

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 5th, 2024 – 8:30 AM

WELCOME



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.

- † Preacher – Rev. Wes Smith
- † Officiant – Pr. Brian Griswold
- † Worship Leader – Earl Hem

WORSHIP

HYMN: Hosanna

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest
Lord we lift up your name, With hearts full of praise.
Be exalted oh Lord my God. Hosanna in the highest.

Glory, glory, glory to the king of kings.
Glory, glory, glory to the king of kings.
Lord we lift up Your name,
with hearts full of praise.
Be exalted, oh Lord, my God.
Glory to the King of Kings.

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HYMN: Jesus, Strong and Kind

Jesus said That if I thirst,
I should come to Him.
No one else can satisfy,
I should come to Him.
Jesus said if I am weak,
I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength,
I should come to Him.

Chorus

Jesus said that if I fear,
I should come to Him
No one else can be my shield,
I should come to Him.

Chorus

Jesus said if I am lost,
He will come to me.
And He showed me on that cross,
He will come to me.

Chorus

Chorus

For the Lord is good and faithful
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus
Jesus, strong and kind.

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Prayer of the Day - 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.**

GOD'S HOLY WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

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.



The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 98

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

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.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let 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 peoples with equity.



HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of John 15: 9 - 17; **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, Lord Jesus Christ!**

SERMON – Reverend Wes Smith

“PROMOTED BY LOVE: (Accepting and Sharing Christ’s Love)”

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN: He Leadeth Me

1. He leadeth me O blessed thought
O words with heavenly comfort fraught
Whate'er I do where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me

Chorus

2. Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom
By water's calm o'er troubled sea
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me

Chorus

Chorus:

He leadeth me He leadeth me
By His own hand He leadeth me
His faithful follower I would be
For by His hand He leadeth me

3. Lord I would clasp Thy hand in mine
Nor ever murmur nor repine
Content whatever lot I see
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me

Chorus

4. And when my task on earth is done
When by Thy grace the victory's won
E'en death's cold waves I would not flee
Since Thou through Jordan leadeth me

Chorus

Joseph Henry Gilmore, William Batchelder Bradbury
CCLI Song #62762

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

† At this time, we also recognize those joining us via FaceBook Live, and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests you may have submitted for our worship.

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *A brief silence.*

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. We especially remember, those from our families and community in greatest need of our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud)*

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

