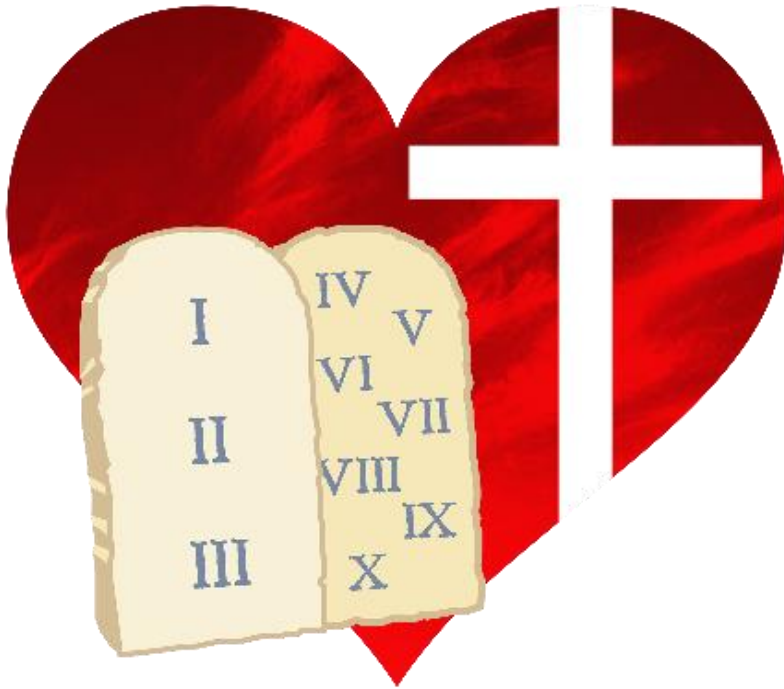


# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



**Abiding in Christ's Love**

**May 5, 2024**

*Everyone is asked to silence or put their **cell phones** on vibrate while attending church services.*

## **AS WE GATHER**

A treasured children’s song, “I Love to Tell the Story, has a refrain that follows each of the stanzas penned by poet Arabella Katherine Hankey, repeating the simple words: “I love to tell the story; ’Twill be my theme in glory, To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.” The original Greek language in which John wrote his Gospel uses the word “love” either as a noun or a verb some nine times in the section of Jesus’ words heard in the Gospel for today. Jesus wants His disciples and us to know the abiding power of His love. It is that love that compels us to love one another—and the “others” beyond our circles of family, friends, and other close relationships. We are blessed in hearing the “old, old story of Jesus and His love” anew today. May we be blessed in telling it out in love as well!

## **HYMN**

### *I Love to Tell the Story*

I love to tell the story Of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love.  
I love to tell the story, Because I know it’s true;  
It satisfies my longings As nothing else would do. *Refrain*

Refrain: I love to tell the story; ’Twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, For those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting To hear it like the rest.  
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,  
’Twill be the old, old story That I have loved so long. *Refrain*

Text: Arabella Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911, alt. Public domain

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 146:1–2, 5, 10*

Pastor: Praise the LORD!  
People: **Praise the LORD, O my soul!**

Pastor: I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
People: **I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Pastor: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
People: **whose hope is in the LORD his God.**

Pastor: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.  
People: **Praise the LORD!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.  
People: **Gracious God, in heartfelt repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are sin-stained people by nature. Each day we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We have not seen people in the loving way that You see them. We have not always been ready to care and quick to help. We do indeed deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Abide with us and grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives, lead us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.**

Pastor: God is loving and merciful. He sees us with loving eyes and graciously hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and

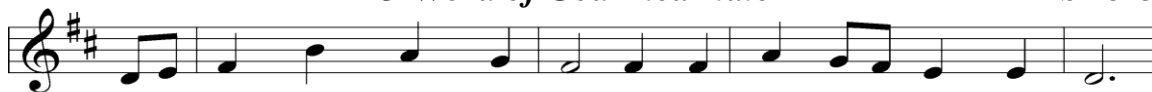
as His ordained servant, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

## HYMN

### *O Word of God Incarnate*

LSB 523



1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
2 The Church from You, dear Mas - ter, Re - ceived the gift di - vine;  
3 O make Your Church, dear Sav - ior, A lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
And still that light is lift - ed O'er all the earth to shine.  
To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light as of old!



We praise You for the ra - diance That from the hal - lowed page,  
It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,  
O teach Your wan - d'ring pil - grims By this their path to trace



A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.  
Mid mists and rocks and quick - sands Still guides, O Christ, to You.  
Till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, They see You face to face!

Text and tune: Public domain

## SALUTATION

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, while we were still in our sins You chose us, laid down Your life for us, and called us friends. By Your great love for us, inspire us to love one another that we may abide in Your grace and may bear fruit according to Your promise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## FIRST READING

*Acts 10:34–48*

<sup>34</sup> So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), <sup>37</sup> you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a

tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. <sup>46</sup> For they were hearing

them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as

we have?” <sup>48</sup>And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

*1 John 5:1–8*

**5** Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. **3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. **4** For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is

the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. **5** Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? **6** This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. **7** For there are three that testify: **8** the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 15:9-17*

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St John, the fifteenth chapter.

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so have I 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>These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I

command you. <sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup>These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

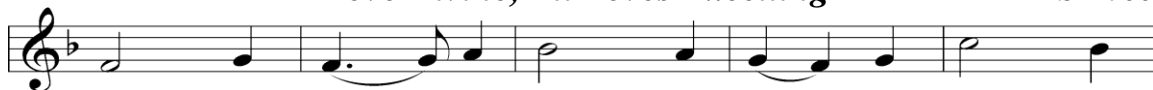
**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

LSB 700



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of  
2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us  
4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy  
ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in  
all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -  
spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.  
turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.  
great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -  
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha  
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee  
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with  
and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as  
as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee  
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 and tune: Public domain



# SERMON

## NICENE CREED

**People: I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** In Your great mercy, O Lord, You have accomplished all things for our salvation and bore upon Your Son the cost of our redemption. Deliver us from doubt and fear that we may know with courage the Gospel of Christ crucified and risen and be made bold to confess this truth before the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** In Your mercy You sustained Your church in the time of waiting for the promise of the Spirit to be fulfilled. Sustain us in our wait for the completion of all that Christ began by His death and resurrection that we not grow weary of trusting You nor betray the hope You planted in us in our Baptism. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Guide Your church, O Lord, that we be united in faith and proclaim with one voice Him whose death, resurrection, and ascension have delivered us from sin and its death. Make us of one mind and one heart that we serve our neighbor with joy to the glory of Your holy name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Deliver us from war and violence, and bless us with good and honest leaders who will hear the voice of Your Word and act on our behalf that we may live holy, upright, and godly lives in this place. Bless those who protect us here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** In the midst of temptation, make us strong, and in the midst of trials help us endure with patience and conviction the days of trouble.

Bless especially those who suffer illness or infirmity, grief, or pain.  
Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Keep Your church and the work of the Kingdom ever before us that we may daily pray to the Father even as our Lord continues to intercede on our behalf. Uplift us in hope that what we pray for we may be willing to work toward, until that day when all our enemies and trials shall end and we shall be united with the saints who went before us, once and forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Prepare our hearts, O Lord, that we may approach Your altar with repentance and the confession of Your body and blood and here receive to our blessing the very body and blood of Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: All these things and whatever else You know that we need we pray You to grant us for the sake of and in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **OFFERING / OFFERTORY**

### **PREFACE**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

**Pastor:** It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have come to redeem Your fallen creation. Through the saving work of Jesus Christ, whom to know is everlasting life, we are granted all good things and are directed in ways of peace. Through the working of Your Holy Spirit, bestow upon us Your benediction that we may abide in Your love, sharing that wondrous love in all our words and deeds throughout our life's journey on earth. Together with angels and archangels and with all that rejoice in the courts of heaven we praise Your glorious name.

**People:** Amen.

### SANCTUS *Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship* LSB 949



1 Heav'n-ly hosts in cease-less wor-ship "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly" cry;  
2 All cre-a-tion, all re-demp-tion, Join to sing the Sav-ior's worth;



"He who is, who was and will be, God Al-might-y, Lord Most High."  
Lamb of God, whose blood has bought us, Kings and priests, to reign on earth.



Praise and hon-or, pow'r and glo-ry, Be to Him who reigns a-lone!  
Wealth and wis-dom, pow'r and glo-ry, Hon-or, might, do-min-ion, praise,



We, with all His hands have fash-ioned, Fall be-fore the Fa-ther's throne.  
Now be His from all His crea-tures And to ev-er-last-ing days!

Text: © 1975 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000196  
Tune: © 2000 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000196

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✕ body, which is given for you.

In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My ✕ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## LORD'S PRAYER

People: **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.**

## AGNUS DEI

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## DISTRIBUTION

*Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sin, salvation, and eternal life. All who are baptized and repent of their sins are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.  
Lord Jesus Christ, once again You have welcomed us at Your Table of grace. Grant that this Sacrament that we have now received may strengthen us so that we may abide in loving service day by day. As we have shared in

the blessings of Your Table, grant that we live each day as Your people who see people around us as You see them and love them as You love them. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

**Pastor:** 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.

**People:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

*Abide, O Dearest Jesus*

LSB 919



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace  
2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,  
3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;  
4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun - teous Lord;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.  
And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.  
Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.  
Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.

5 Abide with Your protection  
Among us, Lord, our strength,  
Lest world and Satan fell us  
And overcome at length.

6 Abide, O faithful Savior,  
Among us with Your love;  
Grant steadfastness and help us  
To reach our home above.

Text and tune: Public domain

*For with you is the fountain of life;*



*in your light we see light. Psalm 36:9*

**Fountain of Life Lutheran Church**, Missouri Synod  
15630 N. Del Webb Blvd, Sun City, AZ 85351  
Phone: (623) 933-8246  
Website: [www.suncitylutheran.org](http://www.suncitylutheran.org)

**Pastor Emeritus: Thomas R. Daly**

Cell: (480) 522-0777

Email: [pastor@suncitylutheran.org](mailto:pastor@suncitylutheran.org)

Office Email: [execsecretary@suncitylutheran.org](mailto:execsecretary@suncitylutheran.org)

**Prayer Requests:** Mary Ann Lowell 623-670-6870

### Schedule

#### **Sunday**

Chancel Choir Practice	8:30 am
Sunday Worship	10:00 am
Bible Study	11:15 am

#### **Tuesday**

Mid-week Bible Study	10:00 am
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Men's Breakfast/Royal Cafe	8:30 am

#### **Wednesday**

Quilters	9:00 am
----------	---------

#### **Thursday**

1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	
<i>Permission to Grieve</i> Group	10:00 am

### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday (9am-2pm)

**\*\*Closed Friday\*\***

**Fountain of Life Lutheran Church**