pledge and seal of my salvation!**

**Jesus, source of lasting pleasure. Truest friend and dearest treasure.
Peace beyond all understanding. Joy into all life expanding.
Humbly now, I bow before You. Love incarnate, I adore You.
Worthily let me receive You, and so favored, never leave You.**

**Jesus, sun of life, my splendor. Jesus, friend of friends, most tender.
Jesus, joy of my desiring. Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker, let me be a fit partaker,
Of this blessed food from heaven, for our good, Your glory, given.**

**Lord, by love and mercy driven, You once left Your throne in heaven.
On the cross for me to languish, and to die in bitter anguish.
To forego all joy and gladness, and to shed Your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.**

**Jesus, bread of life, I pray You, let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited, be Your love with love requited.
By this Supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me, as Your guest in heav'n receive me.**

Song of Thanksgiving

“Thank the Lord”

Psalm 100

Thank the Lord and sing His praise. Tell everyone what He has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

ALL: We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: *(sung)* A - men, A - men, A - - men.

Closing Hymn

“May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill”

LSB 698

**May we Thy precepts Lord fulfill, and do on earth our Father’s will,
As angels do above.**

**Still walk in Christ, the living way, with all Thy children and obey,
The law of Christian love.**

**So may we join Thy name to bless, Thy grace adore Thy pow’r confess,
From sin and strife to flee.**

**One is our calling, one our name, the end of all our hopes the same,
A crown of life with Thee.**

**Spirit of life, of love and peace, unite our hearts, our joy increase,
Thy gracious help supply.**

**To each of us the blessing give, in Christian fellowship to live,
In joyful hope to die.**

TO OUR VISITORS

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We hope and pray that you have been comforted and strengthened in your faith by the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please fill out a *Welcome to Worship* card (w/ address) and place it in the offering or give it to an usher. The peace of Jesus be with you always and come again!

CLC MISSION STATEMENT: “We are a FAMILY LIVING and GROWING in God’s Word, sharing God’s love by TELLING others about Christ and SERVING them in His name.”