

OUR PATH OF WORSHIP

Easter 6 – May 2 & 5 (7:45am), 2024

SERVICE THEME: Love Each Other

Liturgy: Setting 3

HYMN 583 ♪ God Loves Me Dearly

1 God loves me dearly, grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

Refrain: Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

2 I was in slav'ry, sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working to make me free. *(Refrain)*

3 He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer,
he sent forth Jesus and set me free. *(Refrain)*

4 Jesus, my Savior, himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed. *(Refrain)*

5 Now I will praise you, O Love eternal;
now I will praise you all my life long. *(Refrain)*

Text: Public domain

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: This is the day the Lord has made!

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

M: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

C: Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

M: Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He knows his sheep, and his sheep know him.

C: We listen to his voice, and there is one flock and one shepherd.

M: Jesus is the vine; we are the branches. If you remain in Jesus and Jesus in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Jesus you can do nothing.

C: This is to the Father's glory, that we bear much fruit, showing ourselves to be his disciples.

M: Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

C: **No one comes to the Father except through him.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God's Word calls us to be honest about ourselves and our God. God is holy. We, on our own, are not. But we have learned...

C: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **O Lord, in the Commandments we learn that we have not feared, loved and trusted in you above all things. I have been swayed by the peer pressure of others. I am often tempted to love the things of this world more than you. And I have trusted in my own heart, my own desires, my own will instead of your Word. Forgive me for Jesus' sake.**

(Silence for meditation and reflection)

M: God's love for you in Christ is beyond measure. In love, God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN 465 ♪ Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

sts. 1-2,6

- 1 **"Christ the Lord is ris'n today!" saints on earth and angels say.
Raise your joys and triumphs high; sing, O heav'ns, and earth, reply.**
- 2 **Love's redeeming work is done, fought the fight, the battle won.
Lo, our sun's eclipse is o'er; lo, he sets in blood no more.**
- 6 **Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n! Praise to you by both be giv'n!
God has now fulfilled his Word; praise the resurrected Lord!**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, abr., alt. (Public domain)

THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray. O God, you are the giver of everything good. Inspire us, your humble servants, to long for what is right and, through your gracious guidance, accomplish it to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

FIRST READING – Acts 9:36–42

“Peter Serves as a Christian Example of Love”

³⁶In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. ³⁷About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. ³⁸Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!”

³⁹Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

⁴⁰Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. ⁴²This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING – 1 John 4:7–11, 19–21

“We Love Because He First Loved Us”

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Corinthians 13:13

Refrain:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

M: And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Refrain

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GOSPEL – John 15:9–17

“Love as Jesus has Loved You”

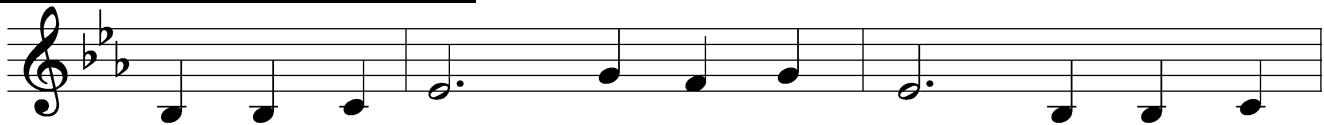
⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

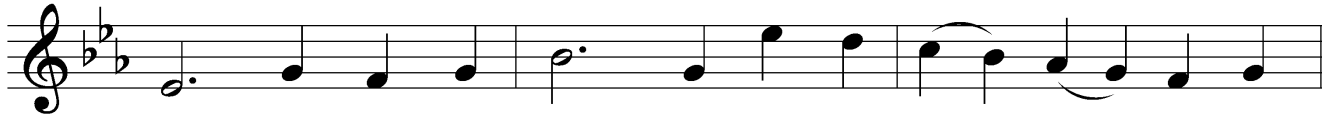
C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

HYMN 728 This Is My Will



1 This is my will, my one com - mand, that love should
2 No great - er love can be than this: to choose to
3 I call you now no long - er slaves; no slave knows
4 You chose not me, but I chose you, that you should
5 All that you ask my Fa - ther dear for my name's



dwel a - mong you all. This is my will, that you should
die to save one's friends. You are my friends if you o -
all his mas - ter does. I call you friends, for all I
go and bear much fruit. I chose you out that you in
sake you shall re - ceive. This is my will, my one com -



love as I have shown that I love you.
bey what I com - mand that you should do.
hear my Fa - ther say you hear from me.
me should bear much fruit that will a - bide.
mand, that love should dwell in each, in all.

Text: Text: James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010, alt.; Tune: Gaelic, 19th cent.

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SERMON TEXT – John 15:9–17 (See the Gospel)

SERMON THEME – “Remain in Christ’s Love”

STAND

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand

of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

BE SEATED

WELS CONNECTION

OFFERING Please fill out the Friendship Register.

After the offering is collected, please stand and sing...

OFFERING HYMN 695 ♪ Take My Life and Let It Be

sts. 1+4

- 1 Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 4 Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.**

Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

C: Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

M: Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

C: Take away our love of sinning and restore us each day by your grace.

M: The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

C: Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

M: Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

C: Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

M: Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death.

[Special prayers and intercessions may follow]

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

[Silent personal prayers]

M: Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

C: Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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.

BE SEATED

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER (Sunday, 7:45)

HYMN 863 ♪ A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

sts. 1, 4

1 A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon;
he helps us free from ev'ry need that has us now o'ertaken.

The old evil foe now means deadly woe;
deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
on earth is not his equal.

4 The Word they still shall let remain nor any thanks have for it;
he's by our side upon the plain with his good gifts and Spirit.

And take they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,
though all may be gone, our victory is won;
the kingdom's ours forever!

Text: tr. composite; Martin Luther, 1483–1546 (Public domain)

STAND

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

HYMN 695 🎵 Take My Life and Let It Be

sts. 5+6

**5 Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.**

**6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

Text: Public domain

Preacher: Pastor Ben Golisch — Accompanist: Lisa Meissner

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2024 Confirmation Class

Gavin Balkevich (Christopher & Christine Balkevich)

Memory Verse: John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Explanation: “I chose this verse because it was my Grandma Sally’s favorite verse, and she meant a lot to me.”

Alexis Gerlach (Jeremy & Lisa Gerlach)

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:34, “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Explanation: “This verse reassures me that God loves me and will guide me through each and every day.”

Casey Jacklin (Brian & Sara Jacklin)

Memory Verse: Psalm 23:1, “The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.”

Explanation: “I like that it is simple and to the point. I don’t ask for a lot. I don’t want too many things. I only need simple things [and the Lord provides].”



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View today’s sermon at: <https://vimeo.com/album/5603674>