

**Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 5, 2024**



As I have loved you.

Thought: Have you ever played the “web of connection game?” It is to begin to understand how we are all connected in major and minor ways that make us one in God’s love through Jesus our Lord. Jesus names us as his friends. As Christ’s friends, we have been invited into partnership with Christ in carrying out God’s mission of love for the world. We are challenged to consider what it means for us to be Jesus’ friends, and to take on his character in our lives.

Prelude – Leslie Leitner

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

P: Holding out our hands and hearts in love, we share the peace of Christ.
Peace be with you!

C: And also with you.

Call to Worship

L: We gather in the name of God, our creator, redeemer, and sanctifier.

C: Sing to God a new song!

L: With all of creation, we rejoice in God's abundant care and mercy.

C: Sing to God a new song!

L: Befriended by Christ, we open our hearts to God's love.

C: Sing to God a new song!

L: Led by the Spirit, we lift our voices in worship and praise.

C: Sing to God a new song!

Gathering Hymn – "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
ELW #631 vss. 1&2

<https://youtu.be/yRF4KKx7czU>
by the Tabernacle Choir

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: O God, we confess that we have not lived up to your calling to live as your friends and to continue your work in the world.

A time of reflection and prayer.

P: We have failed to love all others as you have first loved us.

C: We have struggled to see ourselves as your beloved friends. We have not cultivated our relationship with you. We have looked to our own interests at the expense of others.

Forgive us for all that we have said and done that has brought harm to others. Forgive us for the ways that have not trusted in you or lived according to you will.

P: Yet, in all of our failures, help us to know the power of your love that continues to support us and lift us up, giving us assurance of your pardon.

C: We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

<https://youtu.be/DwudqCO7mSQ>
by Vineyard

Prayer of the Day

L: O God, you have prepared for those who love you, joys beyond understanding.

C: Pour into our hearts such love for you that loving you above all things we may obtain your promise, 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.

Preparing for the Word

L: Jesus, you spoke to the people around you about the kingdom to come.

C Thank you for being our friend and sharing your words with us.

L: Jesus, you took children into your arms and held them close.

C: Thank you for being our friend and always holding us close.

L: Jesus, you listened to the pleas of the people around you.

C: Thank you for being our friend and always being there to listen to our prayers. Amen.

The Word

First reading – Acts 10:44-48

The Spirit is poured out on all people.

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 98

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands.

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.

Second reading – 1 John 5:1-6

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Holy Gospel – John 15:9-17

<https://youtu.be/WXmULMh84c?si=ASU3jV02aoT7MXS7>

The Holy Gospel according to John. Glory to you O Lord.

*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
You are my friends if you do what I command you.*

[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.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children of God Time

https://youtu.be/Blpunkp4YSI?si=d_kFViztzt-UCKSm

Message – “No Greater Love”

<https://youtu.be/xmk9a41anT8?si=WuHJyTGSHfrUQzC4>

Hymn of the Day – “In Christ There Is No East or West” ELW #650

<https://youtu.be/GG8hzY1OoM4>

by Chris Brunelle

Apostles' Creed

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 to the dead,
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

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

L: Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: 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*) God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation (*ministries may be named*), that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us (*especially*). At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

Offering/Offertory Music – “O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts” ELW #658

Offertory Prayer

L: You have sent your Son into our world, O God.

C: You have sent your Spirit into our hearts.

L: Accept these gifts –

C: they are the prayers of your people.

L: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: 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.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Consecration

The 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.

P: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Distribution

Communion Music – Leslie Leitner

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

L: Your joy is in us, O Christ.

C: Our joy is complete.

L: Strengthen us through this meal's healing power.

C: Then we will abide in the Father's love.

L: We bless you now and evermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction – from Numbers 6

Sending Hymn – “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” ELW #656

<https://youtu.be/RUu93KoX-0>

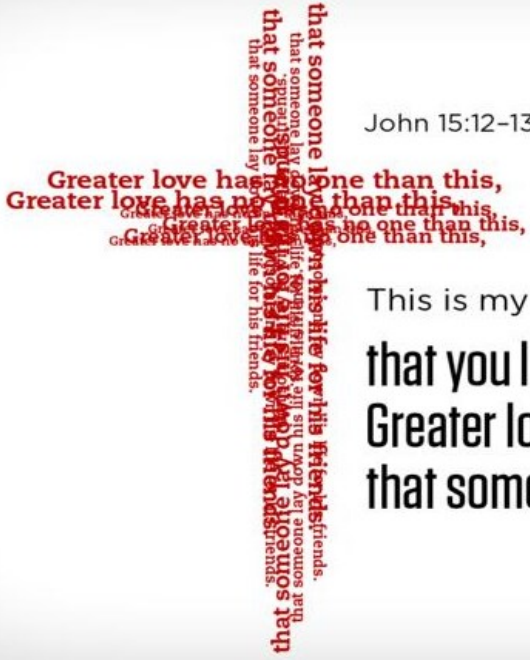
by The Acappella Company

Dismissal

L: In Christ's love we are appointed to go and bear fruit as we love one another.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude – Leslie Leitner



John 15:12-13

Greater love has no one than this,
Greater love has no one than this,
Greater love has no one than this,
Greater love has no one than this,

This is my commandment,

**that you love one another as I have loved you.
Greater love has no one than this,
that someone lay down his life for his friends.**