



Sunday, May 9, 2021 - Sixth Sunday of Easter
St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church
Greendale, WI www.ssmelca.org

Introduction to the day

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.

~Please quiet your hearts, your minds, and your cell phones ~

WELCOME

PRELUDE - "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" arr. James Engel

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

C: **Amen.**

P: 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 you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

- C:** We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.
- P:** To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- C:** **Amen.**

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- 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 READING: Acts 10:44-48

(Read by: Julie Starks)

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

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

- L:** The word of the Lord. **C:** **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

(Read by: Julie Starks)

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

P: The holy gospel according to John. C: **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.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE -

“Measuring”

Rev. Brian Hooper

HYMN OF THE DAY -

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Solo - Denise Sanders

Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others

APOSTLE'S CREED *(Please stand)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

O triune God, we praise you for your wondrous love, for the steadfastness of believers throughout this pandemic. Whenever churches face hardship or challenge, strengthen us in affection within and between denominations. Hear us, loving God:
fill us with your love.

We praise you for the beauty of spring, and we stand in awe of even the hungry cicadas. Wherever creation is beckoning us to lives of ecological restraint, teach us your care of our earth. Hear us, creating God.
fill us with your love.

We praise you for all efforts to achieve peace throughout the world. Wherever violence prevails, wherever brutality silences protest, wherever prejudice reigns, wherever the rich oppress the poor, lead us and all nations into the ways of justice. Hear us, righteous God:
fill us with your love.

We praise you for the gradual lessening of the pandemic and for your gift of vaccines. Wherever the virus still rages (especially India, Turkey, and South America), wherever medical resources are depleted, wherever medical advice is rejected, extend the power of your healing hand. Be present with all who are sick or suffering, especiallyHear us, healing God:
fill us with your love.

We praise you for the loving support of mothers to their children. Bless mothers, stepmothers, foster mothers, godmothers, and all of each gender who give mothering care. Protect mothers in societies where women have few rights. Comfort those who grieve because they cannot mother a

child. Wherever children are deprived of mothering, provide responsible and affectionate care.
Hear us, mothering God:
fill us with your love.

We praise you for the witness of all who have died in the faith, and those we name in our hearts.
Keep us united with all your children until we join them in your presence forever. Hear us,
everlasting God:
fill us with your love.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending
goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY *(Thanks for sharing your gifts. Offering envelopes can still be mailed to the church, you can use the GIVE + app found on the resource tab at ssmelca.org or you may wish to sign up for Simply Giving to have your offering scheduled on an automatic basis.)*

OFFERING PRAYER

P: O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to other with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

C: **Amen**

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

C: **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.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE - "Abide, O Dearest Jesus" arr. Johann Pachelbel

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***The Eternal Candle is given by Mark & Patti Winter
in Honor of their 23rd Wedding Anniversary.***

KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Suzi Angeletti, Melissa Cooper, John Drover, Joyce Gagliano,
Terry Gillespie, Sue Herman, Sue Jarchow, Lynda Johnson, Ken & Carolyn Kahl,
Shirley Lieske, Vic & Sandy Peterson, Teri Peterson, Patrick Rafalski, Shirley Rau,
John Rech, Joan Retzlaff, Richard Sontvedt, John Winter.
Barbara Stein at the passing of her son Gregory.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Roberta Henrichs, sister-in-law of Joan Retzlaff	Dawn Salopek, sister of Karen Miller
Laurence Freemont, friend of SSM	Janet Heino, great aunt of Stephanie Falksen
Katie Stull, granddaughter of Phil & LaVerne Morgan	Tinsley Marie, great granddaughter of Sue Herman
Jane Janicki, sister of the Winter Family	Cathy & Mark Kossow, friends of Lynda Johnson
Jerelie Caston, daughter of Joan Retzlaff	Tippecanoe's "Larry under the bridge", friend of the Homeless
Nancy & Mike Andritsch, sister/brother-in-law of Barbara & Dan Davies	Katie Manzeck, friend of Carol Manning
Josh Knapp, friend of Amy Billman	Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski
Karen Stolz, neighbor of Julie Herman	Jon Kowalewski, husband of Susan Kowalewski
Roger & Kathy Blanchard, cousin of Bob Lieske	Lauryn Ramintho, great-granddaughter of Karen Miller
Billy Waters, husband of Darlene Waters & Stepdad of Lori Salas	Lucy Copeland, granddaughter of Dianne Niese
Daniel Kilimann, son of Joy Kilimann	Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese
Carson Wudtke, grandson of Dan & Barb Davies	Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt
Sharon West, friend of Lynda Johnson	Maria Hill, friend of Lynda Johnson
Ted P., brother-in-law of Gail Jakus	Ann Scorzynski, friend of LaVerne Morgan
Jay Lessing, friend of LaVerne Morgan	Kristin White, daughter of Sue Herman
Jeanne Jimenez, daughter of Shirley Rau	Laura Sussman, mother of Kimberly Carroll
Cindy Molter, mother of Fred Ankebrant	Sharon Maschke, sister-in-law of Pam Maschke
Mark Molter, uncle of Fred Ankebrant	Tim Ingram, grandson of Carole & Ron Ropel
Terry Betchner, friend of Dianne Niese	Denise Hajos, friend of Kelly Sachse
Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt	Sandy, sister of Kevin Ernst
Tom Ervin, former father-in-law of Shelly Rosenstock	Bonnie, friend of Kurt & Jenny Koeff
The Lynn Gillen Family, granddaughter to Fred & Carol Mueller	Pat Thiede, friend of Nancy Schneider
Nikki Bruneau, friend of Kelly Sachse	Jackie Lucas, friend of Nancy Schneider
James Haas, friend of Mark & Patti Winter	Louie and Beth Baumgartner, family members of the Lieske's.
John Covert, father of Jason Covert	Bob Guiliani, brother of Char Guiliani
Rose Zovi, friend of Shelly Rosenstock	Beth & Kory Buck, cousin of Maren Hooper
Peter Salza, friend of Doug Winter family	Barbara Goelz, friend of Kelly Sachse
	Peter Misko, friend of Doug Winter family
	Kathy Manders, friend of Doug Winter family