

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**Pontiac, IL**

**May 9, 2021**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

*This morning’s Red bag offering will be donated to Lutheran Social Services.*

*Altar flowers this morning were donated by Doug & Peggie Schneeman in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.*

**We gather to worship, reach out, and serve the Lord.**

**Welcome**

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Whether you have worshipped with us many times, or this is your first time, there is a place for you here. Your presence among us is a gift.

God’s Peace be with you.

**Introduction to the day**

**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.

**Prelude**

**GATHERING**

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**A: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

L: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We thank you, risen Christ,

**We thank you, risen Christ,**

for these waters where you make us new,

Leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ,

**We bless you, risen Christ**

that your Spirit comes to us

In the grace-filled waters of rebirth,

Like rains to our thirsting earth,

Like streams that revive our souls,

Like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.

Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.

**Make us one, risen Christ.**

Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,

With the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God,

Now and forever. Let the church say Amen.

**A: Amen.**

**Greeting**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the

Holy Spirit be with you all**.**

**A: And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

L: 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.

**A: Amen**.

**Children’s Message (following the message children are invited to go to Children’s Chapel)**

**WORD**

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

L: A reading from Acts.

L: 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.

L:Word of God, word of life.

A**: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Reading- Psalm 98**

L: A reading from Psalm.

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.

L: Holy Wisdom. Holy word.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading – 1 John 5: 1-6**

L: A reading from 1 John.

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

**A: Thanks be to God.**

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*Please rise as you are able for the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

(spoken responsively)

L: Alleluia. Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them,

**A: and we will come to them and make our home with them. Alleluia.**

**Gospel–John 15: 9-7**

L: The Holy Gospel according to John.

**A: 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.”

L: The gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon Pastor Mathew Berger**

**Hymn of the Day Holy God, Holy and Glorious ELW 637**

**Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary

and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession**

Throughout our prayers, each petition ends “Hear us, O God.” The congregation is invited to respond, **“Your mercy is great.”**

**Sharing the Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A: And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with your neighbors by saying or typing, “Peace be with you.”*

**MEAL**

*This is Christ’s table, not ours. All are welcome.*

*Communion is distributed in front of the altar. The individual cups are filled with wine. The prepackaged cups are juice. If you prefer not to receive communion you may come forward with your hands crossed over your chest to receive a blessing or you may remain in your seat.*

**Offering**

*Offerings can be placed in the offering box at the back of the sanctuary, sent by mail or given online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764 or give online at* [*stpaulpontiac.org*](http://www.stpaulpontiac.org/)

**Offertory Music As the Grains of Wheat ELW 465**

**Offering Prayer**

L: God of Love,

You call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.

Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.

Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;

For the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

**A: Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

L: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Preface**

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,

the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;

who in dying has destroyed death,

and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn saying

**A: Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**Lord God of power and might,**

**heaven 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.**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

L: Holy, living, and loving God,

we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,

for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,

and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus

who, living among us,

healed the sick,

fed the hungry,

and with a love stronger than death,

gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,

his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,

we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:

carry us in your arms from death to life,

that we may live as your people,

clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church,

both now and forever, and all God’s people said...

**Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,

**A: 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.**

**Invitation to Communion**

L: The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

**Communion Music Abide with Me Matt Maher**

**We Come to the Hungry Feast ELW 479**

**Prayer After Communion**

*a blessing is given, a prayer follows*

L: Wellspring of joy,

Through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.

Satisfy the hunger still around us,

And send us as joyful witnesses,

That your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**A: Amen.**

**Announcements**

**SENDING**

**Blessing**

L: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom

To know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,

Father, ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,

Bless you now and forever.

**A: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” ELW 631**

*See music and lyrics on final page of bulletin*

**Dismissal**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**A: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

L: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**A: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude**

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Thank you to all those who contributed to today’s service: Worship Slides: Julie Mehlberg, Lector: Kaylee Delheimer, Ushers: Mark Mackinson, Musician: Sara Solberg, Livestream: Louis Kehinde, Sound: John Mehlberg

