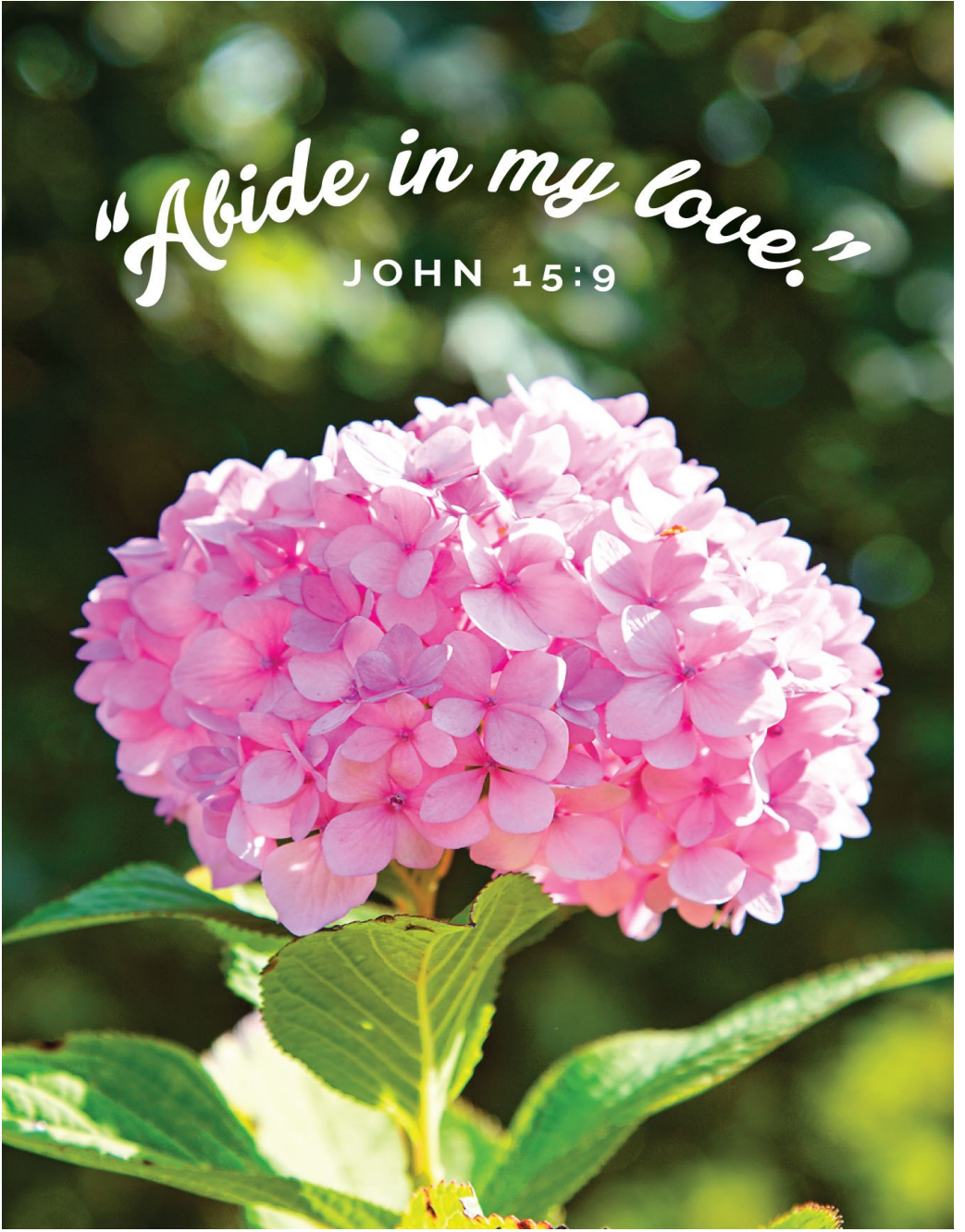


St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
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"Abide in my love."
JOHN 15:9



Praise Service - May 5, 2024
Sermon: "Abiding in Christ's Love"



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
- A Family to Whom You Belong -
Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:45 a.m. Sunday, May 5, 2024

Servants of God's House Today:

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu

Elder: Tim Draube **Praise Team Leader:** Doris Hill

Usher: Mike Popken

Missionaries: Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf and Siouxland Hispanic Ministry

Reader: Ralph Schroeder

WELCOME! We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

AS WE GATHER 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!

HOLY COMMUNION The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod believes the Biblical teaching that in communion we receive not the symbolic but the true body and blood of Jesus Christ with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the same Biblical teaching, and if you agree with the announcement on our communion card and the confession of our faith, please join us to receive the gifts that Jesus Christ has prepared for us in communion. If you have any questions or uncertainties, please feel free to make an appointment to talk with the pastor during the week before communing with us.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP 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. Amen.

Worship Service

(The congregation is invited to respond in the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

The Hand of Fellowship

The Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Opening Sentences *Psalm 146:1–2, 5, 10*

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!

Opening Song “Our God”

Water you turned into wine, opened the eyes of the blind.

There's no one like You, none like You.

Into darkness You shine, out of the ashes we rise.

There's no one like You, none like You.

Chorus: Our God is greater, our God is stronger. God, You are higher than any other.

Our God is Healer, awesome in power. Our God, our God.

And if our God is for us, then who could ever stop us?

And if our God is with us, then what could stand against?

And if our God is for us, then who could ever stop us?

And if our God is with us, then what could stand against? (repeat

chorus)

(Words/Music by Jesse Reeves, Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin, arr. By Carol Tornquist, CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

The Third Article

P: The First Reading today tells how the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to Gentiles as well as to Jews—which includes all the peoples of the world. Sharing words of faith confessed around the world, we speak together the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding the Third Person of the Holy Trinity and then express our confession of its meaning in the Small Catechism words of Martin Luther.

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

First Lesson Acts 10:34–48 (People from every nation are accepted by God.)

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.

The Epistle 1 John 5:1–8 (The victory of Christ overcomes the world.)

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.

(Please stand, as you are able, for the Gospel)

Holy Gospel John 15:9–17 (Obeying Christ’s commands and remaining in His love)

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.”

Children’s Message

The Song of Instruction “I Worship You, Almighty God”

I worship You, Almighty God, There is none like You. I worship You, O Prince of Peace,

That is what I want to do. I give You praise for You are my righteousness.

I worship You, Almighty God, There is none like You. (Repeat)

There is none like You.

(Words & music by Sondra Corbett, 1992 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

The Word “Abiding in Christ’s Love” John 15:9-17

WE WORSHIP GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul’s members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings.

Please place your offerings in the box upfront.

To our guest: Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

*Please pass your **Welcome Card** to an usher or acolyte.*

Psalm 27:6—And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Offertory “I Love You, Lord”

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you; O my soul, rejoice!

Take joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

(Words & music by Laurie Klein, 1980 House of Mercy Music, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

The Prayer of the Church

Invitation with 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.

INVITATIONAL SONG (“Praise Team):

He said come to the table

Come join the sinners who have been redeemed

Take your place beside the Savior now

Sit down and be set free

Come to the table

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

READING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT CARD FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(Praise Team will be served communion at this time.)

DISTRIBUTION “Commune With Me”

Verse 1:

Commune with me, Commune with me Between the wings of the cherubim

Commune with me, Commune with me Commune with me

Between the wings of the cherubim Commune with me

Verse 2:

I worship You, I worship You Between the wings of the cherubim
I worship You, I worship You I worship You
Between the wings of the cherubim I worship You

Verse 3:

I'll meet You there, I'll meet You there Between the wings of the cherubim
I'll meet You there, I'll meet You there I'll meet You there
Between the wings of the cherubim I'll meet You there

(Words and Music by Kirk Dearman, copyright 1986 Maranatha! Music, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

“Breathe”

This is the air I breathe, This is the air I breathe Your holy presence living in me.
This is my daily bread This is my daily bread Your very word spoken to me
And I ---, I'm desperate for you And I ----, I'm lost without you, (repeat)

And I ---, I'm desperate for you And I ---, I'm lost without you
I'm lost without you I'm lost without you, I'm lost without you, I'm lost without you
This is the air I breathe This is the air I breathe
(1996 by Marie Barnett and Vineyard Music, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

“Seek Ye First”

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God And His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you- Allelu, alleluia!
2. Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you- Allelu, alleluia!

Man does not live by bread alone, But by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Allelu, alleluia!

(Words and music by Karen Lafferty, copyright 1972 Maranatha! Music, used by permission, CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Going Out Song “My Savior, My God”

I am not skilled to understand
What God has willed, what God has planned
I only know at his right hand Stands one who is my Savior

I take him at His word and deed
Christ died to save me: this I read
And in my heart I find a need
Of Him to be my Savior

That He would leave His place on high
And for sinful man to die
You count it strange, so once did I
Before I knew my Savior

(Chorus) My Savior Loves, my Savior Lives

