

Two Rivers Parish

UDE ANOTHER JOHN 13:34

GUEST INFORMATION

Welcome to Two Rivers Parish, a partnership of Christ Community Lutheran and St. Michael Lutheran! It is a joy to worship with you on this day.

We believe God invites you to the table. Holy Communion is for all the baptized, regardless of age. If walking is difficult for you, we will bring the Lord's Supper to your seat. If you are not communing, we still invite you to come up for a blessing.

We believe worship should be accessible for all. Standing and kneeling happen throughout the worship service, which can be difficult for some. Rest assured that you are still worshipping fully with the community when you sit through these parts.

We believe children belong in worship. Children's worship kits and instructions are available in the hallway so kids can take part in worship. If a child becomes restless, it's okay, because that's what kids do. If you feel you need to take your child out of the service for a cooldown, we encourage them to return to worship as soon as they are ready.

We believe God calls us to pray as a community. Prayer requests may be made during the week by calling or emailing the church office. On Sundays, please write your prayer requests in the Prayer Request Book near the worship space entrance.

We believe God calls us to be welcoming to all. Being in a new place can be nervewracking to say the least. If you are unsure where something is or how something goes, please ask. We want you to feel welcome. Restroom facilities are located just down the hallway.

Bulletin Notes

The worship service is printed fully in this bulletin, so there is no need to flip back and forth to a hymnal. The pastor will also give instructions during the service.

Abbreviations

- P: Pastor
- A: Assisting Minister
- L: Lector
- C: Congregational Response

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5[™] SUNDAY OF EASTER



Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

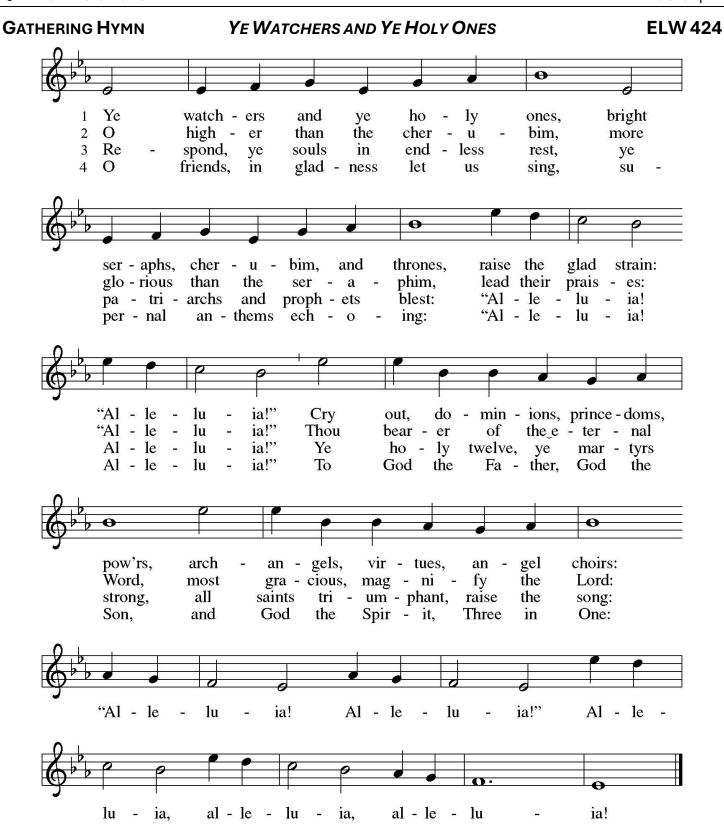
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

THANKSGIVING FOR **B**APTISM

Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, marked upon us at baptism.

- P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.
- P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
- C: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.
- P: Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
- C: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
- P: To you be given honor and praise through our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- C: Amen.



Text: J. Athelstan Riley, 1858–1945 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623 Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

GREETING

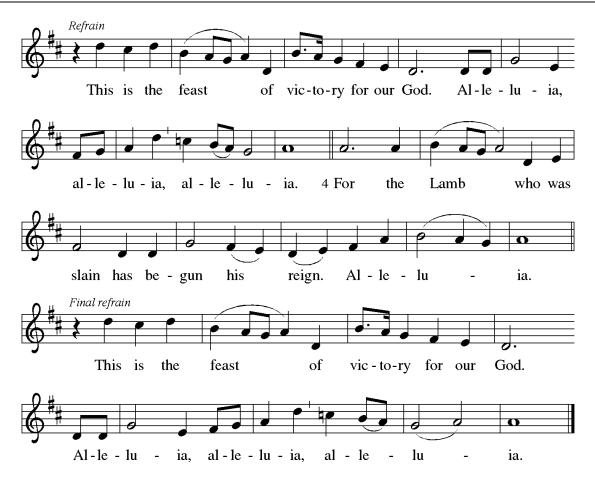
- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



++ <u>WORD</u> ++



FIRST READING- ACTS 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

A: A reading from Acts.

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God.²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air.⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.'¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

- A: The Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.



PSALM 148

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

² Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

³ Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴ Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,

- ⁶ who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.
- ⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸ fire and hail, snow and fog,

tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

- ⁹ mountains and all hills,
 - fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰ wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹² young men and maidens,

old and young together.

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!





SECOND READING- REVELATION 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

A: A reading from Revelation.

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

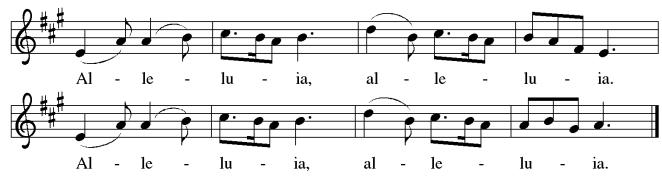
A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174

Please stand as you are able.



GOSPEL- JOHN 13:31-35



After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

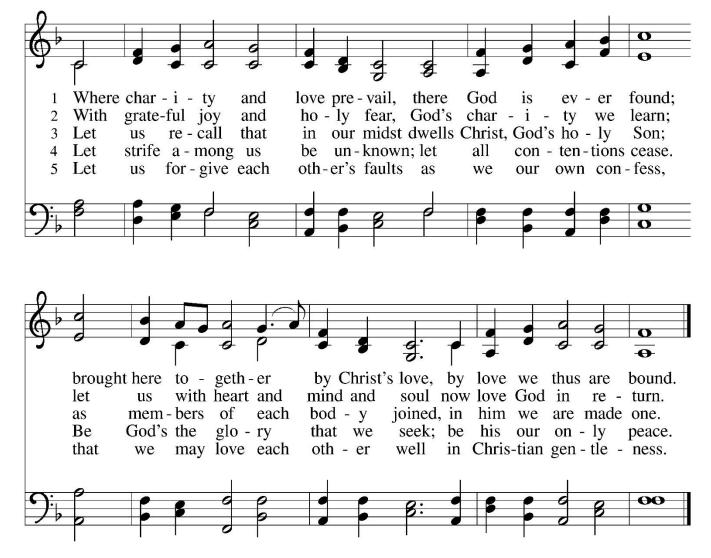
Rev. Joshua Knutson

Please be seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Where Charity and Love Prevail

Please stand as you are able.



Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt. Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760-1842 Text © 1960 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All Rights Reserved.

NICENE CREED

- A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed:
- C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary

and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please kneel or stand as you are able for the prayers.

- A: 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: Blessed Lord, we pray that you would fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked and hurt in our communities. Hear us, O God.
- C: your mercy is great.
- A: Blessed Lord, we pray that you would awaken joy in us for the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places. Hear us, O God.
- C: your mercy is great.
- A: Blessed Lord, we pray that you would instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely, with dignity, and in secure peace. Hear us, O God.

C: your mercy is great.

A: Blessed Lord, we pray that you would pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness. We remember especially all on our prayer list and those we name now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God.

C: your mercy is great.

A: Blessed Lord, we pray that you would abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who continue to be silenced by our world. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God.

C: your mercy is great.

A: Blessed Lord, we give thanks for the saints whose lives bear witness to you, especially Erik, King of Sweden, whom we commemorate this day. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God.

C: your mercy is great.

- P: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
- C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Please stand as you are able.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The people greet others with a sign of Christ's peace. Please be seated.

OFFERING

Worshipers may place offerings into the plate near the door or give using the QR code on the back page.

OFFERING HYMN

LET THE VINEYARDS

Please stand as you are able.



OFFERING PRAYER

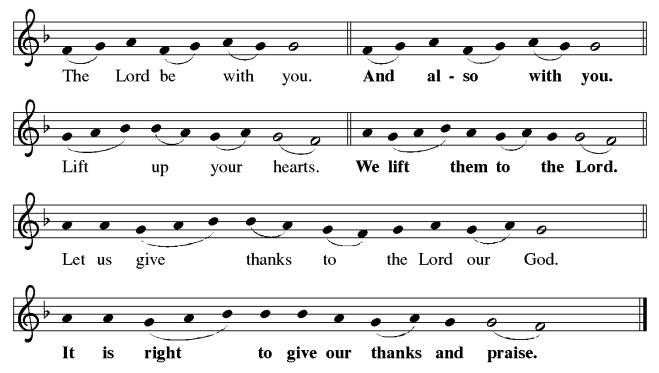
A: Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.



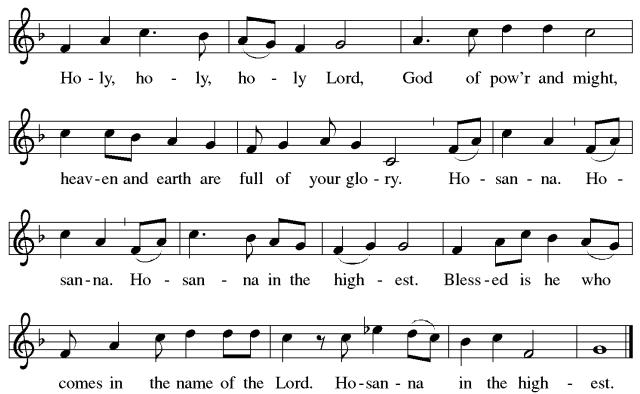
GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...*The presiding minister continues with the appointed preface for the day...* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

- P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.
- C: Come, Holy Spirit.
- P: 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.
- P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.
- C: Amen.



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LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

- P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.
- C: Thanks be to God!

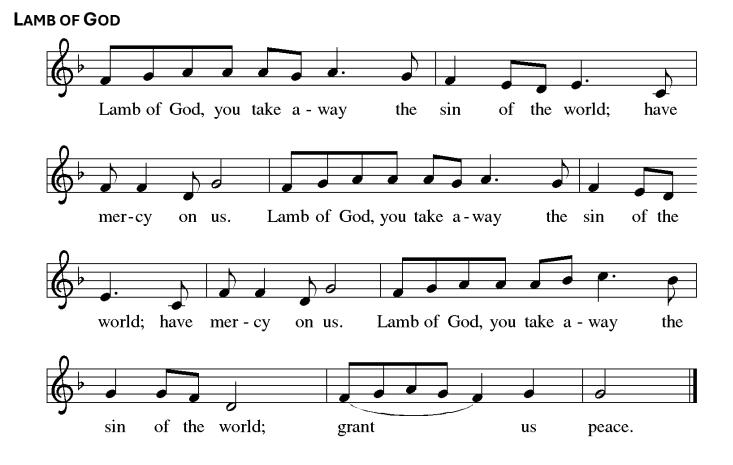
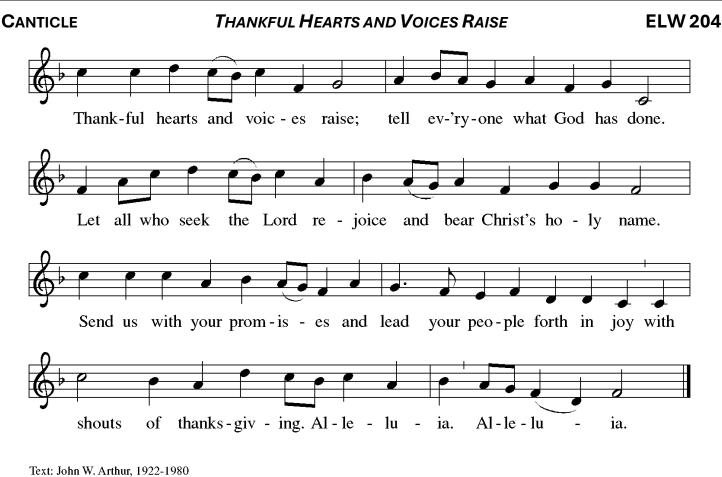


TABLE BLESSING

Please stand.

- P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C: Amen.



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

$+ \underline{\mathsf{SENDING}} +$



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.
 In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953 Text © 1996 Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved. Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

DISMISSAL

- A: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- A: Go in peace. Serve our risen Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

THE DECEPTIVE SIMPLICITY OF LOVE

As the Gospel of John portrays Jesus, the rabbi often speaks in cryptic terms, and his teachings in today's reading are no exception. "The Son of Man has been glorified"? "Where I am going, you cannot come"? (John 13:31, 33). The disciples must have heard Jesus' instructions about love with a sigh of relief—finally, clear words. They are given a new commandment, to love one another, just as Jesus has loved them. All they must do is love each other, and everyone will know they're Jesus' disciples.

One wonders how long it took before the disciples realized just how complicated this was going to be. If we're honest, we have to ask, Have we figured it out in the past 2,000-plus years? After all, Jesus' love often mystifies us. Whom does he love? The leper. The tax collector. The outcast. The rich young man. The person living with addiction. The collections agent. The teen who just tagged your wall with spray paint. The wealthy CEO.

Suddenly, this loving doesn't look so easy.

The context of this week's passage makes it clear that Jesus isn't averse to speaking truth in love. Just before today's exchange, Jesus signals to Judas that he knows what he's up to. Just after, he cautions overeager Peter that despite his best intentions, he too will betray Jesus. Love isn't syrupy and bland, slathered across our world in rosy hues that cover up injustice or hard times.

Love is a commitment. Love extends outward from Jesus, through us, to bring everyone whom Jesus loves into the communion of saints. That means Judas, and Peter, and the graffiti tagger, and the CEO—and you. Us. Every person, in every pew, and every child of God who couldn't identify a pew if they skinned their shin on one.

Each of our communities is a little different. Our everyday "each others" are different too. But the good news is, "each other" always includes everyone—even us.

IN OUR PRAYERS

David Bowers; Paul & Marion Conover; Mary Garrick; Snookie Ham; Margaret Harrell; Michael Lesiak; Al Martin; Judy May; Merle Melling; Debbie Morgenweck; Barbara Moyer; Carol Pratt; Karen Roberts; Lillian Tanner; Bob Winters

Thelma Adams; Sheree Alberrs; Crew Bailey; Clare Barstow; Keith Barstow; Sheila Burns; Keven Bresch; Mike Brown; Sheila Bush; Cathie Butler; Claudia Carbonell; Maya Clark and Family; Ron Cribb; Sonya Darden; Mikey Duke; Dolorous Dukes; Bucke Easterling; Brian Fell; Jim Freeman; Laura Freeman; Ranson Freeman; Ethan Fredric; Reggie Fryer; Cheyenne Gibson; Kyle Hampton; Margie Hampton; Jamie Harris; Stephen Harris; Trey Jeffcoat; Isabella Jones; Robert Fain Jr.; Amanda Keifer; Sandra Linville; Mary Lood; Tom Mannisto; Byron McClellan, Bryson McClellan; Carla McDonald; Don Mathews; Colton Mims; Stacey Morgenweck; Donna & John Newman; Ginny Peck; Kenny Peacock; Loreatha Reed; Shirley Reed; Carol Ann Ruth; Eunice Roberts; Kyle Roberts; Margaret Roberts; Machelle Scott; Pam Shelton; Bob Shiers; Catherin Smith; Robin Smith; Darlene & Brian Smoly; Gary Stone; Matt Tabler; Bill & Shirley Tanner; Kenneth Weber; Priscilla West; Mekia White; Family of Jack Wilson; Elizabeth Wisnieski; Bob Young; Pam Young; Vinnie Young; Jessica Zelten.

News in the Pews Two Rivers Parish						
SUNDAY	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 18 5[™] SUNDAY OF EASTER ERIK, KING OF SWEDEN, MARTYR 9:00 AM Worship (CCL) 11:30 AM Worship (SMLC) 	19 9:00 AM Pastor's Office Hours (CCL) 8:00 PM AA/Al-Ateen (SMLC)	20 9:00 AM Pastor's Office Hours (CCL)	21 HELENA, MOTHER OF CONSTANTINE 9:00 AM Pastor's Office Hours (SMLC) 6:30 PM Prayer Circle (Zoom)	22 9:00 AM Pastor's Office Hours (SMLC) 8:00 PM AA/Al-Ateen (SMLC)	23 8:00 рм NA Meeting (CCL)	24 NICOLAUS COPERNICUS; LEONHARD EULER; SCIENTISTS
1:00 рм Church Council (SMLC)			7:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom) 8:00 PM NA Meeting (CCL)			

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Karen Roberts 05/24

PRAYER CIRCLE & BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Zoom at 6:30 PM for a time of prayer and then at 7:00 PM for a time of discussion and learning as we explore the book of Acts. If you have any tech issues you need assistance with, please let Pr. Josh know so he can assist you.

MONTHLY CAUSES

St. Michael's Cause for May and June will be Feed Berkeley, a local group that provides food assistance to our community, especially in Moncks Corner. In 2024, they provided more than 11,000 meals. Christ Community's Cause will be Neighbors Together, the current name for Lutheran Social Services of Charleston. Neighbors Together provides meals, clothing, job training, legal assistance, and housing services for people in need.

PRAYER LIST

If you have people on the Prayer List, please make sure you update the office when they can come off. We do not want to remove anyone who still needs prayer, but we do want to keep current.

ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN OFFERING LINK

CHRIST COMMUNITY OFFERING LINK

