

Service of the Word – The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Roanoke, VA

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG: *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
set heart and will on things a - bove that we
and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

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**

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

A reading from Acts.

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.

P The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM: *I Give to You a New Commandment* – arr. Peter Nardone

Brynn Scozzari and Evan Odson, soloists

I give to you a new commandment,
a new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another,
love one another as I have loved you,
as I have loved you.

*Ubi caritas est vera, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exsulemus et in ipson iucundemur.
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.*

Where true charity is, God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us into one.
Let us exult, and in Him be joyful.
Let us fear and let us love the living God.
And from a sincere heart let us love each other.

- text from John 13:34-35 and *Liber usualis*

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

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.

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter

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.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us*



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your

love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty

though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that

heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian traditions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are ill, hospitalized, having surgery, or recovering: **Russell Dyer**. Be with the dying and comfort those who are grieving the death of a loved one: **Family of Christie Scott**. Attend to the needs of all those we name before you now... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives. Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love,

we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.

Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others,

and at the end bring all the world to your feast;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,

be honor and glory forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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 FOR OUR TIME

Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious God,

we pray for your guidance as we live out our callings in a world still in the grip of a pandemic.

 Give your peace to those who grieve the loss of loved ones.

 Give your strength to those who suffer illness.

 Give your presence to those who remain isolated.

 Give your healing skill to those who provide medical care.

 Give your wisdom to local and world leaders.

Help us to remain patient and hopeful in the days and weeks ahead. While we follow an unfamiliar path, remind us that you are with us always. Grant us courage to persevere, serving you as we serve others in Jesus' name.

Amen

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Abide, O Dearest Jesus*

1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, a - mong us with your grace,
2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, a - mong us with your word;
3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness a - mong us, pre - cious Light;
4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings a - mong us, boun - teous Lord;
5 A - bide, O faith - ful Sav - ior, a - mong us with your love;

that e - vil may not harm us nor we to sin give place.
and thus now and here - af - ter true peace and joy af - ford.
your truth di - rect and keep us from er - ror's gloom - y night.
let us in grace and wis - dom grow dai - ly through your word.
grant stead - fast - ness and help us to reach our home a - bove.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a range of approximately one octave. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with line numbers 1 through 5 corresponding to the first five lines of the first system. The second system contains the concluding lines of the hymn. The score ends with a double bar line.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace, loving God and loving your neighbor. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

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Abide, O Dearest Jesus – text: Josua Stegmann, tr. August Crull; music: CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN, Melchior Vulpius.