

SATURDAY, May 4, 2024
Sixth Sunday of Easter / No Communion - 5:00 pm

GREETINGS AND PRAYER

HYMN: Songs of Grace 104 *This Is My Father's World*

(Please rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: We make our beginning in the name of the Father;

People: who has created us, defended us, and provided for all our needs.

Pastor: We make our beginning in the name of the + Son;

People: who has come to us, redeemed us, and will come again to take us home.

Pastor: We make our beginning in the name of the Holy Spirit;

People: who has given us life, brought us to faith, and sanctified us by His Word.

Pastor: To the Triune God be all glory, thanks, and praise.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you have made us, we are your creation, everything we have and need comes from your hand. We thank you for this day and all its gifts. But, Father, we must also confess that we have transgressed your commands and gone our own way. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Therefore, Father, hear us as we confess who we are:

All: Lord God, we confess our sin. You have promised to provide for all our needs, yet we mistrust your promise. You have given us your spirit and called us to obedience, yet we serve our own desires and make them gods before you. You have urged us to love our neighbors, yet we choose whom we will love and treat the rest as though they do not matter. Father, forgive us, for we have sinned. For the sake of your Son and his awesome sacrifice, forgive us and make us whole again.

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our God is a great God and greatly to be praised. He gives us daily bread for both body and soul. Sin no longer has dominion over us, and the Old Accuser has no claim upon us. By his grace, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, and in his Name we have peace with God. Our sins are forgiven; our guilt set aside. By the cross of Jesus and the Word of God then believe these words: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen!

(Please be seated)

SONG OF RESPONSE: "O, HOW I LOVE JESUS" (SoG #80 vs. 1 & 2)

PRAYER

ALL: LORD, WE THANK YOU THAT YOU HAVE TAUGHT US WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE AND DO. HELP US BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, FOR THE SAKE OF JESUS CHRIST, TO KEEP YOUR WORD IN PURE HEARTS THAT THEREBY WE MAY BE STRENGTHENED IN FAITH, PERFECTED IN HOLINESS, MADE FRUITFUL IN LIFE, AND COMFORTED IN DEATH. AMEN.

The FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-48

³⁴Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with

him. ³⁹“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” ⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” ⁴⁸ So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

The SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-8

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. ²This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. ⁶This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

The GOSPEL HYMN: LSB 589 *Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens*

The HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

Pastor: The Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(Please be seated)

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

HOMILY: Pastor Matthew Woods

The OFFERTORY: LSB 475 vs. 1, 4 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing*

(Please rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy...

People: Hear our prayer.

LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Bless we the Lord.

People: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Pastor: Now the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and + give you His peace.

People AMEN.

(Please be seated)

CLOSING SONG: LSB 655 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*