



*Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.*

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Dove of Peace Lutheran Church

May 9, 2021

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 9, 2021

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

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.

May 9: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

*Cantio sacra: Christ lag in Todesbanden (Christ lay in death's bonds), SSWV 131
Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)
1. Chorale in the Soprano
2. Chorale in the Soprano*

Samuel Scheidt was a German organist and composer who lived during the early Baroque period. Scheidt was a student of Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, the seminal Dutch master. After his studies in Amsterdam, he returned to his native Halle, holding the post of Organist. Christ Lag in Todesbanden is the quintessential Lutheran Easter chorale. It was written by Luther himself and based on the Catholic Easter Sequence. Scheide wrote a series of three variations on the tune, and we will hear two of the variations for prologue and the final variation for epilogue. The Cantus Firmus is heard clearly and unadorned in each variation, first in the soprano line, then in the pedal at the soprano pitch, while the accompaniment uses motives taken from the chorale.



1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;
 2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn - ful sigh?
 3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;
 4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran - somed of the earth.
 5 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom - y halls of death Christ, the con - quer - or, has gone,
 Christ who died our broth - er here lives our broth - er still on high,
 joined to Christ, your liv - ing head, where he is, you shall be too;
 Praise him in a no - bler song, cher - u - bim of heav'n - ly birth.
 Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:



bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.
 lives for - ev - er to be - stow bless - ings on his church be - low.
 with the Lord, at God's right hand, as a vic - tor you shall stand.
 Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o - bey.
 Glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
 Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Let us pray.

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.

⁸Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
who comes to | judge the earth.

⁹The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peo- | ples with equity. **REFRAIN**

SECOND READING: | John 5:1-6

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.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #169

The assembly sings the acclamation before and after the verse of the day.



Cantor: Those who love me will keep my word, and my Fa- | ther will love them,*
and we will come to them and make our | home with them. (*John 14:23*)

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.

The Holy 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.

SERMON

Pastor Stephen Springer



1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" All on earth with an - gels say;
 2 Love's re-deem-ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.
 3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.
 4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious king! Where, O death, is now your sting?



raise your joys and tri - umphs high; sing, O heav'ns; and earth, re - ply.
 Lo! The sun's e - clipse is o'er. Lo! He sets in blood no more.
 Death in vain for - bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
 Once he died our souls to save; where your vic - to - ry, O grave?

5 Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
 Praise to thee by both be giv'n.
 Thee we greet triumphant now:
 hail, the resurrection, thou!

6 King of glory, soul of bliss,
 everlasting life is this:
 thee to know, thy pow'r to prove,
 thus to sing, and thus to love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS, Pierre de Corbeil, d. 1222

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Pour the boundless gift of your Spirit upon us, and strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Let the example of your love for your own be the foundation of our love for neighbors around the globe. Seal our hearts and give us and a new song that brings your redeeming love to the nations. Touch all, believers and unbelievers, with the power of the Gospel. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, whom we commemorate today as a renewer of the church and hymn writer, and whose generosity was fundamental in the founding of Moravian missions. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Creating God, the earth praises you. Fill it with your love as it awaits a new creation and a universe restored to acknowledge your rule, so that by its song, all creatures of land and sea and sky may call us to join with them in praise. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders, and let your Spirit fall upon them, that through your forgiving, cleansing, renewing power they may choose to govern with justice, and their people may live in peace. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Caring Healer, you forget no one and you accompany all the sick, the suffering, the lonely and the lost. Provide shelter or medical care where it is needed, and point us towards life-changing responses to the needs in our own community. Stay by the side of the terminally ill, and give wisdom and strength to their caregivers. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O Lord, we pray especially for India. Strengthen the government and the people in this nation in crisis. Give wisdom and courage to leaders and medical personnel, and blanket the country with your healing. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Bless new mothers with the gifts of wisdom and love in raising their children. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your loving presence forever, and their joy is a continual feast. We remember with thanksgiving the saints you chose to share your love throughout their lives. Keep us, the ransomed, united with them in your lasting love. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

MEDITATION

Members of the Dove of Peace Chancel Choir

Set Me as a Seal (from Wedding Cantata)
Daniel Pinkham (1923-2006)

In today's Gospel, Jesus give his disciples a new commandment: love one another. The Biblical Book Song of Songs is full of many references to love, and numerous composers have set the text in today's anthem. American composer Daniel Pinkham included the text as part of his Wedding Cantata, which he wrote in 1956 for the marriage of friends of his.

Set me as a seal upon thine heart,
as a seal upon thine arm:
For love is strong. Amen.
Song of Songs 8:6

COMMISSION

Concluding announcements and ministry opportunities.

BLESSING

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.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

We Know That Christ Is Raised

ELW # 449



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em-braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re-born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924
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EPILOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Cantio sacra: Christ lag in Todesbanden (Christ lay in death's bonds), SSWV 131
Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)
3. Chorale in the Bass

Scheidt's final variation on Christ Lag is his grandest, presenting the chorale tune on reeds in the pedal with a fantasy-like accompaniment in the manuals.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Dianne Huston, Assisting Minister
Chris Alexander, Lector
Eric Holtan, Cantor
Kevin Seal, Organist