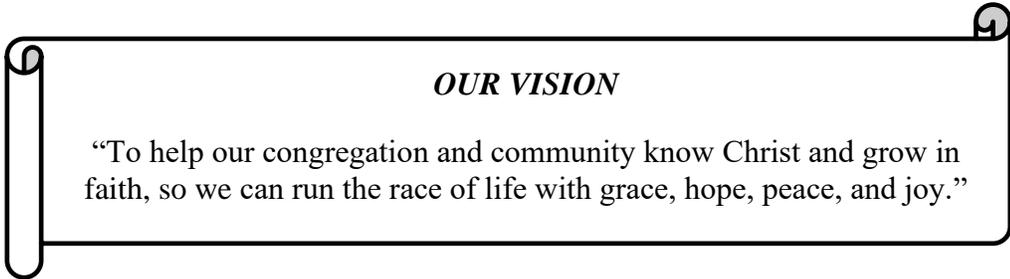


SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**May 8 & 9, 2021
6th Sunday of Easter**

**Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace
Pastor Scott Hackler – Pastor Gary Benson**



WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: “O Thou In Whose Presence”Fred Bornhoeft

INVOCATION

P: We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!
C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

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.

All thy works with joy surround thee, / earth and heav'n reflect thy rays, / stars and angels sing around thee, / center of unbroken praise. / Field and forest, vale and mountain, / flow'ry meadow, flashing sea, / chanting bird, and flowing fountain / call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, / ever blessing, ever blest, / wellspring of the joy of living, / ocean-depth of happy rest! / Thou our Father, Christ our brother, / all who live in love are thine; / teach us how to love each other, / lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933. Public Domain.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.
P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Most merciful God,
C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not

loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: “This Is the Day”

This is the day, this is the day / that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice, we will rejoice / and be glad in it, and be glad in it. / This is the day that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice and be glad in it. / This is the day, this the day that the Lord has made.

Text: Psalm 118:24. Public Domain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” Dave & Gerry Seaburg

THE PSALM: Psalm 98

Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory. O Lord, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations. You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the Lord. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein. Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth. The Lord will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE READING: 1 John 5:1-6

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

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so I have 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. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. 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. 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. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: “It’s All About Love!” *Pastor Scott Hackler*

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

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.

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit / into ev'ry troubled breast; / let us all in thee inherit; / let us find thy promised rest. / Take away the love of sinning; / Alpha and Omega be; / end of faith, as its beginning, / set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; / let us all thy life receive; / suddenly return, and never, / nevermore thy temples leave. / Thee we would be always blessing, / serve thee as thy hosts above, / pray, and praise thee without ceasing, / glory in thy perfect love.

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!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788. Public Domain.

APOSTLES’ CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING PRAYER

P: 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 Son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER: WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he come to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: 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.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord Jesus, you teach us to pray:

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.

DISTRIBUTION

BLESSING AND PRAYER

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Let us pray,

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: 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.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: "O Savior, Precious Savior"

O Savior, precious Savior, / whom yet unseen we love; / O name of might and favor, / all other names above: / we worship thee; we bless thee; / to thee alone we sing; / we praise thee and confess thee, / our holy Lord and King.

O bringer of salvation, / who wondrously hast wrought, / thyself the revelation / of love beyond our thought: / we worship thee; we bless thee; / to thee alone we sing; / we praise thee and confess thee, / our gracious Lord and King.

In thee all fullness dwelleth, / all grace and pow'r divine; / the glory that excelleth, / O Son of God, is thine.
/ We worship thee; we bless thee; / to thee alone we sing; / we praise thee and confess thee, / our glorious
Lord and King.

Oh, grant the consummation / of this our song above, / in endless adoration / and everlasting love; / then shall
we praise and bless thee / where perfect praises ring, / and evermore confess thee, / our Savior and our King!

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879. Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Scripture Reader: Doris Colville

Hymn Vocalists: Ken Carnes, Dave Seaburg, Gerry Seaburg, Sue Wilterdink

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