

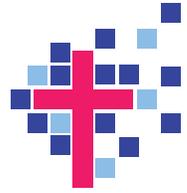
Sixth  
Sunday  
of EASTER



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## Welcome to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

*By God's grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to:  
Worship God, Grow in faith, Share the Gospel, Serve others, Welcome all*



*Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.*

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## PRELUDE

Martha Freitag, organist

*Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray (Nun bitten wir)*

Chorale tune – Johann Walter (1524)

Setting – Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Text – Martin Luther

Translation by Francis Browne

*You sweet love, grant us your favor  
let us feel your burning love  
so that we may love each other from the heart  
and in peace remain of one mind.  
Lord, have mercy*

## WELCOME

Pastor Dave Thomas

## AN OPENING LITANY FOR OUR TIME

P We gather – differently.

**C Yet we gather, all the same.**

P We gather as we are now able, in this time.

**C We gather while still separated, longing for our face-to-face reunion.**

P We gather – differently – as an act of love, doing all we can to keep safe ourselves, our loved ones, our community, and our world.

**C We gather – differently.**

P Yet we gather as we always have and always will, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

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*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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray: God of life and love, as we continue to celebrate the good news of Easter, help us live in this life as resurrection people, assured of the life to come. Freed from the fear and finality of death, enable us to eagerly do what is good, not counting the cost, but with gentleness and reverence testify to our trust in you in our words, actions and attitudes. This we pray in the name of the Risen One, Christ our Lord,
- C who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



## THE FIRST LESSON

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### *Acts 17:22-31 (NRSV)*

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.*

#### L A reading from Acts.

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

#### L The Word of the Lord.

#### **C Thanks be to God!**

## THE PSALM

*Psalm 66:8-20 (NRSV)*

*Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8)*

- <sup>8</sup>Bless our | God, you peoples;  
let the sound of | praise be heard.
- <sup>9</sup>**Our God has kept us a- | mong the living  
and has not allowed our | feet to slip.**
- <sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have | tested us;  
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.
- <sup>11</sup>**You brought us in- | to the net;  
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**
- <sup>12</sup>You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.
- <sup>13</sup>**I will enter your house | with burnt offerings  
and will pay | you my vows—**
- <sup>14</sup>those that I promised | with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.
- <sup>15</sup>**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;  
I will give you ox- | en and goats.**
- <sup>16</sup>Come and listen, all you | who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.
- <sup>17</sup>**I called out to God | with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**
- <sup>18</sup>If I had cherished evil | in my heart,  
the Lord would | not have heard me;
- <sup>19</sup>**but in truth | God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**
- <sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing | love from me.

THE SECOND LESSON

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*1 Peter 3:13-22 (NRSV)*

*The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.*

L A reading from First Peter.

<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.

L The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God!**

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Holy Communion: Setting One

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

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

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

THE GOSPEL

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*John 14:15-21 (NRSV)*

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

P The Holy Gospel as recorded in St. John the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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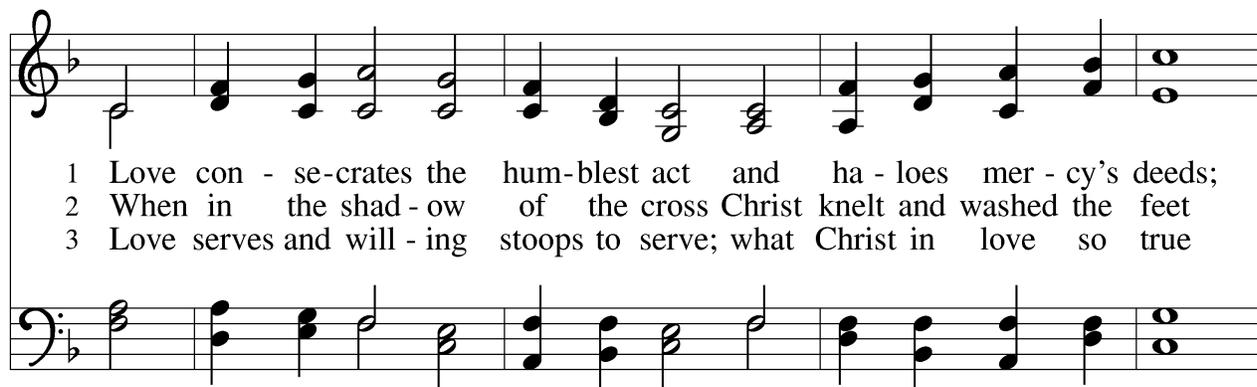
SERMON

Pastor Dave Thomas

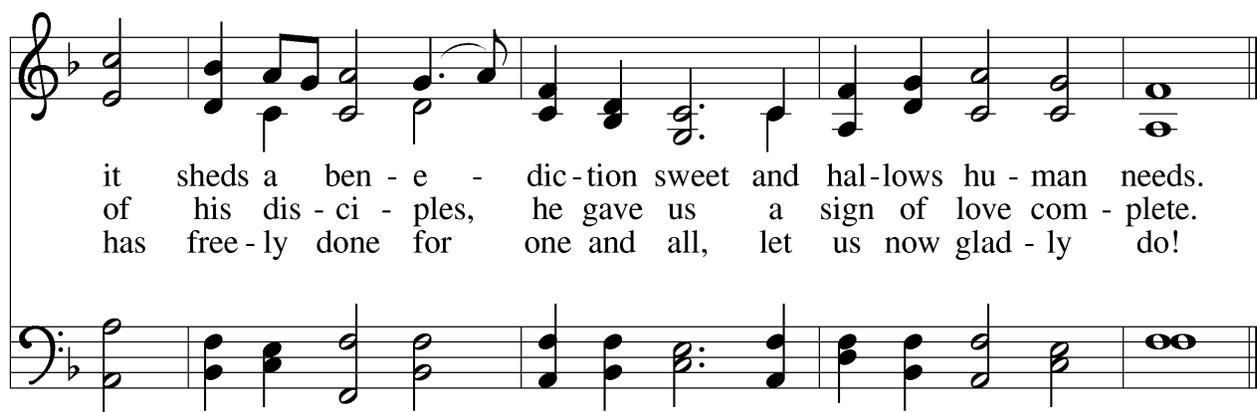
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*Gentle Reverence*

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*Love Consecrates the Humblest Act*


1 Love con - se - crates the hum - blest act and ha - loes mer - cy's deeds;  
 2 When in the shad - ow of the cross Christ knelt and washed the feet  
 3 Love serves and will - ing stoops to serve; what Christ in love so true



it sheds a ben - e - dic - tion sweet and hal - lows hu - man needs.  
 of his dis - ci - ples, he gave us a sign of love com - plete.  
 has free - ly done for one and all, let us now glad - ly do!

Text: Silas B. McManus, 1845–1917  
 Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

OFFERING

Colin & Kristie Walker, handbells

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*Sweet Hour of Prayer* – William B. Bradbury, arr. Victor L. Gumma

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each petition ends, "Lord, in your mercy."

To which the congregation responds, "**Hear our prayer.**"

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us pray, as our Lord taught:

**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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

P May the God of peace, who raised from the dead our Lord Jesus, still our fears, stir our faith, be salve for our wounds and the source of our joy; and may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son † and Holy Spirit, be with you this Holy Easter and forever.

**C Amen.**

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*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

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.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788  
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

## SENT TO SERVE

- P Jesus said, "As I have been sent, so also I send you."  
By God's grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to:
- C** **Worship God,**  
**Grow in Faith,**  
**Share the Gospel,**  
**Serve Others,**  
**Welcome All. — Thanks be to God!**

