

**St. Olaf Lutheran Church**  
**9 am, Sunday, May 9, 2021**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year B**

**Introduction**

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.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Fountain of living water, **pour out your mercy over us.**

**Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.

Journey in the way of Jesus. Amen.

**\*HYMN**

*“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

**ELW 631**

**Vs. 1 & 4**

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.
  
- 4 Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee!

Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

**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.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

*“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”*

**ELW 836**

**Vs. 1**

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

### **\*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.**

## **Mother's Day Blessing**

### **First Reading: Acts 10:44-48**

*While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

L: Word of God, word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6**

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup>This 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.

L: Word of God, word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **\*Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **\*Gospel: John 15:9-17**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I 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. <sup>16</sup>You 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. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

P: The gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Emily Wikner*

## SERMON

*Pastor Emily*

## HYMN

*“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”*

ELW 712

- 1 Lord, whose love in humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
worked your mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart;  
consecrating to your purpose  
ev'ry gift which you impart.
- 2 Still your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power  
to our world to make it whole.
- 3 As we worship, grant us vision,  
till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness  
dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens  
your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service,  
your abundant life to share.
- 4 Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, good will and comfort,  
counsel, aid and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know and live.

## Prayers of Intercession

P: Here us O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you. (feel free to do an 'air' high five or a peace sign).**

## **Offering**

*Thank you for joining us in worship. At this time we will receive the offering for the mission and ministry at St. Olaf Lutheran Church. Our congregation relies on the generosity of God's people to sustain the work of our Lord. You can give by mailing a check to the church or on our Paypal link [paypal.me/stolaffd](https://paypal.me/stolaffd)*

## **Offering Prayer**

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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.**

## **\*Blessing**

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you (✠) that you may be a blessing in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**Amen.**

- 1 On our way rejoicing  
gladly let us go.  
Christ our Lord has conquered;  
vanquished is the foe.  
Christ without, our safety;  
Christ within, our joy;  
who, if we be faithful,  
can our hope destroy?

**Refrain**

On our way rejoicing;  
as we forward move,  
hearken to our praises,  
O blest God of love!

- 2 Unto God the Father  
joyful songs we sing;  
unto God the Savior  
thankful hearts we bring;  
unto God the Spirit  
bow we and adore,  
on our way rejoicing  
now and evermore. **Refrain**

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Assisting in Worship**

Presider:	Pastor Emily Sauer
Children's Sermon:	Emily Wikner
Lector:	Howard Hartman
Organist:	Jason Swedlund
Soloist:	Scott Otto
Sound Tech(s):	Marc Matthes
	Mark Oester
	Robert Younie