

L.Y.N.

Love Your Neighbor

***Wear a mask, Wash your hands, Respect Space,
Get Vaccinated!***

May 9, 2021

Easter VI

Divine

Worship

St Matthew-

Trinity

Parish

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.



Welcome & Prelude

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
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.
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.

Amen.

This Joyful Eastertide

This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has
sprung to life this mor - row. Had Christ, who once was
slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our faith had been in
vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -
ris - en; but now has Christ a - ris - en!

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. Phrasing slurs are used to group notes across measures. The lyrics are printed below the corresponding musical staves.

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934
Music: VRUECHTEN, Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.

Apostolic 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.

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.**

Readings and Psalm

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.

A reading from Acts.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 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, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 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: Psalm 98

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)

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, re- | joice, and sing. R**

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.

**8Let 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 peo- | ples with equity. **R**

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.

A reading from 1 John.

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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff continues the melody. The third and fourth staves repeat the 'Alleluia' phrase with variations in the melody.

Text: John 6:68, adapt. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: Robin Cain; arr. Phil Kadidlo
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

Gospel: John 15:9-17

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.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you O Lord.

[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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ!

Meditation

Hymn

What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayers

Remember in your prayers and with acts of kindness:

- **Karen & Gene Telker** (Kimberly Telker's parents) as they address Karen's hospitalization
- The family, friends, congregation of St. John Jersey City at the death of **Denise Copeland** from Covid 19

- The family and friends of **Dawn Gist** (Friend of Dan Stoll) at her death from Covid19
- **Ernie Jackson & Carla Pantophlet-Laban** (friends of Jenn Solaas and Ken Nilsen) as they recover from lasting Covid symptoms
- The family and friends of **Pat** (friend of Leslie Neve) diagnosed with cancer
- **Guy Schwanse** (friend of Irene Murray) diagnosed with cancer
- **Jim Saha** (friend of Leslie Neve) recently diagnosed with cancer
- **Sheila** (friend of Leslie Neve)
- **Dena Calabrese** (friend of Irene Murray)
- **Carol** (friend of Leslie Neve)
- **Zoia "Charlie" Foster** (Pastor's niece)
- **Joanne Krayner** (Joel's cousin)

Those in our community lost to COVID-19 and the more than 2,200 in Hudson County, 580,000 deaths in our country, and those who suffer worldwide: Gilberto and Janet Diaz-Granados (friends of pastor), **Francis Ng** (friend of Dan Stoll), **Charles Powers** (friend of the Meusel family), **Rosa Reyes** (funeral by our parish), **Richard Altomare** (friend from our neighborhood), **Barbara Wolfshorndl** (funeral by our parish), **Dawn Ennis** (sister-in-law of Pamela Pater-Ennis), **Arthur Jusu-Davies** (member), **Florence Dombrowsky** (funeral by our parish), **John Lescinsky** (friend of Courtney Kochuba), **Jaime Pombo** (friend of our parish), **Raymond Kandler** (friend of Leslie Neve), and **Teresa Zemora** (friend of Beatriz Ocampo)

Remembering the life of Nicolaus Zinzendorf, we pray on this sixth Sunday of Easter for the Moravian Church, for the baptized around the world, and for all people according to their needs, responding to each petition with the words "fill us with your love."

A brief silence.

O triune God, we praise you for your wondrous love, for the witness of Moravian Christians, and for the steadfastness of believers throughout this pandemic. Whenever churches face hardship or challenge, strengthen us in affection within and between denominations.

Hear us, loving God:

fill us with your love.

We praise you for the beauty of spring, and we stand in awe of even the hungry cicadas. Wherever creation is beckoning us to lives of ecological restraint, teach us your care of our earth.

Hear us, creating God.

fill us with your love.

We praise you for all efforts to achieve peace throughout the world. Wherever violence prevails, wherever brutality silences protest, wherever prejudice reigns, wherever the rich oppress the poor, lead us and all nations into the ways of justice. Hear us, righteous God:

fill us with your love.

We praise you for the gradual lessening of the pandemic and for your gift of vaccines. Wherever the virus still rages (especially India, Turkey, and South America), wherever medical resources are depleted, wherever medical advice is rejected, extend the power of your healing hand. Be present with all who today will die, and visit all who are sick or suffering, especially those on our prayer list and the names we call before you now in our hearts and on our lips...

A brief silence.

Hear us, healing God:

fill us with your love.

We praise you for the loving support of mothers to their children. Bless mothers, stepmothers, foster mothers, godmothers, and all of each gender who give mothering care. Protect mothers in societies where women have few rights. Comfort those who grieve because they cannot mother a child. Wherever children are deprived of mothering, provide responsible and affectionate care. Hear us, mothering God:

fill us with your love.

We praise you for calling yourself our friend. Receive now the petitions of our own hearts.

A longer period of silence.

Hear us, dearest God:

fill us with your love.

We praise you for the witness of all who have died in the faith, especially for Nicolaus Zinzendorf, the apostle Matthias, and those we name in our hearts.

Keep us united with all your children until we join them in your presence forever.

A brief silence.

Hear us, everlasting God:

fill us with your love.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6, Luke 11*

Lord remember us in your glory and make us bold to pray...

**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.

Announcements

- Sunday School
- [Offering](#)
- Worship & Music Committee
- Pledge Link <https://smt.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/19/responses/new>
<https://smt.ccbchurch.com/goto/giving>

Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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 Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in Peace, Love your neighbor as yourself.
Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship

The Rev. Gary C. LeCroy, D.Min. Pastor

Matthew Hummel, Organist

Mark Singleton, Assisting

Bernadette Oberndorf, Cantor

Jennifer Meusel, Lector

Leslie Neve, Usher

Upcoming Commemorations

Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760 Sunday, May 9, 2021

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

Matthias, Apostle Friday, May 14, 2021

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.

Readings for the Week:

- **Monday Psalm 93.**
- **Tuesday 1 Timothy 6:13-16.**
- **Wednesday Deuteronomy 11:18-21.**
- **Thursday (Ascension of Our Lord) Luke 24:44-53.**
- **Friday (Matthias, Apostle) Luke 6:12-16.**
- **Saturday John 16:4-11.**

- **Seventh Sunday of Easter Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19.**

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw.

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