

The 6th Sunday of Easter: Sun., May 5, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

321 North 10th St., Beatrice, NE 68310 | 402-228-1540
www.stpaulbeatrice.org | stpaulbeatrice@gmail.com

Rev. Daryn Bahn, Pastor | 715-305-8667 | reverend.bahn@gmail.com

St. Paul's Lutheran School & Childcare Center

930 Prairie Lane, Beatrice, NE 68310 | 402-223-3414

Mrs. Amy Duever, Principal | aduever@diodecom.net | Cassie Rhoden, Childcare Director

Hymns: 878, 700, 768, 772, 770, 563, 919; Liturgy: 152, 155, 156, 161, 163

Abiding in Christ's Love



A treasured children's song, "I Love to Tell the Story," has a refrain that follows each of the stanzas penned by poet Arabella Katherine Hankey, repeating the simple words: "I love to tell the story; 'Twill be my theme in glory, To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love." The original Greek language in which John wrote his Gospel uses the word "love" either as a noun or a verb some nine times in the section of Jesus' words heard in the Gospel for today. Jesus

wants His disciples and us to know the abiding power of His love. It is that love that compels us to love one another—and the "others" beyond our circles of family, friends, and other close relationships. We are blessed in hearing the "old, old story of Jesus and His love" anew today. May we be blessed in telling it out in love as well!

878 Abide with Me sts. 1, 3, 5



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;
Ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness.



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.
I tri - umph still if Thou a - bide with me!

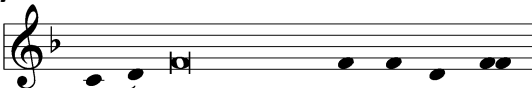
Invocation & Opening Sentences *Psalm 146:1-2, 5, 10*

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P Praise the LORD!
C Praise the LORD, O my soul!
P I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
C I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
C whose hope is in the LORD his God.
P The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.
C Praise the LORD!

Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.
C Gracious God, in heartfelt repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are sin-stained people by nature. Each day we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We have not seen people in the loving way that You see them. We have not always been ready to care and quick to help. We do indeed deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Abide with us and grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives, lead us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.
P God is loving and merciful. He sees us with loving eyes and graciously hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

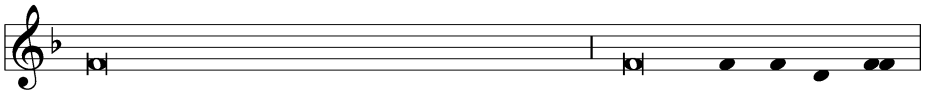
Kyrie *LSB 152*



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



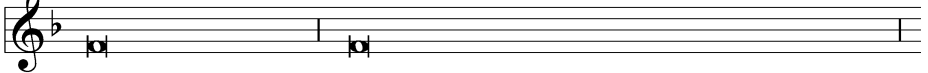
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



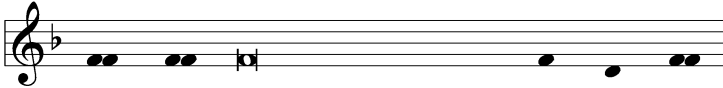
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast *LSB 155*

Refrain



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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



1 — Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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

Salutation & Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray... O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading Acts 10:34-48

³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are

witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Epistle *1 John 5:1-8*

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



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



Holy Gospel *John 15:9-17*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁹[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so have I 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. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

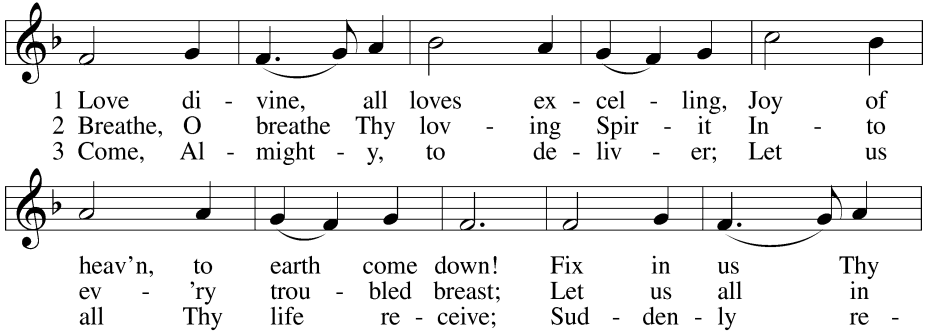
¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children's Message

700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling *sts. 1-3*



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
 turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.

Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee

bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
 and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
 as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee

Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88; Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87; Text and tune: Public domain.

Sermon

Nicene Creed

- ☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**
- And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**
- And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs... We thank God for the Christian Church and pray that God's people may live confidently and would joyfully share the message of salvation in word and deed. Gathered by the Holy Spirit, we pray that we may be blessed with all grace and give evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Lord, be with us and bless us. Together we sing the first stanza of "To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray."

768 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray *st. 1*

1 To God the Ho - ly Spir - it let us pray
For the true faith need - ed on our way
That He may de - fend us when life is end - ing And from
ex - ile home we are wend - ing. Lord, have mer - cy!

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P We pray for our families, our neighborhoods, and our communities. We ask the blessing of our bountiful God on all those who share in our Christian fellowship and join with us in worship. Also, we pray for all who are part of the household of faith, whose presence here this day supports and strengthens us. Together we sing the second stanza of "To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray."

768 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray *st. 2*

2 O sweet - est Love, Your grace on us be - stow;
Set our hearts with sa - cred fire a - glow

That with hearts u - nit - ed we love each oth - er, Ev - 'ry
 strang - er, sis - ter, and broth - er. Lord, have mer - cy!

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P We also pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized or shut in, those who are grieving at this time, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill, and all those whose needs are known to us... Lord, grant that we may bring Your blessing to situations of need in all places. Together we sing the third stanza of “To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray.”

768 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray st. 3

3 Tran - scen - dent Com - fort in our ev - 'ry need,
 Help us nei - ther scorn nor death to heed
 That we may not fal - ter nor cour - age fail us When the
 foe shall taunt and as - sail us. Lord, have mer - cy!

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P Most merciful God, we thank You for all those faithful people whose words and actions have guided us in the past, especially remembering those no longer with us on earth, who now share in Your eternal presence. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, direct us to walk Your servant way throughout our lives, seeing each person through Your loving eyes, until that day when we stand in Your glorious presence in heaven.

C Amen.

- P** Together we sing the fourth stanza of “To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray.”

768 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray *st. 4*

4 Shine in our hearts, O Spir - it, pre - cious light;
Teach us Je - sus Christ to know a - right
That we may a - bide in the Lord who bought us, Till to
our true home He has brought us. Lord, have mer - cy!

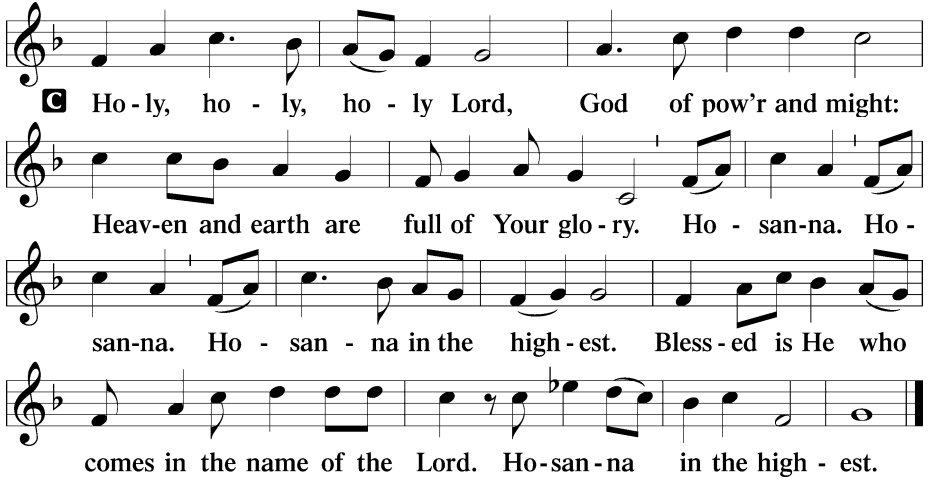
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Offering

Preface & Proper Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have come to redeem Your fallen creation. Through the saving work of Jesus Christ, whom to know is everlasting life, we are granted all good things and are directed in ways of peace. Through the working of Your Holy Spirit, bestow upon us Your benediction that we may abide in Your love, sharing that wondrous love in all our words and deeds throughout our life’s journey on earth. Together with angels and archangels and with all that rejoice in the courts of heaven we praise Your glorious name.
- C** **Amen.**

Sanctus *LSB 161*



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

- 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.**

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **Amen.**

Agnus Dei *LSB 163*

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

772 In Holy Conversation

1 In ho-ly con-ver-sa-tion We speak to God in prayer,
2 These ho-ly con-ver-sa-tions Be-gin in child-like ways;
3 As ho-ly con-ver-sa-tion, In si-lence or by word,
And at His in-vi-ta-tion Our deep-est thoughts we share.
We bring our sup-pli-ca-tions And words of thanks and praise.
In ev-'ry sit-u-a-tion Through Je-sus, we are heard.
We come, His will o-bey-ing, As chil-dren bring-ing needs;
With care our Fa-ther lis-tens To ev-'ry thought ex-pressed,
So let us pray se-cure-ly, Ex-press-ing hopes and fears
And to sup-port our pray-ing, His Spir-it in-ter-cedes.
Then an-swers our pe-ti-tions In ways He knows are best.
With con-fi-dence that sure-ly Our Fa-ther ev-er hears.

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, 1946; Tune: Swedish; Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003644; Tune: Public domain.

770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



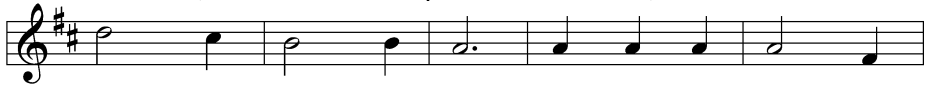
All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819-86; Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918; Text and tune: Public domain.

563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness *sts. 1, 3, 5-6*



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
 3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
 5 When from the dust of death I rise To claim my
 6 Je - sus, be end - less praise to Thee, Whose bound - less



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
 mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives'
 man - sion in the skies, This then shall be my
 mer - cy hath for me, For me, and all Thy



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
 lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
 on - ly plea: Je - sus hath lived and died for me.
 hands have made, An ev - er - last - ing ran - som paid.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700-60; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703-91, alt.; Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93; Text and tune: Public domain.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray... Lord Jesus Christ, once again You have welcomed us at Your Table of grace. Grant that this Sacrament that we have now received may strengthen us so that we may abide in loving service day by day. As we have shared in the blessings of Your Table, grant that we live each day as Your people who see people around us as You see them and love them as You love them. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.


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.

919 Abide, O Dearest Jesus *sts. 1, 5-6*



1 A - bidē, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace
5 A - bidē with Your pro - tec - tion A - mong us, Lord, our strength,
6 A - bidē, O faith - ful Sav - ior, A - mong us with Your love;

That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.
Lest world and Sa - tan fell us And o - ver - come at length.
Grant stead - fast - ness and help us To reach our home a - bove.

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588-1632; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.; Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570-1615; Text and tune: Public domain.

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