# Sixth Sunday of Easter May 25, 2025

### Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Sharon Zuiderveld - "Air from Water Music," by GF Handel

# GATHERING

### Call to Worship

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

### Confession

- P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C: Amen.
- P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

### Silence

- P: Most merciful God,
- C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.
- P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C:Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Gathering Song – "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" ELW 533, vv. 1, 2, & 5 (organ)

- 1 Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there, where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer. Oh, how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace!
- 2 Gracious God, I come before thee; come thou also unto me; where we find thee and adore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, oh, enter thou, let it be thy temple now!
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done indeed; may I undisturbed draw near thee while thou dost thy people feed. Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

# \*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.

# \*Prayer of the Day

P: Lord God, your love for us is complete gift. Your grace does not depend on our works. Fill us with gratitude and free us from the guilt that comes from striving for perfection, that we would rest in your promise of new life and salvation.

### C:Amen.

\*Sharing Christ's Peace

- P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children's Sermon

- O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain: America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.
- 2 O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life: America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness, and ev'ry gain divine.
- 3 O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears: America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

# WORD

*Reading:* Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21

Reader: Barb Davenport

<sup>13</sup>For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup>I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. <sup>15</sup>But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup>to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. <sup>17</sup>I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

2:11 When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. <sup>12</sup>For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. <sup>13</sup>The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

<sup>14</sup>When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?

<sup>15</sup>"We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles <sup>16</sup>know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

<sup>17</sup>"But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn't that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! <sup>18</sup>If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker.

<sup>19</sup>"For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. <sup>20</sup>I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. <sup>21</sup>I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

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

Sermon: "Clothed in Christ"

Song of the Day – "Crucified with Christ"

Refrain: I've been crucified with Christ. Oh Christ alive in me. And the life I live, I live by faith in the Son who died for me. I've been crucified with Christ. Oh Christ alive in me.

And the life within my body now's the life He lives in me.

I bring nothing but a heart that's full of sin and ripped apart and I can't even make a start of walking in Your way. But in Your cross Your love I'm given. On Your cross my sins forgiven. By Your cross new life I'm living, rising ev'ry day. *Refrain* 

Help me stand, I'm full of weakness. Help me speak, I'm full of meekness. Help me shine through all the bleakness, trusting only You. Without You, I'm just not able. Take me, Lord, up to Your table. Feed me, fill me, Lord, enable me to follow You. *Refrain* 

> Crucified with Christ. Crucified with Christ. Crucified with Christ. Crucified with Christ. *Refrain*

(piano)

# SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

"Words for the Beginning of Your Christian Life"

(adapted from a poem by Rev. Sarah Speed)

Theodore Patrick, if we could give you words for the very beginning – for this journey we make together, for the celebrations and the sorrows, we would say, "Oh, dear child, how you are loved." But the thing about love is that you can't stop there, So, we would go on to say, "You are strong, stronger than you think. And you are not alone – look at these parents who adore you, Godparents who pray for you, and this congregation that surrounds you.

You haven't done anything yet.

You've just been here, breathing, sleeping, laughing, playing. And then we might say, "This world is a mess, but it is our home, and you can make it better, so always try to make it better."

And maybe most important of all:

"There is love that is bigger than our understanding,

that moves through this world, and that love is called God.

That love is here, here in this room, and that love knows your name by heart."

Those are the words we would say to you as you laugh and cry, stretch and splash in these waters on this day, the first day of your Christian life. Let God be your foundation. Let love be your beginning.

P: God is our foundation. Love is our beginning. And in God's great love, we are given a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. By water and the Word, God frees us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world. In the waters of baptism, God proclaims to us who we are. We are beloved children of God.

# Presentation

- Parents: We bring Theodore Patrick Leckrone to this Christian community and to the waters of Holy Baptism.
- P: Theodore, you are a beloved child of God, and today you are given the name Christian. To help you grow into your name, your parents are called to make promises.

Abby and Kyle, as you bring Theodore to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help him grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Erin and John, as godparents, you have a responsibility to pray for Theodore and help him always remember that he is a beloved child of God. Do you promise to nurture him in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Godparents: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The congregation stands.

- P: People of God, you have a responsibility to support and surround Theodore with Christian love, praying for him, discipling him, and serving with him. Do you promise to support Theodore and pray for him in his new life in Christ?
- C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

# **Profession of Faith**

P: There is evil in this world that we name devil and brokenness we call sin. We are powerless to overcome them, but the grace of God gives us strength to stand against

them and forgiveness when we fall. Together, we profess our desire to live in this grace and in opposition to this brokenness. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the wave of sin that draw you from God?

and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

# C: I renounce them.

P: As we live together in Christ, we are made one in baptism and profess one faith. It is this faith that centers us on the grace of our Triune God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Do you believe in God the Father?

# I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God the Son?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

# Thanksgiving at the Font

P: The Lord be with you.

# C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Water is poured into the font.

P: We give you thanks, O God. 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. In the

waters of the flood you called Noah and brought forth new life. By Moses, you called the people of Israel to follow you through the waters and led them from slavery into freedom. You nourished them with water from the rock and brought them to the promised land. At the river your Son was baptized by John and you proclaimed to all that he is your "beloved child." In the waters of baptism, you create, you bring forth new life in us, you set us free from the power of sin, and you proclaim that we too are your beloved Children.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

### C: Amen.

# **Holy Baptism**

### The congregation sits

- P: Beloved child of God, in this water, God calls you by name. Theodore, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

### Laying on of Hands

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Theodore with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

# C: Amen

# Anointing with Oil

P: In the Old Testament, oil is used to anoint and set people apart. In baptism, we are set apart as God's beloved children to live lives of love, justice, and mercy. Theodore, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

# C: Amen.

# Giving of a Candle

Congregational Representative: In John 8:12, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. The one who follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." In Matthew 5:14, Jesus said, "You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before

others that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven." Abby and Kyle, we give you this candle to light again and again as Theodore grows up. Remember this day and always know that he is and will always be a beloved child of God.

# Welcome

P: Together we say:

C: Theodore Patrick Leckrone, you are beloved and blessed. By the grace of God that flows in the waters of baptism, we are drenched in our love for you, washed in our delight for you, and born anew by the grace that flows from the heart of our God who bore you to us. We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and in bearing God's creative and redeeming love to all the world.

\*Prayers of Intercession

Stewardship Time

"A Mighty Fortress," arr. Dan Galbraith *Faith Singers and Congregation* 

- A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious; he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious. The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected. But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected. You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.

Interlude by the Faith Singers

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us, we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us. Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage! His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him. 4 God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it; for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit. Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!

-Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew-

# SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### \*Great Thanksgiving

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- **C:** We lift them to the Lord.
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### \*Words of Institution

P: 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.

### \*Lord's Prayer

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.

- 1. Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow'rful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore, Feed me now and evermore.
- 2. Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow; Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, shield me with your mighty arm, Shield me with your mighty arm.
- 3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; Death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs and praises, songs and praises, I will raise forevermore, I will raise forevermore.

"We Belong to You" (piano)

Refrain: We belong to you, O Lord of our longing, we belong to you. In our daily living, dying and rising We belong to you.

- 1. In the waters of your mercy, When the old becomes the new, Souls united in the myst'ry: we belong to you. *Refrain*
- 2. Filled with gifts and filled with goodness, Spirit breathing life into All who seek to find their purpose: we belong to you. *Refrain*
- 3. When we share the bread you've broken With the many and the few, We are blessed and we are broken; we belong to you. *Refrain*
- 4. We are called to share your word, Lord, In all we say and all we do. As our journey moves us onward, we belong to you. *Refrain*

We belong to you. We belong to you.

"God Loved the World" ELW 323, vv. 1, 2, & 4 (organ)

1. God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save, That all who would in him believe should everlasting life receive.

- 2. Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death; All who confide in Christ alone are built on this chief cornerstone.
- 4. Be of good cheer, for God's own Son forgives all sins that you have done, And justified by Jesus' blood, your baptism grants the highest good.

#### \*Post-Communion Blessing

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

\*Closing Prayer

# 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.

### C: Amen.

\*Sending Song – "And He Shall Reign"

Refrain: And he shall reign for ever, his throne and crown shall ever endure. And he shall reign for ever, and we shall reign with him.

(piano)

1. What a vision filled my eyes, one like a Son of man. Coming with the clouds of heav'n he approached an awesome throne. *Refrain* 

2. He was given sov'reign power, glory and authority. Every nation, tribe and tongue worshipped him on bended knee. *Refrain* 

3. On the throne for ever, see the Lamb who once was slain; wounds of sacrificial love for ever shall remain. *Refrain* 

\*Dismissal

- P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.
- **C:** Thanks be to God.

# **Worship Assistants**

Communion Assistant: Barb Davenport Greeter: Lynette Hamilton Reader: Barb Davenport Usher: Hallie Mayner Pastor: Adam Dichsen Music Director: Jean Welch Organist: Sharon Zuiderveld Pianist: Jean Welch Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen Financial Assistants: Ken Devlin & Kelly Street Chancel Committee: Karen Sibert Coffee Hosts: Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson



Singers:

Benen Dichsen Kelly Hartz Terri KimlerKris RothAdam KroheCole Street

Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson Ken Devlin Marilyn Dichsen Kelly Hartz Greg Kimler Patty Nelson Monica Proefrock Kay Schnitker Kelly Street

# What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, May 25, 9:30am: Worship Friends from Faith 11:00am: Bible Study in the Justice Room

Wednesday, May 28, 4:30pm: "Faith for the Future" Meeting 6:00pm: Music Rehearsal

Sunday, June 1, 9:30am: Outdoor Contemporary Worship 11:00am: Indoor Traditional Worship

Saturday, June 7, 8:00am: Cooking for 9:00am: Men's Breakfast

### The altar plants are given today by Vicki Robson & Judy Dillard in honor and memory of Dave and Chuck's birthdays and by the family of Theodore Patrick Leckrone in honor of his baptism today

#### **Song Credits**

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### **News Updates**

#### Volunteers needed for June 1

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area, and <u>we especially need</u> <u>help on June 1 for the Traditional Indoor Service – Coffee Host, Communion</u> <u>Assistant, and Usher</u>. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. Thank You! *We are Gifted to Serve*!

#### **Faith's Little Flock**

Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-7. We also welcome Big Kid Helpers (ages 8 and up) to help the little ones with the more difficult parts of the crafts, and our older adults to read the scripture story to the children. Contact Melissa Street if you would like to take a turn reading the story to the children. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far! The children all return to the sanctuary for the communion blessing. Word-finds, crossword puzzles, and other activity sheets are available in the gathering area for the older children (and adults) to help reinforce the message of the day. We look forward to seeing all of the children in May!

#### **Bible Study on The Apostle Paul**

Following worship, join Pastor Adam for Bible study in the Justice Room. Through May and into June, we will be reading from Acts and Galatians. The book of Acts was also written by Luke and tells the story of the Holy Spirit and the early Church through Paul and the other apostles. No preparation necessary... just come to ask questions, listen, and share.

### Friends from Faith Card Ministry -- A ministry team led by Naomi Hahn

On the last Sunday of each month, everyone is welcome to send a greeting card. **Today**, visit the tall table just outside the sanctuary where you can select a card, sign a card, or deposit a card in the mailbox to send. Cards and stamps are provided for your use. If you have extra cards or stamps to spare, please bring them and donate them in the provided jar.

### **Music at Faith**

As always, we would love to have more people involved in the music ministry at Faith. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts at our worship services – all are welcome! jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

### **Outdoor Contemporary Service - June 1, 9:30 a.m.**

Contemporary worship is often identified by a style of music, but "contemporary" simply means that it pertains to the current time. This contemporary service will incorporate some current music heard on Christian radio as well as some from our files. Marilyn Dichsen will help select and lead the music, utilizing her love for worship music and desire to lead. We won't have our Faith Singer choir, but invite anyone to help lead the singing. We will share a list of songs and rehearsal schedule as we get closer. The rest of the service can best be described as "Lutheran casual" with a familiar Lutheran structure, but less scripted. Bring a chair or a blanket, and stick around for fellowship afterwards. This is a great opportunity to expand your worship horizons. Bring a friend and invite them to get to know our church.

### Indoor Traditional Service -- June 1, 11:00 a.m.

Good traditional worship is still "contemporary" as it speaks to us in our current time. Our Lutheran heritage is rich in theology and worship that connect with us today. This service will draw from the more traditional aspects of worship such as sung liturgy, familiar hymns, and all organ all the time. Our liturgy will come from the Lutheran Book of Worship (the green hymnal). For communion, we will gather around the altar by table with the option to kneel or stand. This is also a great opportunity to expand your worship horizons. Invite a friend to worship and rediscover our Lutheran heritage.

### Summer Vacation Bible School

It has been a few years since Faith has offered Vacation Bible School, and we have many children who are asking for it to return. Our Discipleship Core Team would like to offer a VBS program that extends through the summer, choosing a day or two each month when we can gather for songs, lessons, games, and food. At this point, we are looking for helpers. If you would like to help in any of these areas, please contact Pam Devlin, Carol Freesen,

Celeste Hill, or Pastor Adam. We need to know your interest and availability so we can have our dates set by the end of May. Stay tuned, and we look forward for some great times to come!

### Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50** regular; **\$7.50** decaf; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with "*coffee*" designated in the memo area.

# **Summer Youth Camps**

**Performing Arts Camp** (PAC) at Green Pastures Christian Retreat Center is for youth entering grades 5-12 and will take place on June 13-14, 20-21, and 27-28. Cost is \$50/camper.

**Fire in Our Hearts** (FIOH) at Green Pastures is for youth entering grades 5-12 and will take place on July 7-11 and 21-25. Cost is \$135/camper.

If needed, scholarships are available.

Registration link: http://www.greenpasturesretreatcenter.org/registration.

For more information call: 217-584-1374; Email: contact@greenpasturesretreatcenter.org