



6th Sunday of Easter

Connected to Christ and his love we love one another

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California

May 9, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

- **Bathrooms** are located in the fellowship hall. A changing table is located in the women's bathroom.

WORSHIP THEME

Believers in Christ receive the forgiveness of sins through his name. As baptized believers, we are called to love one another, clinging to God's promise and bound by his commands. Our love for God is marked by obedience to his will. God's love for us is marked by Christ's obedience on the cross. In Christ, we have a faith that holds on, believes, and confesses him to be the Son of God. This is our victory in overcoming the world.

The crucified and risen Lord Jesus is with His Church through the word of His apostles, who *"are witnesses of all that he did."* He was anointed by God *"with the Holy Spirit and with power,"* and *"he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,"* and so He was with those whom He sent *"to preach to the people"* (Acts 10:38–42). The Holy Spirit is bestowed on those who hear that apostolic preaching, who are *"baptized in the name of Jesus Christ,"* so that *"everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name"* (Acts 10:43–44, 48). For as He came by the water of His Baptism, even to the blood of His Passion, so the Spirit testifies to the truth with *"the water and the blood"* in the apostolic ministry of the Gospel (1 John 5:6–7). By these means, Christ Jesus speaks to us, that His joy may be in us and that our *"joy may be full."* For this purpose, He appointed the apostles to *"go and bear fruit"* in order to make known His divine friendship to us (John 15:11, 15–16).

OPENING HYMN

Love Is the Gracious Gift | CW 505



1 Love is the gra - cious gift of your good - ness;
2 You loved me first, Lord, send - ing me Je - sus.
3 Love means for - give - ness, pa - tience, and kind - ness;
4 Love in a mar - riage, love free - ly giv - en,
5 Love a - mong Chris - tians, love in the fam - 'ly,



Love is the pa - tient fruit of your care;
Then I re - spond - ed, trust - ing your Son.
Love is not jeal - ous, boast - ful, or rude.
Love of a hus - band, love of a wife—
Love for the Sav - ior, whose blood was shed,



Love is the gen - tle work of your Spir - it,
Now you in - vite me to love my neigh - bor,
Love en - dures all things, bear - ing, be - liev - ing;
Made to con - tin - ue, blos - som, and flour - ish,
Love and sub - mis - sion one to an - oth - er



Who is the source of love ev - 'ry - where.
Show - ing your true love to ev - 'ry - one.
Love hopes for - ev - er, re - joic - es in truth.
Grow ev - er deep - er through - out this life.
As un - to Christ, who reigns as our head.

Text: Donald E. Smith, b. 1952, alt. © 1985 Donald E. Smith. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: BUNESSAN (Irregular) Gaelic melody, 19th century.

INVOCATION

M: Christ is Risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

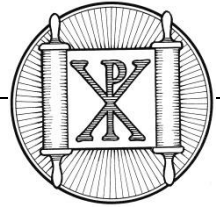
C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him." The score consists of seven staves of music.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The Service of the Word



Having just received absolution for their sins, believers now gather around the Word of God to find encouragement and peace for their lives on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

*The **Collect** (also known as the "Prayer of the Day") is a concise prayer which "collects" the thoughts of the day and presents them to God in his mercy. Many of these prayers have been in use in the church for more than 1,500 years.*

FIRST LESSON

Acts 10:34-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Upon recognizing the Spirit at work among the Gentiles he baptizes them in the name of Jesus.

³⁴Peter began to speak: "Now I truly understand that God doesn't show favoritism, ³⁵but in every nation the person who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶He sent the message to the Israelites, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷You know the events that took place throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John preached: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how he went about doing good and healing all who were under the tyranny of the devil, because God was with him. ³⁹We ourselves are witnesses of everything he did in both the Judean country and in Jerusalem, and yet they killed him by hanging him on a tree. ⁴⁰God raised up this man on the third day and caused him to be seen, ⁴¹not by all the people, but by us whom God appointed as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be the judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that through his name everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins."

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came down on all those who heard the message. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were

amazed because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues^u and declaring the greatness of God.

Then Peter responded, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone withhold water and prevent these people from being baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸ He commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay for a few days.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 98, page 103

Refrain



Sing to the Lord a new song, for



he has done mar - vel - ous things.

Psalm tone



Sing to the LORD a new song,

for he has done marvelous things.

The LORD has made his salvation known

and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness

to the house of Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen

the salvation of our God.

Refrain

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,

burst into jubilant song with music;

make music to the LORD with the harp,

with the harp and the sound of singing.

Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

He will judge the world in righteousness

and the peoples with equity.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 John 5:1-8

Children of God believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping his commandments. The world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father also loves the one born of him. ²This is how we know that we love God's children: when we love God and obey his commands. ³For this is what love for God is: to keep his commands. And his commands are not a burden, ⁴because everyone who has been born of God conquers the world. This is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith.

⁵Who is the one who conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶Jesus Christ—he is the one who came by water and blood, not by water only, but by water and by blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify:^[c] ⁸the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and these three are in agreement.

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 14:23

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE GOSPEL

John 15:9-17

In the first part of this chapter Jesus called himself the Vine and we are the branches, who bear fruit. We heard those words last week. Today Jesus continues. We remain in his love as we obey his commands. His love that chose us leads us to love one another.

¹⁹When it was evening on that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because they feared the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

²⁰Having said this, he showed them his hands and his side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you.” ²²After saying this, he breathed on them and said, ^[a] “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (called “Twin”^[b]), one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples were telling him, “We’ve seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “If I don’t see the mark of the nails in his hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Don’t be faithless, but believe.”

²⁸Thomas responded to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹Jesus said, “Because you have seen me, you have believed.^[c] Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

³⁰Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,^[d] and that by believing you may have life in his name.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

This Is My Will | CW 497



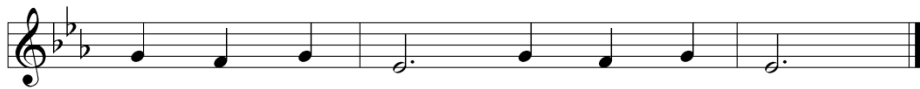
1 "This is my will, my one com - mand,
 2 "No great - er love can an - y have
 3 "I call you now no long - er slaves;
 4 "You chose not me, but I chose you,
 5 "All that you ask my Fa - ther dear



That love should dwell a - mong you all.
 Than that one die to save his friends.
 No slave knows all the mas - ter does.
 That you should go and bear much fruit.
 For my name's sake you shall re - ceive.



This is my will, that you should love
 You are my friends if you o - bey
 I call you friends, for all I hear
 I chose you out that you in me
 This is my will, my one com - mand,



As I have shown that I love you.
 What I com - mand that you should do.
 My Fa - ther say, you hear from me.
 Should bear much fruit that will a - bide.
 That love should dwell in each, in all."

Text: James Quinn, b. 1919, alt. © 1969 James Quinn, SJ (admin. Selah Publishing Co.). All rights reserved.
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 Tune: SUANTRAI (LM) Gaelic melody, c. 19th century.

SERMON

Acts 10:34-48

God's Favorite

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.

2 Cor. 6:18

Is. 51:13

1 Cor. 8:6; Jn. 3:18

Lk. 1:35

Lk. 1:34; 2:7

Lk. 23:16

Mt. 27:32-61; Mk 15:21-47

Lk. 23:26-56; Jn. 19:16b-42

1 Pet. 3:19

1 Cor. 15:4b

Ac. 2:33-34

Heb. 1:13

Mt. 25:31

2 Tim. 4:1

Mt. 3:16-17

Eph. 5:23

Eph. 4:3-6

Rom. 4:6-8

1 Cor. 15:13-19

1 Th. 4:17

Upon hearing the Word preached, the congregation unites in one voice to speak a summary of the Christian faith that all Christians profess. The creeds signify our allegiance to the Christian faith and unite us with over 2,000 years of Christian history. By repeating the creeds weekly, we equip ourselves for public witness by grounding our confession in the fundamentals of

OFFERING

Of all the gifts God gives to us, forgiveness in Jesus Christ is the most precious. No gift we could give back to God for what he did through his Son Jesus Christ could ever balance the debt we owe for what our Lord accomplished for us on the cross. Yet Jesus says the debt we owe has been canceled, that means that we do not give out of obligation but as an act of worship and thanks to God. The offerings of the members of Christ Lutheran are gathered at this time. Guests need not feel obligated to give an offering.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

C: Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

M: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

C: Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.

M: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

M: Holy God, on this Mother's Day, we come first and foremost to worship You – for it is through the death and resurrection of Your one and only son, Jesus Christ, that we can have the hope of eternal life. And that is deserving of our worship and thanks above all. But also, Lord God almighty, we honor women; those You have used as instruments of Your love in our lives. In whatever form they come, we thank You, oh God. In whatever role they have played in our lives, we thank you, oh God. And may You continue to raise up Your children through the self-sacrificing love of a mother.

Special prayers and intercessions.

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

Silent prayer.

M: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

HYMN

The Love of Christ Who Died for Me | **CW 749**

1 The love of Christ, who died for me Is
 2 My sins I on - ly see in part, My
 3 O liv - ing Lord of life, for whom The

more than mind can know, His
 self - re - gard - ing ways; The
 heav - ens held their breath, To

mer - cy mea - sure - less and free To
 se - cret pla - ces of my heart Lie
 see, tri - um - phant from the tomb, A

meet the debt I owe. He
 bare be - fore his gaze. For
 love that con - quers death, Pos -

came my sin - ful cause to plead; He
 me the price of sin he paid; My
 sess my heart that it may be Your

laid his glo - ries by, For
 sins be - yond re - call Are
 king - dom with - out end, O

me a home - less life to lead, A
 all a - like on Je - sus laid, He
 Christ who died for love of me And

shame - ful death to die.
 died to bear them all.
 lives to be my friend.

This hymn examines the true nature of God's grace. While human love is directed toward people and things that bring pleasure, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926 © 1991 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: RESIGNATION (CM D) A Compilation of Genuine Church Music, Winchester, VA, 1832

PRAYER

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people.
Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Numbers 6:22-27

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

M: 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.

*The **blessing** of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So I will put my name on them, and I will bless them."*



C: **A - men. A - men. A - men.**

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

His Battle Ended There | **CW 146**



1 His bat - tle end - ed there, death was o - ver - come.
2 Dread pow'rs of death and sin had him in their hold.
3 Dead in the grave he lay, mourned by ev - 'ry friend.
4 He burst the chains of sin, o - pened death's dark jail.



Je - sus, a - live a - gain, wore the vic - tor's crown.
When Je - sus rose a - gain all their plans were foiled.
Those dark and fear - ful days then did reach their end.
God filled him with new life, life that could not fail.



Clear - ly sin had failed; Good - ness had pre - vailed.
Je - sus lived a - gain, Tri - umphed o - ver sin.
God raised him to life, Vic - tor in the strife.
Right be - fore their eyes Je - sus did a - rise.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: African Chewa hymn, paraphrase Tom Colvin, b. 1925, abr. © 1976 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: NCHEU (65 65 55 88) African Angoni war song, adapt. © 1976 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

VBS June 7th-11th

Champions of Faith is a Vacation Bible School program that teaches about the great love God showed to mankind by the life, death, and resurrection of his Son, Jesus. The setting is an Olympic competition where the participants will discover Jesus, The Great Champion, who overcame all obstacles to win the final victory. God shares Jesus' triumphs over sin and death with each one of his creations and encourages them to stay focused on their course until they receive the final prize in heaven.

The Paschal Candle

Paschal, meaning "having to do with the Passover," is a word associated with Easter, for it was at the conclusion of the Jewish Passover Festival (the "Pasch") that Jesus rose from the dead and proved himself to be the true Passover Lamb whose blood removes the threat of death (Exodus 12 & 1 Corinthians 6:6-8).

Paschal Candles are usually very large, white, and inscribed with a cross and the Greek letters Alpha and Omega (the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet), which symbolize that Christ is eternal, the beginning and end (Revelation 1:8; 22:13).

The Paschal Candle is lit every Easter morning to symbolize that Christ is alive and lives among his people. It is then lit for every service during the season of Easter as we continue to celebrate Christ's resurrection. The candle is also lit at Holy Baptisms and Christian funerals, reminding us of the believer's new birth and resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



13009 N. Elderberry Ct.

Lodi, CA 95242

www.christlodi.org

209-368-6250

Pastor Joshua Hanson

WELCOME TO CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We preach a message of forgiveness, hope and peace
through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Families and individuals of all ages will find opportunities
both to grow and to serve.

Our mission statement:

Look what Christ is doing!

He binds us together in fellowship

He gathers us in for worship

He builds us up for service

*“Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it.”
(1 Corinthians 12:27)*

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The Common Service: Texts revised from The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941. Music revised by James Engel.

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