



# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 5, 2024

8:30 AM AND 10:30 AM

CHRIST LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

REV. BRITTA CARLSON PREACHING AND PRESIDING

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.

## **GATHERING**     **The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.**

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### **WELCOME**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.  
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.  
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.  
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.  
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,

through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia**

**GATHERING SONG**

**I Come With Joy**

**ELW 482**



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **Kyrie**

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.

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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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.**

**WORD** God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### **FIRST READING:**

**Acts 10:44-48**

A reading from Acts

*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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**



Psalm 98:4

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress  
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- <sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.
- <sup>2</sup>**O LORD, you have made | known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**
- <sup>3</sup>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.
- <sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing. R**
- <sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD | with the harp,  
with the harp and the | voice of song.
- <sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound | of the horn  
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.**
- <sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,  
the world and those who | dwell therein.
- <sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers | clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to |  
judge the earth.**
- <sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness  
and the peo- | ples with equity. **R**

## SECOND READING:

**1 John 5:1-6**

### A Reading from I John

*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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia.* Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them,\* and we will come to them and make our home with them. *Alleluia. (John 14:23)*

**Alleluia.**

**Lord to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL:**

**John 15:9-17**

The holy gospel according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

[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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

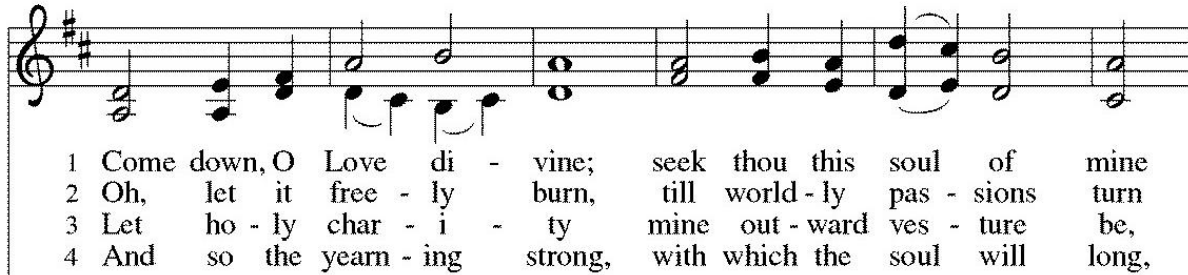
### **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY :**

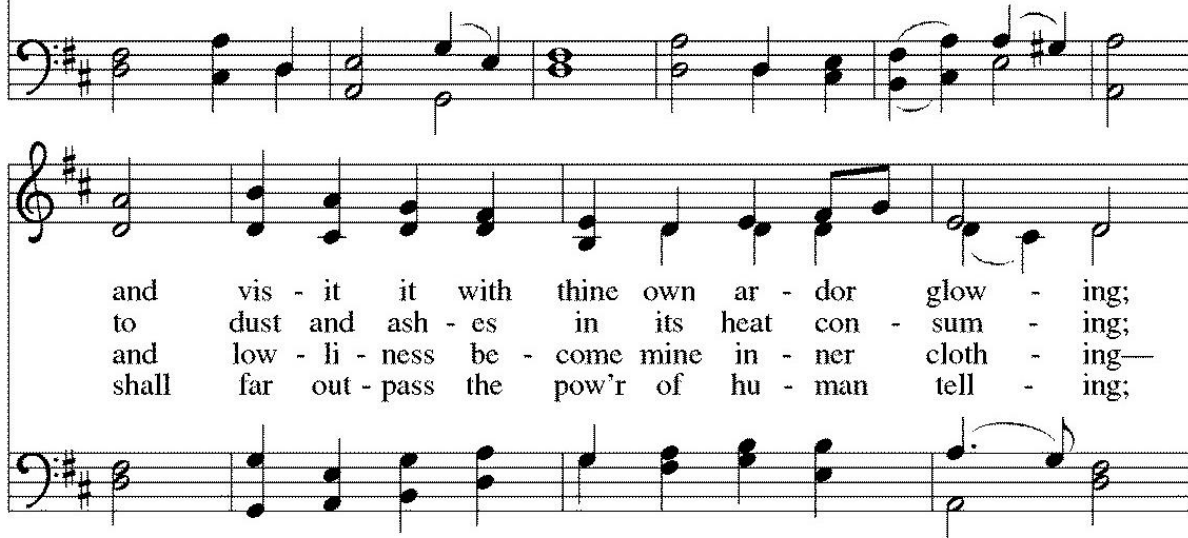
Come Down, O Love Divine

ELW 804

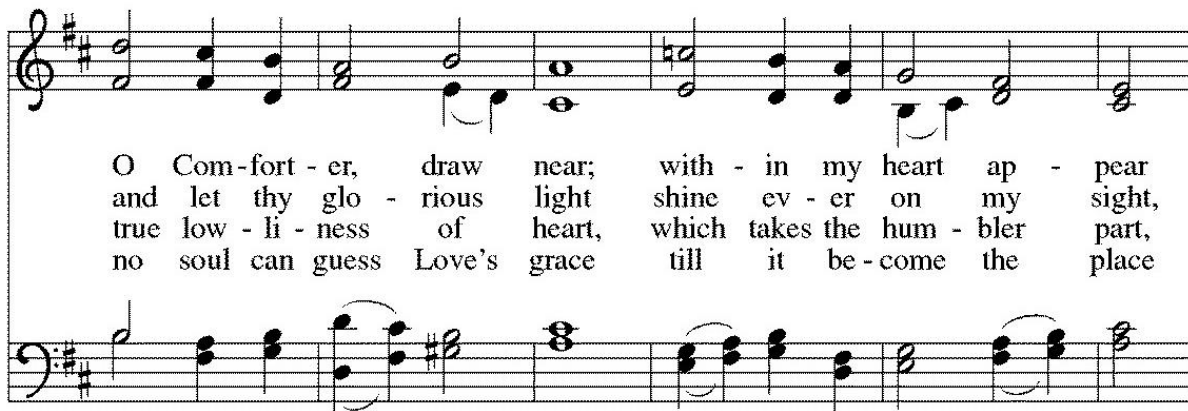
# Come Down, O Love Divine




1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine  
 2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn  
 3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,  
 4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,



and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
 and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
 shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear  
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
 true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,  
 no soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place



and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
 and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. *We pray especially for* Nettie, Penny, Tom, Darryl, Penny, Marian, Darlene, Robert, Toni, Claude, Eveline, Gracie, Hailey, Ron, Pat, Ben, Sherrell and her family, Carlos, Barbara, Marie Josie, Carolyn, Maria, Nisha, Sal, Peggy, Dianne, the Wykert family, and Pastor Randolph and the soldiers who are deployed with him. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Bless Allie Knight and Deborah Brower who are celebrating their birthdays this week. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

### **Offering Prayer**

Risen One,  
you call us to believe and bear fruit.  
May the gifts that we offer here  
be signs of your abiding love.  
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.  
**Amen.**

## **MEAL      GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST**

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*Sharing the Lord's Supper is how we celebrate the presence of the risen Christ among us. Christ shared this meal with his disciples before laying down his life for them. After Christ's resurrection, his disciples have continued to break bread and share the cup as a way of receiving Christ and participating in his Body.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER**

O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song: The earth is full of your glory.  
**The earth is full of your glory.**



We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.**

In the night in which he was betrayed...,

...Do this for the remembrance of me.

*After the pastor has recounted God's saving acts, all are invited to pray:*

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

**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**

The risen Christ is made known to us

in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

*All who desire to commune with Christ through the sharing of this meal are invited to come forward and receive the blessed bread and the wine. When receiving Communion, extend your hand, palm up, to receive the wafer of bread; to receive the wine (through intinction) dip the wafer into the chalice. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's Supper, approach the altar with your arms crossed over your chest.*

**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, grant us peace.**

**COMMUNION HYMN:**

**Now We Remain**

**ELW #500**

**Refrain:**

**We hold the death of the Lord deep in our hearts.  
Living, now we remain with Jesus, the Christ.**

**1. Once we were people afraid, lost in the night.  
Then by your cross we were saved.  
Dead became living, life from your giving.**

**Refrain**

**2. Something which we have known,  
something we've touched, what we have seen with our eyes:  
this we have heard, life giving Word.**

**Refrain**

**3. He chose to give of himself, became our bread.  
Broken that we might live. Love beyond love, pain for our pain.**

**Refrain**

**4. We are in the presence of God. This is our call.  
Now to become bread and wine: food for the hungry,  
life for the weary,  
for to live with the Lord, we must die with the Lord.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Let us pray  
Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SENDING**     **God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

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**BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope

✝ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**(next page)     **Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus**     **ELW 802**

**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

*The flowers on the altar are given in memory of Pewu Y. Johnson  
by Daisy Johnson.*

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# Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,  
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.  
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,  
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead

through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.  
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.  
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.  
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,

On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,  
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:  
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;  
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be

full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.  
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.  
 and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.  
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.

Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.  
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.  
 Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.  
 Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.