**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**May 5, 2024**

**9:30am**



**Christ Lutheran Church**

6500 E. Stearns Street

Long Beach, California 90815

Phone 562-598-2433

www.christlutheranlb.com

Preschool 562-594-6117

www.clplb.com

**Welcome to worship! We’re glad you’re here!**

To assist in your worship:

**bold** print means we respond together

**\*** meansstand as you are able,

+ you may make the sign of the cross should you so desire.

**TODAY’S worship THEME**

This Sunday’s image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John’s gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.



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**PRELUDE** Roger Halvorson

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep

and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden’s verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom’s land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus’ death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts,

giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**\*GATHERING SONG**  *All That We Have*

*(verses 1 & 2)*

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**\*GREETING**

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

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. *A brief silence****.* O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, 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.**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

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**CHILDREN’S CHAT** *After this time, children will be invited to Sunday school. They will return during the passing of the peace.*

**PSALM** Psalm 98 Pew Bible Old Testament Pg.610

1O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.  
 **2The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.** 3He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.  
 All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.  
**4Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.** 5Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.  
**6With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.** 7Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.  
**8Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy** 9at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth.  
 He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

**FIRST READING** Acts 10:44-48 Pew Bible New Testament Pg.135

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Alleluia ELW pg.142*

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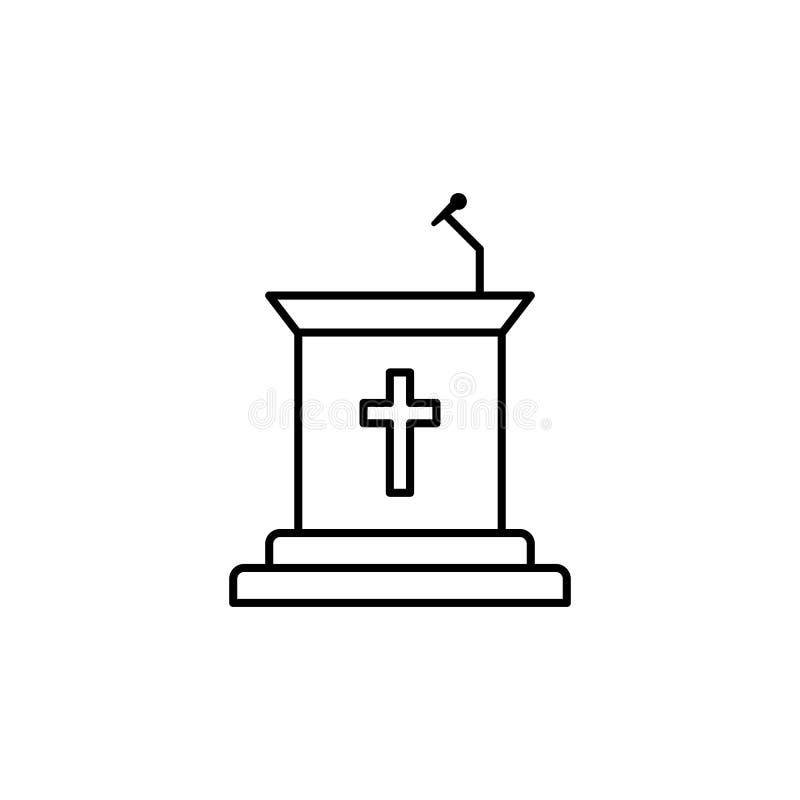
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**\*GOSPEL** John 15:9-17 Pew Bible New Testament Pg.113

The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The reading concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** Pastor Nikki Fielder



**\*SERMON HYMN** *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love ELW #708*

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**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 THE CHURCH**

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.*

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

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.**

**\*SHARING OF PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY** Brad Croes and Roger Halvorson

**A picture containing graphical user interface

Description automatically generated\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *Create in Me a Clean Heart ELW #186*

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray together**, Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.*

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy…

…and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** *Holy, Holy, Holy ELW pg.153*

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**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

…with this bread and cup, we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

…Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

…Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

…blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.** **Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

We believe that this is Jesus' table. All are welcome and invited to commune.  We serve communion by “intinction”; receive the bread and dip it in the chalice of red wine. Currently we are offering individual communion cups as an alternative to intinction if you so desire. Both wine and grape juice (white) are offered in the tray. Gluten free bread is available; let your server know. Should you choose not to commune, please come forward to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms across your chest.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God’s table.



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Description automatically generated**lamb of god** *Lamb of God ELW pg.154*

**COMMUNION SONG** *Jesus Loves Me! ELW #595*

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**\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray**, Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**\*BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope

☩ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN** *Great is the Lord*

Great is the Lord

He is holy and just

by His power we trust in His love

Great is the Lord

He is faithful and true

by His mercy He proves He is Love

Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory.

Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise.

Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:

Great is the Lord!

Great is the Lord!

(repeat)

**\*Dismissal**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE** Roger Halvorson





**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor**  Rev. Nikki Fielder, pastor@christlutheranlb.com

**Office Manager** Kim Croes, [officemanager@christlutheranlb.com](mailto:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com)

**Preschool Director** Lisa Clinton, info@clplb.com

**Choir Director** Kim Philips, kimsings@msn.com

**Accompanist** Roger Halvorson

**A/V Technicians** Brad Croes and Josh Baker

**Missionary to Colombia** Linda Gawthorne

**It is our joy to worship with your whole family this morning!**

We encourage everyone of all ages and abilities to worship together. If you do need to take a "time out", please do so in the narthex (gathering space at the entry), and return to worship when you are ready. A changing table is located in the restroom off the narthex. Activity bags, filled with crayons, paper and storybooks, are available in the narthex. Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.

**Mission Statement**

Living by Christ’s example, we welcome, serve, and love all through God’s grace.

**Vision Statement**

Embracing the truth that God’s love and grace is for all, Christ Lutheran Church is a vibrant and active community spreading the good news through acceptance, action, and benevolence.

**Our Position**

Christ is ALIVE!

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