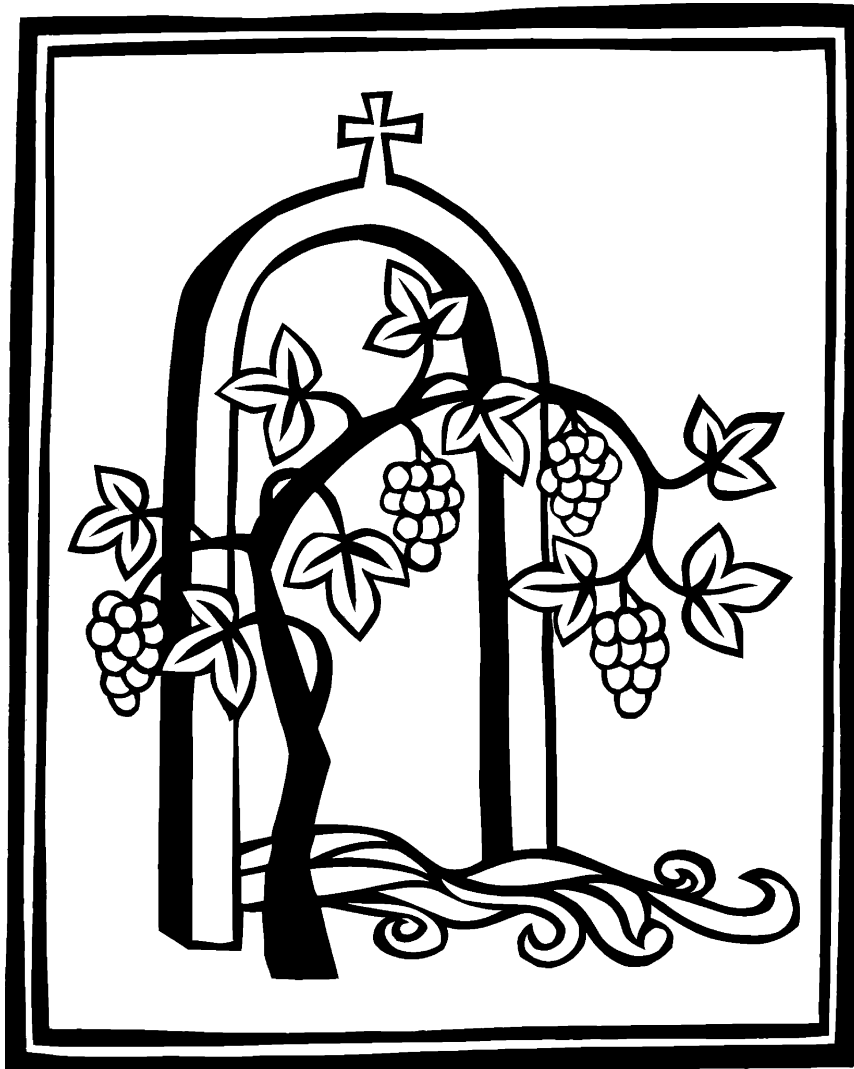


Dennison & Vang Lutheran Parish

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 9, 2021



# GATHERING

## Welcome

### Call to Worship *(from John 15: 9-17)*

Jesus says, "As the Father loves me, so I love you."

#### **May we abide in God's love**

Jesus says, "I say this to you so that your joy may be complete"

#### **May we abide in God's joy**

Jesus says, "I do not call you servants any longer. I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father."

#### **May we abide in God's wisdom**

Jesus says, "You did not chose me, but I chose you."

#### **May we abide in God's calling**

Jesus says, "I have appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Love one another."

**May we worship and serve in His name. Thanks be to God!**

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the Thanksgiving for Baptism begins.)*

### Gathering Song – 835 – "All Creatures Worship God Most High" (vs. 1-3)

## 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.**

### Kyrie – 388 - "Be Not Afraid" *(sung 2 times)*

*Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!*

*Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!*

### Hymn of Praise – 365 – "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia!  
unto Christ our heav'nly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray...

**God of grace, you prepare for us joys beyond our understanding. Pour into our hearts love for you, and love for our neighbors. Your promises exceed all we can desire. Grant us wisdom to put our trust in you. In your name we pray. Amen.**

## WORD

### Children's Message

#### FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

A reading from Acts.

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALM: Psalm 98

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, you have made known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
the world and those who dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

## **SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6**

A reading from 1 John.

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation – 172 - “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”**

*Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah*  
*Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah*  
*Hallelujah! Halleujah!*

## **GOSPEL: John 15:9-17**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Song of the Day – 661 – “I Love to Tell the Story”**

**Prayers of the People**

Lord in your mercy...

**Hear our prayer.**

**Passing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering**

**Offering Prayer**

**Offertory – “Create in Me a Clean Heart”**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,*

*And renew a right spirit within me.*

*Cast me not away from your presence,*

*and take not your holy spirit from me.*

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation,*

*and uphold me with your free spirit.*

**Lord’s Prayer – pg. 145**

**SENDING**

**Blessing**

**Sending Song – “All Creatures Worship God Most High” (vs. 4-6)**

Alleluia! Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Announcements**

### **Spring Celebration/Garden Planting day**

On Sunday, May 16, you are invited to a spring celebration! Following the 9:00 AM service at Vang, all are invited to the garden area for a celebration, a garden blessing, and planting of our “Growing Connections” garden. Come have fun, enjoy good community, and be a part of this amazing ministry that provides fresh produce to many of our neighbors. Treats will also be provided. Hope to see you there!

*(If the weather is not favorable on May 16, the spring celebration will be the following Sunday)*

### **Worship Schedule**

<b>May 9th</b> – Vang 9 am	Reader: Denise Olson	Acolyte: Claire Berndt
<b>May 16th</b> –Dennison 11 am	Reader: Jane Curren	
Vang 9 am	Reader: Kelly Graham	Acolyte: Emma Wood
<b>May 23rd</b> – Vang 9 am	Reader: Sandy Anderson	Acolyte: Malori Prior
<b>May 30th</b> - Vang 9 am	Reader: Sandra Johnson	Acolyte: Kaden Wood

### **Faith Growth Opportunity – Contemplative Prayer**

Contemplative practices provide the time and space to experience God’s immediate and loving presence in a first-hand kind of way. If your daily life is running a little low on feelings of well-being, love, joy, peace, and hope – or if you’re just generally feeling a bit disconnected in your relationship with the Divine – then contemplative practices may be of help on your journey.

The first session will be April 20 and the special guest will be Julie Stevens, the Director of Contemplative Prayer practices at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Rochester. The group will meet weekly for 5 sessions. Group sessions will be in person, on zoom, or a hybrid of both, based on the preferences of the group.

**Special Prayers for:** Liala Hedstrom, Danny Brockton, Bob Mitchell, Nick Iverson, Norma Sands, Lowell Anderson Larry Buchta, Marianne King, Dorothy Vesledahl, Tim Larson, LuAnn Lervik, Chuck Wells, all of our homebound people, service members and their families, and for all those in need of healing and strength.

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

### **Eternal, Unconditional, and Unchanging**

To abide is to put down roots: to dwell in the same location and with the same people for the long term. Unlike in Jesus' time, today few of us live in the same place in which we were born. Families are routinely scattered across the country and around the world. Yet Jesus invites us, "Abide in my love" (John 15:9). While so much else in our lives seems impermanent, Jesus' love is eternal, unconditional, and unchanging.

In today's gospel, Jesus is on his way to the cross. Pressed for time and filled with urgency, he can convey only the most important message. Of all the subjects he has explored during his ministry, he chooses to emphasize that which matters most: his own love. Jesus knows that love is eternal, that it transcends death and the grave. He knows that love is essential, that it must be at the core of our being. He knows that love is the embodiment of all his teachings, healings, and ministry.

Jesus knows that Judas has already betrayed him. He knows that shortly, Peter will deny him. In preaching love, he shows us that the sort of love he has for each of us is stronger than our own very human shortcomings—and that his love for us, and for his disciples, is forever. As followers of Jesus, we are charged with loving one another with the unconditional, eternal love that he has for us. In a world of change, such a responsibility is challenging, yet living out that challenge is what gives our lives purpose.

The secret to love is that it puts others first. Love is the only emotion that can defeat our instinctive self-centeredness. In charging us to love one another, Jesus issues an invitation to be awake and aware, to see others as beloved children of God, and to reflect divine love back onto everyone we encounter. In this way, Jesus lives in each of us.