

**"My command is this:
Love each other as I have loved you"**

John 15:12



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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

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

Liturgical Color: White/Gold

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.

GATHERING

Prelude

Cherié Hockenberger

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. John Brown

“...And now let us prepare our hearts and minds to receive the Gift of God's Holy Spirit.”

**Gathering Song*

Cherié Hockenberger

“Love Divine All Love Excelling”

**Easter Declaration*

The Christ Candle is lighted.

P Alleluia! Alleluia! The Lord is risen!

C He is risen, indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia!.

****Opening Prayer***

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

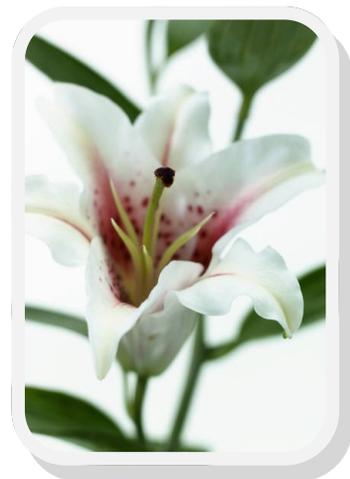
C Amen.

P Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

****Hymn of Praise***

***Glory and praise to our God,
who alone gives
light to our days.
Many are the blessings he bears
to those who trust in his ways.***



****Prayer of the Day***

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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.

C Amen.

WORD

First Lesson

Acts 10:44-48

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.



Psalm 98

Read responsively

- A ¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.
- C ²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
- A ³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- C ⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**
- A ⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.
- C ⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**
- A ⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.
- C ⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy
before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**
- A ⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

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.

The assembly stands.

***Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.



P The Holy Gospel according to John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

[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.”

At the conclusion of the reading of the Gospel...

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Rev. John Brown

***Hymn of the Day**

Cherié Hockenberger

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”



Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

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Refrain

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show
 us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent-ly wash-es their feet,
 2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent-ly wash-ing their feet:

Refrain

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
 all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
 this is the way we will live with you.

**Nicene Creed*

C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers

*The faithful offer their petitions and concerns to God.
God hears our prayers.*

- A Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.
- A Lord, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

Other petitions are given, concluding with...

- P 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 Lord.
- C Amen.**

***Peace**

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.**



The assembly is seated following the peace.

“This Week’s Question...”

Announcements

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

P I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

Offertory/Offering Song

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

**Great Thanksgiving (Sursum Corda)*

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself
to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter
and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels,
cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and
join their unending hymn:



Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

****Eucharistic Prayer***

P Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us
for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become
subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus
Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human
nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you,
the God and Father of all.

P He stretched out his arms upon the cross,
and offered himself, in obedience to your will,
a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

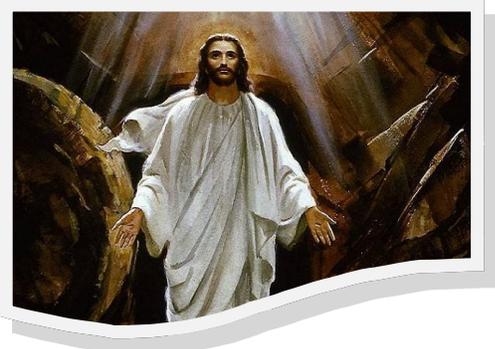
P On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

P After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

****Memorial Acclamation***

P Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**



The Celebrant continues

P We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

P Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

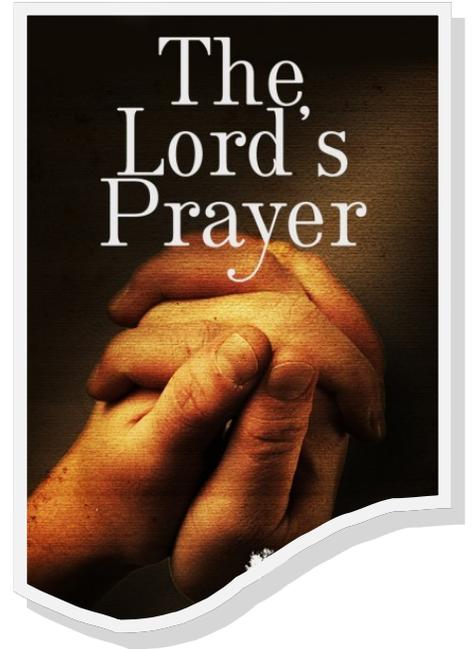
P All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

C **AMEN.**

P And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The 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.



The Lord's Prayer (Contemporary)

C Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.



****Fraction***

P Alleluia, Alleluia! Risen Lord, be known to us
in the breaking of the bread.

C Alleluia, Alleluia!

****Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)***

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, grant us peace.

****Invitation to Communion***

P God invites his children
to come to the Feast.

C Taste and see that the Lord is good.



****Prayer of Spiritual Communion***

P My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there,
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Communion Hymn

“What Wonderful Love Is This”

Cherié Hockenberger

Anniversaries, Birthdays & Thanksgivings

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What Wondrous Love Is This

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

****Prayer after Communion***

- A Let us stand and pray together...
- C **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. Amen.**

SENDING

****Blessing***

- P May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

****Sending Hymn***

Cherié Hockenberger

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

****The Sending***

- A Alleluia. Christ is risen.
- C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- A You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.
- C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

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1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Pray for our Members:

Doris Anderson, Jim Anderson, Mary Gwen Barrington, Robert Barrington, Ann Bird, Dale Brockelbank, Bridgette Hubbard, Larry McDonald, Gene Shank, Herb Tacktor.



Pray for our Friends:

Connie Alexander, Dr. Anthony, Mason Ball, Hunter Bowman, Brody, Jack Burns, Randy Fisher, Will Flewelling, Tim & Lori Hendry, Graeleigh Jensen, Devon Kinney, Julie Kirkland, Cherie (Hardenburgh) Langin, Robin Laskowski, Leah Mitchell, Laura Ochs, Peter Quinlan, Edward Ritzema, Christopher Rivera, Michael Saucedo, Mason Stapley, Bob & Cyndi Walker, Jim Weeks.

Pray for those at home: Jonah Schmidt.

Pray for those in care facilities: Evelyn Fearnow, Sherry Johnson, Lorraine Keson, Stephanie Vineyard.

Pray for our Armed Forces, especially our members: *Army* - Christian Boomgaard; *Reserves* - Tad Reed; *National Guard* - Jeremy Horstman, Jordan Martz.

Pray for our Veterans, especially those suffering from the wounds of war.

Pray for our Parish Family: our area churches and our Synod, as well as churches throughout the United States and the world,

especially Christ United Church in East Jordan, MI, and Rev. Terry Williamson. Synod Assembly 2021, Bishop Craig Satterlee and Ms. Sandy Schiesinger, Synod Council Vice President.

GENERAL PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Watch over all who search for justice. Give compassion and understanding to those who continue to protect and defend the rights of others, encourage people to peacefully seek solutions to social injustice. We pray for all those who serve our country, especially those serving in the Armed Forces. We pray you will renew those who suffer from the wounds of war, for healing as they put their trust in you. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We continue to pray for an end to the pandemic of COVID 19. We pray for all who are infected and for the loved ones of those who have died. We pray for caregivers, for health care workers and for scientists working on a vaccine and new medical treatments. Give us patience to maintain the necessary protocols and the courage to see this through together. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In your love, you guide with justice. Inspire leaders for truthful conversations and wise policies, that decisions are made for the good of all. Restore our faith in one another as we all work for the common good of all.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Worship Assistants

Sunday: May 09, 2021—The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Altar Guild: **Carolyn Fitch and Karen Rathburn**
Assisting Minister **Colin Nash**

Sunday: May 16, 2021—The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Altar Guild: **T Jaye Brand and Mary Hoffman**
Assisting Minister **T Jaye Brand**

