



As We Gather Sixth Sunday of Easter May 5, 2024

A treasured children’s song, “I Love to Tell the Story, has a refrain that follows each of the stanzas penned by poet Arabella Katherine Hankey, repeating the simple words: “I love to tell the story; ’Twill be my theme in glory, To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.” The original Greek language in which John wrote his Gospel uses the word “love” either as a noun or a verb some nine times in the section of Jesus’ words heard in the Gospel for today. Jesus wants His disciples and us to know the abiding power of His love. It is that love that compels us to love one another—and the “others” beyond our circles of family, friends, and other close relationships. We are blessed in hearing the “old, old story of Jesus and His love” anew today. May we be blessed in telling it out in love as well!

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**Please meet with an usher for prayer requests.
Ask us about Associate Memberships for Lutherans who are part-time residents.**

A Gentle Reminder to turn off cell phones. Thank You.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION



As Lutheran Christians, we believe that our Lord's Body and Blood are truly present (not symbolic) in the Bread and Wine and received by all who attend. Since our Lord reminds us that thoughtless or faithless reception of the Sacrament can incur His judgment, all are encouraged to examine themselves that they may receive it worthily. (1 Corinthians 11:27-32)

Please use the following questions and LSB p. 329 as a personal guide before partaking of this Holy Sacrament:

- *Do I renounce sin, Satan and my own flesh, and seek true forgiveness and reconciliation with God and my neighbor?**
- *Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil?**
- *Do I believe that Christ's own words, this is my body and this is my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins (Mt. 26:28), mean exactly what they say for us today?**
- *Do I earnestly desire to live a Godly life by the power of the Holy Spirit and in thanksgiving to Christ?**

Because attendance at Communion is also a testimony to this faith in the Triune God confessed and taught here, and to unity in belief as brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16-17), we ask that any visitors not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, and who desire to receive the Sacrament introduce themselves to the Pastor or Elder beforehand if possible.

Please Note

An invitation for children not confirmed in the Lutheran church to come and receive a blessing at the altar.

We offer a traditional communion wafer,
Off-White Color Wafers are Gluten Free.

While communing, please point to the bread meeting your preference.
Clear Color Wine is Alcohol Free

PRELUDE WELCOME

PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN “I Love to Tell the Story”

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and His glory of Jesus and His love. I love to tell the story because I know it’s true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story; ‘twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, ‘tis pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet. I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God’s own holy Word. *Refrain:*

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song, “twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain:*

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 146:1–2, 5, 10*

- P** Praise the LORD!
C **Praise the LORD, O my soul!**
P I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
C **I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
C **whose hope is in the LORD his God.**
P The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.
C **Praise the LORD!**
P As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy:

PREPARATION FOR CONFESSION “Out Of The Deep I Call”



1 Out of the deep I call To
2 Out of the deep I cry, The
3 Out of the deep of fear And
4 Lord, there is mer - cy now, As



Thee, O Lord, to Thee. Be - fore Thy throne of
woe - ful deep of sin, Of e - vil done in
dread of com - ing shame; All night till morn - ing
ev - er was, with Thee. Be - fore Thy throne of



grace I fall; Be mer - ci - ful to me.
days gone by, Of e - vil now with - in;
watch is near I plead the pre - cious name.
grace I bow; Be mer - ci - ful to me.

(Tune: William Daman, ca. 1540–91 Tune: Public domain)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.
- C** **Gracious God, in heartfelt repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are sin-stained people by nature. Each day we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we should be doing as Your servants. We have not seen people in the loving way that You see them. We have not always been ready to care and quick to help. We do indeed deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Abide with us and grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives, lead us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.**
- P** God is loving and merciful. He sees us with loving eyes and graciously hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

WORD

INTROIT *Psalm 66:1–2, 8–9, 20; antiphon: v. 16*

- P** Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what He has done for my soul.
- C** **Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**
- P** Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,
- C** **who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**
- P** Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me!
- C** **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.**
- P** Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

HYMN OF PRAISE “All Glory Be To God On High” *LSB 947*

All glory be to God on high, and thanks for all His favor;
No harm can touch or terrify a child of God forever.
God shows His good and gracious will And grants His peace, the world to fill—
All strife at last has ended.

(Text: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546; tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006
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SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, while we were still in our sins You chose us, laid down Your life for us, and called us friends. By Your great love for us, inspire us to love one another that we may abide in Your grace and may bear fruit according to Your promise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

FIRST READING Acts 10:34–48

“Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING 1 John 5:1–8

“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.”

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Romans 6:9; John 16:33b*

- P** Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.
- C** Alleluia. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL **John 15:9–17**

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus said: “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE #700 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

SERMON “He’ll Change The Way You Think!” Acts 10:34-48

CREED Nicene Creed

- C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the

Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs... [*Petitions...*] Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** ...Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *LSB 192*

- C** **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

SACRAMENT

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have come to redeem Your fallen creation. Through the saving work of Jesus Christ, whom to know is everlasting life, we are granted all good things and are directed in ways of peace. Through the working of Your Holy Spirit, bestow upon us Your benediction that we may abide in Your love, sharing that wondrous love in all our words and deeds throughout our life's journey on earth. Together with angels and archangels and with all that rejoice in the courts of heaven we praise Your glorious name.
- C** Amen.

SANCTUS *LSB 178*

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LORD'S PRAYER

- C** 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.

PAX DOMINI

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

AGNUS DEI *LSB 163*

- C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#686 Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing #770 What A Friend We Have In Jesus
#527 O Savior, Precious Savior #475 Good Christian Friends
#430 My Song Is Love Unknown

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, once again You have welcomed us at Your Table of grace. Grant that this Sacrament that we have now received may strengthen us so that we may abide in loving service day by day. As we have shared in the blessings of Your Table, grant that we live each day as Your people who see people around us as You see them and love them as You love them. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

G Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

G Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #895 “Now Thank We All Our God”

+ + + +

Altar flowers today are given by to the Glory of God
by Gail and George Snow

Reader Today: Phillip West

PRAYER LIST: Fritz Reed, back procedure; Danny Jones (Brother of Kathy Hammar), for restored health after congestive heart failure; Judy Caison (Sister of Jim Hammar), healing-post surgery; Buzz Arney (Brother-in-Law of JoAnn Arney), in hospice care after stroke; Brian Ooms (friend of Constiens), open-heart surg. Tues.

LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE: 106
(Last month: 4/7 107; 4/14 109; 4/21 132)

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tues. May 7 10:00 a.m. LWA Meeting – this will be our last meeting until Sept. 10.
Tues. May 7 11:00 a.m. Preschool Chapel
Thur. May 9 10:30 a.m. Support Group
Sunday May 12 8:30 Bible Study; 10:00 a.m. Worship

2nd ANNUAL CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT! Coming **Friday, Oct. 11, 2024!** Start making plans now! **Entry fee \$10 each. Additional \$10 for lunch each** (if desired). A great outreach opportunity to invite your neighbors and friends! Only two teams where both are members of MLC will be entered. Otherwise, members must pair up with a non-member. Tournament is open to the community. Anyone deciding to play, let Steve Raddatz know (253-653-8687; georad57@gmail.com) with your contact information/team name and \$. He'll sign you up prior to open registration which will begin the first week in June. If you would like to volunteer to help out, let Steve know.

WANT TO PUT NAMES WITH FACES?! Now's your chance! Get your picture taken for our **new wall directory in the fellowship hall: "Our Church Family"!** **Sign up** at the "sign-ups" table and pick your day. Your picture will be taken here at church on a Sunday when you are present before or after church. Pictures will be taken in the fellowship hall and posted with just your name(s). Pictures will be small (approx. 3"x4"). If you are a "snow bird" who will be leaving soon, please sign up asap! If you have any **questions, contact coordinator Christine Constien, 815-409-2035 or constien.christine@gmail.com.**

BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| May 1 Jan Hinrichsen | May 7 Polly Struhar | May 9 Judy Duncker |
| May 12 Brooke Helsten | May 14 Mike Ethington | May 16 Taralee Helsten |
| May 18 Nancy Martin | May 19 Steve Raddatz | May 19 Caleb Seamann |
| May 22 Jim Bean | May 23 Karron Knight | May 25 Scott VanLente |
| May 26 Julie Kuran | May 27 Mary Bollenbecker | May 28 Jean Anderson |

ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| May 15 Lonnie & Gayle Malwitz | May 17 George & Beverly Brack |
| May 18 Jim & Patti Jones | May 26 David & Christine Constien |
| May 28 James & Kathy Hammar | May 28 Gary & Kathie Hartman |

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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