

resurrection
REALity

**The Risen Lord's Love
Inspires Us to Love Others**

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 05/06, 2024

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's *eternal love* for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing or sitting, will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

Restrooms: are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.

Nursery: We encourage families to worship together. If an adult needs to step out of the chapel briefly with a child, the nursery is provided just outside the chapel near the restrooms.

For Kids: Activity sheets for young children are available on the bulletin table. Small bags with quiet activity items hang near the table.

CURRENT SERIES: RESURRECTION REALITY

St. Paul writes, "...in fact Christ has been raised from the dead" (1 Corinthians 15:20). Two important words: "in fact." Paul is stressing that the resurrection really happened. Easter is history. Jesus' resurrection is the event that defines reality for us all. If Christ had remained dead, he would be a fraud and failure. But Christ has in fact been raised! So, the reality: Jesus is who he claimed to be—the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. Also his words and promises for us are sure, anchored to the reality of his resurrection. So the reality of the resurrection changes our future and the way we look at life now.

TODAY: THE RISEN LORD'S LOVE INSPIRES US TO LOVE OTHERS

From his compassion for the sick and broken, to his sacrificial death on the cross, to the peace he provided after his resurrection, Jesus was the perfect embodiment of love. So we also focus on loving others like Jesus loved us.

With the same supernatural power by which God raised Jesus from the dead, he now enables us to live a new life—one marked by radically selfless love. The motivation and ability to do this comes from seeing the endless love Christ has for us. We love only because he first loved us.

OPENING HYMN

God Loves Me Dearly

Stand for stanza five.



1 God loves me dear - ly, grants me sal -
2 I was in slav - 'ry, sin, death, and
3 He sent forth Je - sus, my dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, him - self did
5 Now I will praise you, O Love e -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing to make me free.
deem - er, he sent forth Je - sus and set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, paid all I owed.
ter - nal; now I will praise you all my life long.



Refrain
There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 89

Who in the skies can compare with the LORD? Who is like the LORD among the sons of God¹?

I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

Yes, I have said, “Your mercy is built to last forever. In the heavens you established your faithfulness.”

You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

¹ That is, *the angels*

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne. Mercy and truth are right in front of you.

How blessed are the people who know the joyful cry. LORD, they walk in the light from your face.

In the name of the Father, the Son + and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

BE SEATED

CONFESSION OF SINS

In today's Gospel, Jesus says that he has chosen us and appointed us to go and bear fruit. He makes it clear what kind of fruit he wants us to bear: "This is my command: Love one another." We know what we are supposed to do, yet, because our sinful nature is selfish and demanding, that fruit is often lacking. This we can openly admit to God because he invites us to confess our sin to him and trust in him to forgive us.

Heavenly Father, we have not always obeyed your commands. We have sinned against you by loving other people and things more than you, and by loving ourselves more than others in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We are sorry. Have mercy on us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Jesus says, "No one has greater love than this: that someone lays down his life for his friends." In his great love, Jesus Christ has laid down his life for us. Though our sins are many, his mercy is more. Jesus died because of our sins and was raised to life because of our justification. I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Go and bear fruit. Love one other. Speak words of encouragement and do acts of kindness, as friends of Jesus Christ, and recipients of his grace.

THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 89



1 Love will be our song for - ev - er, faith - ful love from
2 Heav'n and earth a - like af - firm it: LORD, you are mag -



a - ges past: love en-shrined with - in a prom - ise made by
nif - i - cent! E - vil pow'rs and hid - den forc - es you have



you and sure to last; hu - man tongues and an - gel voic - es
ren - dered im - po - tent. At your throne of love and jus - tice



join in rev - 'rence and de - light, prais - ing your un -
we ex - tol you, faith - ful King: blest are those who



ri - valed splen - dor, lov - ing LORD, the God of might.
learn to trust you— they have am - ple cause to sing.

FIRST READING

Acts 9:36–42

Tabitha (Dorcas) loved Jesus and helped the poor. Jesus, in love for the people of Joppa, had Peter raise her from death.

³⁶In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was always doing good deeds and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became sick and died. After they had washed her, they laid her in an upstairs room. ³⁸Since Lydda is near Joppa, when the disciples heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, who urged him, “Come to us without delay!”

³⁹Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they led him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing him the robes and clothing that Dorcas made while she was still with them.

⁴⁰After Peter sent them all outside, he got down on his knees and prayed. Then he turned toward the body and said, “Tabitha, get up!” She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her stand up. After he called the saints and the widows, he presented her to them alive.

⁴²This became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN RESPONSE

For All the Faithful Women



2 Lord, hear our thanks for Dor - cas, who served the sick and poor.
4 All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



Her hands were cups of kind - ness, her heart an o - pen door.
All praise the Ho - ly Spir - it, who binds the Church in one!



Send us, O Christ, your bod - y, where peo - ple cry in pain,
With saints who went be - fore us, with saints who wit - ness still,



and touch them with com - pas - sion to make them whole a - gain.
we sing glad al - le - lu - ias and strive to do your will.

SECOND READING

1 John 4:7–11, 19–21

Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another.

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸The one who does not love has not known God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God's love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another.

...

¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar. For how can anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, love God, whom he has not seen? ²¹This then is the command we have from him: The one who loves God should also love his brother.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Young children are invited to the front for a brief devotion.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

All: stanzas 1, 3-4, 10; Women: stanza 6; Men: stanza 7



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, with ex - ul - ta - tion
 3 My own good works a - vailed me naught, no mer - it they at -
 4 But God be - held my wretch-ed state be - fore the world's foun-
 6 The Son o - beyed his Fa-ther's will, was born of vir - gin



spring - ing, and, with u - nit - ed heart and voice and ho - ly
 tain - ing; my will a - gainst God's judg - ment fought, no hope for
 da - tion, and, mind - ful of his mer - cies great, he planned for
 moth - er, and, God's good plea - sure to ful - fill, he came to



rap - ture sing - ing, pro - claim the won - ders God has done, how
 me re - main - ing. My fears in - creased till sheer de - spair left
 my sal - va - tion. A fa - ther's heart he turned to me, sought
 be my broth - er. No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore; a



his right arm the vic - t'ry won. How dear - ly it has cost him!
 on - ly death to be my share and hell to be my sen - tence.
 my re - demp - tion fer - vent - ly; he gave his dear - est trea - sure.
 ser - vant's form like mine he bore to lead the dev - il cap - tive.

7 To me he spoke, "Hold fast to me,
 I am your rock and castle.
 Your ransom I myself will be;
 for you I strive and wrestle.
 For I am yours, your friend divine,
 and evermore you shall be mine;
 the foe shall not divide us.

**10 “What I on earth have lived and taught
be all your life and teaching;
so shall my kingdom’s work be wrought
and honored in your preaching.
Take care that no one’s man-made laws
should e’er destroy the gospel’s cause;
this final word I leave you.”**

SERMON

John 15:9–17

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so also I have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰If you hold on to my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have held on to my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you these things so that my joy would continue to be in you and that your joy would be complete.

¹²“This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this: that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you continue to do the things I instruct you. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will endure, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷These things I am instructing you, so that you love one another.”

Rejoice in Being a Christian!

1. As Christians we are loved by Jesus.
2. As Christians Jesus calls us His friends.

STAND

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Augsburg Confession, Article XX, par. 27-29

[Our churches] teach that it is necessary to do good works. This does not mean that we merit grace by doing good works, but because it is God's will. It is only by faith, and nothing else, that forgiveness of sins is apprehended.

The Holy Spirit is received through faith, hearts are renewed and given new affections, and then they are able to bring forth good works.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. If being here today was a blessing to you and you would like to support our ministry, you can scan here and enter your phone number or email address to donate. (Members, please use a phone number or email address that is currently on file with the church).



During this time, we ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Please fill in the requested information and pass the booklet to the end of the row. Thank you!

OFFERING SONG

Compassion Hymn

*There is an everlasting kindness You lavished on us
When the radiance of Heaven came to rescue the lost
You called the sheep without a shepherd to leave their distress
For Your streams of forgiveness and the shade of Your rest*

*And with compassion for the hurting You reached out Your hand
As the lame ran to meet You and the dead breathed again
You saw behind the eyes of sorrow and shared in our tears
Heard the sigh of the weary, let the children draw near*

*Chorus: What boundless love, what fathomless grace
You have shown us, o God of compassion
Each day we live an offering of praise
As we show to the world Your compassion*

*We stood beneath the cross of Calvary and gazed on Your face
At the thorns of oppression and wounds of disgrace
For surely You have borne our suffering and carried our grief
As You pardoned the scoffer and showed grace to the thief*

Chorus

*How beautiful the feet that carry this Gospel of peace
To the fields of injustice and the valleys of need;
To be a voice of hope and healing, to answer the cries
Of the hungry and helpless, with the mercy of Christ*

PRAYER

Loving Father, you have given us your love, you sent your Son in love, and you move us to love.

Lord, we will sing of your great love forever.

Gracious God, you showed your love among us by giving us a new birth through your Word of truth.

Fill our hearts with the power of your love, that we may show that love to others, and that our joy may be complete.

Open our lips to make your faithfulness known throughout the world and through all generations. Empower us to produce fruits of love to display your glory to the world.

Lord, we will sing of your great love forever.

You gave your Word, and you have also given your church people to proclaim it. Give your blessing, courage, and strength to the new workers trained at Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary who are about to be sent into your harvest field.

Send them out to bring your message to the lost and to bless to your church.

Remember, Lord, your servants who suffer, who carry in their hearts pains of mind or body. Sustain, strengthen, and restore their health if it is your will.

Do not let the evil foe deceive or discourage them.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

O Lord, save your people who hope in you. Comfort us with your Word, since you have redeemed us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

STAND

THE SACRAMENT

For our guests: Eternal Love Lutheran Church practices close communion. We welcome congregational members and those in fellowship with our national church body to receive the sacrament with us today. If you are interested in learning more about what we believe or about holy communion, please speak with our pastor.

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en-ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -
san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he,
bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and slurs. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

BE SEATED

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - men.



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



 dwell 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.

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
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm



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



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

BLESSING

Let us praise the Lord:
thanks be to God.

May God the Father bless us and keep us,
may Christ be ever light for our lives,
may the Spirit of Love be our guide and path,
for all of our days.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

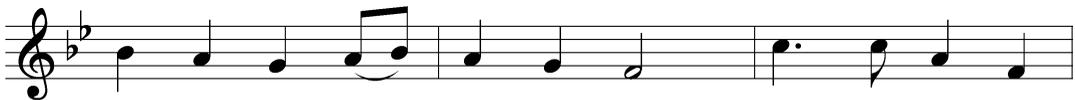
Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for the gos - pel's



joy and peace. Let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,
in our hearts and lives a - bound! Ev - er faith - ful,



O re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Dave Backus

Preacher: Guest Pastor Dave Nottling

Scripture Readers: Dan Wallander (8:00 am); Chris Zimmerman (10:45 am)

Accompanist: Lisa Neuberger

Communion Assistants: Troy Rodman (8:00 am); Chris Zimmerman (10:45 am)

God Loves Me Dearly (CW 583)

Text: August Rische, 1819–1906; tr. Composite Tune: German Text and tune: Public domain.

Love Enduring Evermore (CW Psalm 89C)

Text: Martin E. Leckebusch Tune: The Christian Lyre, 1831, ed. Joshua Leavitt Text: © 2001 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission: License no. 130036228 Tune: Public domain.

For All the Faithful Women (CW 893)

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007, alt. Tune: Finnish Text: © 1993, 1997, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840 Tune: Public domain.

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice (CW 557)

Text: tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, Wittenberg, 1524 Text and tune: Public domain.

Prayer of the Church

Text: Reprinted and adapted from Praying with the Readings: ... Year B, copyright © 2022, 2023 Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission.

This Is My Will (CW 728)

Text: James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010, alt. Tune: Gaelic, 19th cent. Text: © 1969 James Quinn, SJ, admin. OCP Publications. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840 Tune: Public domain.

What Wondrous Love Is This (CW 526)

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, Lynchburg, 1811, alt. Tune: Southern Harmony, New Haven, 1835, ed. William Walker Text and tune: Public domain.

Final Blessing

Text: © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (CW 927)

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879 Text and tune: Public domain

Holy Bible

The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version®, EHV®, © 2019 Wartburg Project, Inc. and The New International Version®, NIV® copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® All rights reserved.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

CONTACT US

Dave Backus, Pastor

920.716.7987

Pastor.Backus@eternal-love.org

Kara Krull, Wee Love Director & Teacher

920.858.3933

Kara.Krull@eternal-love.org

Rebecca Fleming, Office Manager

920.749.9744

Office.Manager@eternal-love.org



ETERNAL-LOVE.ORG



WEE-LOVE.ORG