

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 6, 2018 - 10:45 AM

Women's Sunday



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.

G.I.F.T. Zone Opportunity For Parents & Young Children

We introduce our kid-friendly worship experience, located in the left-hand transept area of the main sanctuary. For families who wish to take advantage of the G.I.F.T. Zone, there is child-friendly worship furniture plus adult chairs for parents. Feel free to sit in the special area throughout the service with your child - or come to the area with your child following the Children's Message. During this middle section of the service, Deacon Lexanne Graves will be in the area to guide parents and children through activities to help our youngest worshipers follow the readings, sermon, hymn, creed, and prayers. This is an awesome way to keep children engaged in worship with the whole congregation - and learn the liturgy until they are able to worship in the pews for the entire service. We offer the G.I.F.T. Zone so that parents may share the worship experience with their children in a meaningful, stress-free way. At the 10:45 service, our nursery is also available for ages 0 - 3 (for those yet unable to benefit from the G.I.F.T. Zone activities.)



Kid Friendly Worship Experience



**Growing
In
Faith
Together**

Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223

www.livingspringscolumbia.org

GATHERING MUSIC

We pause for reflection to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

*Baptismal Anniversaries: Teagan Lindstedt (5/7), Kristen Mattson (5/8), Karl Schmidt (5/8),
Rachel Hurlbert (5/9), Liam Keppery (5/10), Ben Arnold (5/11)*

(Individuals meet the Pastor at the font for a special blessing in recognition of their anniversary.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - BLESSING OF QUILTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor: Just as God's work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

Pastor: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

People: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

Pastor: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from our tap, for rain and snow, for lakes and ponds.

People: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

Pastor: We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

People: We give you thanks for your salvation through water.

Pastor: We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized, and for all who gather here; for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

People: We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

Pastor: We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters, for our new birth into a life of freedom and service, for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

People: We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

People: And also with you.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Laura Turnmire

Children, youth, and young at heart are invited to gather on the steps for a special message. Toddlers may be accompanied by parents. All may bring forward coins or dollars for the bucket collection (currently Harvest Hope Food Bank). Following the message, young children and parent(s) are invited to the G.I.F.T. Zone for special activities that help young ones participate in worship through the middle portion of the service. As the children gather, we sing:

Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia!

Praise ye the Lord!

Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia!

Praise ye the Lord!

Praise ye the Lord! Alleluia!

Praise ye the Lord! Alleluia!

Praise ye the Lord! Alleluia!

Praise ye the Lord!



FIRST READING

Lector: A reading from Acts.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 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, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days. *(Acts 10:44-48)*

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98

Lector: Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

**People: O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

Lector: 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.

**People: Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

Lector: Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

**People: With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

Lector: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

**People: Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
who comes to judge the earth.**

Lector: The LORD will judge the world with righteousness

People: and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING

Lector: A reading from 1 John.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 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. (1 John 5:1-6)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

We stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

Pastor: [Jesus said:] "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 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. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. 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. 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. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another." *(John 15:9-17)*

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

We are seated

MESSAGE

Living Springs Women

We stand as able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

ELW #708



WELCOMING OF MEMBERS

Pastor: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these sisters and brothers, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Pastor: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

People: 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.

Pastor: In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Response: *I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

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

Pastor: Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

People: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Members receive a welcome basket from the congregation.

WELCOME!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assist: Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

+ A brief silence +

Assist: Holy God, your voice calls us to worship. Inspire our hearts and voices lifted to worship you this day - with sisters & brothers throughout the world, and with all your saints in light! Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Creative Lord, throughout the ages, women have sustained your people and the work of your Kingdom. We give thanks for the ministry of women in this congregation, and for the faithful witness of all women. We ask for your blessing upon the churchwide and synodical ministries of WELCA. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Holy One, you hear all our moans and groans. Where lament and the blues resound, send us to listen. Send us to comfort. Send us to build relationships rooted in your mercy, forgiveness, justice, and peace. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Serenade the estranged and all who suffer alone. Accompany those struggling with addictions, and the frightened who have no one to turn to. Give rest to overworked caregivers and people living with mental illness. Heal those who grieve and those who are ill. Today we pray especially for: *family of Ken Flynn; Goldie Harmon; Tammy Mancuso; JoAnn Pulse; Stephanie Joyner; Christian; the Anderson family; Johnie Thomas; Adrian Cannon; Lenora Cannon; Mara Miller; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud....* Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Eternal Song, you call us to share our gifts for your glory. We thank you and praise you for our musicians and vocalists, choir directors and hymnwriters. Bless all who lead and all who sing in worship. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Your goodness echoes through all time with the songs of the saints. Thank you for all disciples who have mentored us in the faith. Keep your song within us this day and always. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

PEACE IS SHARED

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."

We are seated

THANKSGIVING MOMENT

OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

"Abide With Me"

arr. Malcolm Archer

We stand as able

OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring
and with the heav'n-ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be - to the
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assist: Let us pray.

People: Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: 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. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: 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.

People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: 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.

People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

People: Thanks be to God.

We are seated

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*This meal is the Lord's Supper of grace and is open to ALL Christians of any background or denomination. As Lutheran Christians, we believe in **Christ's true presence** in, with, and under the elements. We invite you to have your name tag visible so that the ministers may include **your name** as they offer you the elements. Communion at Living Springs is by **intinction** (bread is dipped into the wine or grape juice). In response to the words, "Body of Christ, given for you. Blood of Christ, shed for you," each worshipper may respond with, "**Amen.**" If you require a **gluten free wafer**, please let your worship assistant know so they can accommodate you. Each chalice contains two compartments: wine is located in the larger compartment, while **alcohol-free grape juice** is located in the smaller compartment for those who require it. After receiving the elements, you are welcome to remain kneeling at the rail for meditation and prayer (others may simply fill in the open spaces). **Children** who have not received communion instruction are invited to come forward for a special blessing. Simply fold your hands to indicate you would like to receive the blessing.*

DISTRIBUTION SONG

"One Bread, One Body"

ELW #496

We stand after all have received communion

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING & PRAYER

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

People: Amen

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

People: Amen

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Voices Raised to You"

ELW #845

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Assist: Do Justice! Love Kindness! Walk Humbly with God!
You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.

People: Thanks be to God.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

Held in God's Embrace

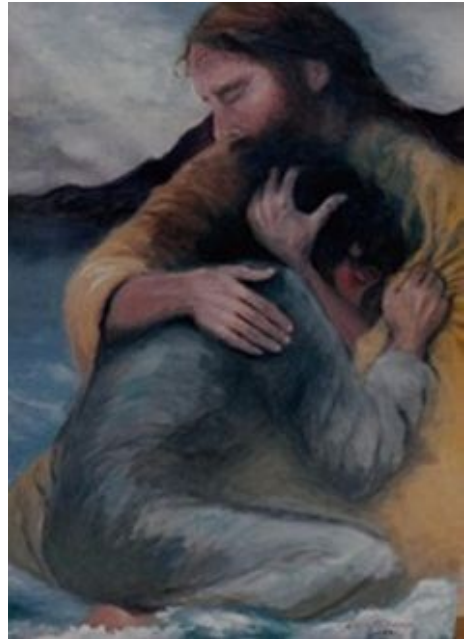
What does it look like to abide? Abiding means remaining, staying, dwelling. Abiding might look like living in the same community for decades and being deeply rooted in its common life and mission. It could look like a long friendship or marriage in which two people continue to walk together through all that comes in life. It may look like the strong and enduring love a parent has for a child. What does abiding look like to you?

Today as you hear Jesus' words, "abide in my love," consider that image of a parent's love for a child. In the gospel Jesus refers to God as "Father," and today's reading from 1 John uses parental language to speak about Jesus' and our relationship with God. Imagine God as a father stretching out his arms to us, or a mother welcoming us into her embrace. "Climb on in. Abide here. Let my love surround you on all sides. Let it nourish you and warm you. Let your heart beat right alongside mine."

This is indeed what God says to us in baptism. Baptism is the moment when we are born of God, and so it is only natural that this God's arms should scoop us up, giving us a place to dwell, to abide, forever.

If this description of abiding feels too passive for those who are called in baptism to bear "God's creative and redeeming word to all the world" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 231), consider this: if you are tucked into God's embrace, you are not going to live a stationary life. You will go where God goes, to the people God serves, to the banged up and brokenhearted. You will move as God moves and go where God goes.

You have been born anew. Now nestle into God's embrace.



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Journey Performing Arts Worship Experience - The Women



THANK YOU FOR SERVING TODAY!

ASSISTING MINISTER

Alison Levitt

LECTOR

Adele Lindberg

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Gail Buchanan
Kathryn Padgett

USHERS

Cynthia Edney
Karlene Stuart
Laura Stuart
Melanie Mooney

INSIDE GREETER

Nancy Baldwin

OUTSIDE GREETER

Steve Padgett
Gwen Furcron

ACOLYTE

Lauren Bloss

CRUCIFER

Jan Berger

TORCHBEARERS

Ginny Devereaux
Jeanette Bloss

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Laura Turnmire

NAME TAGS

Linda Hayes

FLOWERS

Ann Lynn Caughman

MUGGER

Karen Kranz

REFRESHMENTS

WELCA

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Hayes

COUNTERS

Wendy McKenzie
Karen Kranz
Midge Gunvalson

COUNCIL DISCIPLE

Jeff Tenhover



Easter Seasonal Emphasis

Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised, he is not here! Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell

Mark 16:6-7a

LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Ministry Staff:

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Mark & Laura Cunningham, Food Ministry	laurafood@livingspringscolumbia.org
Prayer Ministry	prayer@livingspringscolumbia.org

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP THIS DAY!

We greet all who worship in the name of the Risen Savior!

May the Spirit speak to your heart the message of God's redeeming love for everyone, through the grace shown to the world in Jesus.

We gather as a community of disciples. Our center is Jesus Christ, and we are here to know and share the blessing of his forgiving, healing hand.

If you have any questions about our congregation, please call 736-0661, drop by our office (M - F 8:30-4:30) or visit our website at www.livingspringscolumbia.org.

WELCOME GUESTS! – We are especially blessed by your presence today and look forward to worshipping with you again. Please take time to fill out the blue slip in your bulletin and/or sign the welcome book in the narthex. New members are always welcome into our congregation. To learn more about becoming part of Christ's family of faith here at Living Springs, please contact the office (736-0661) or Pastor Eric (917-2749).

BULLETIN BLUE SLIPS - may be completed and placed in the offering plate for prayer requests, guest information, address/phone updates, and a record of communing. Members, please complete at least one blue slip during 2018 to ensure we have a record of your communing.

SEASONAL NAME TAG – In order to show hospitality, we ask everyone to stop by the table under the portico and complete a name tag with our seasonal scripture verse. The tags allow everyone to use names as we share the Peace - and allow communion ministers to speak your name (*please make sure your name is visible when you come to the altar rail*).

RESTROOMS – are located in the Administration Building on both levels. Greeters/ushers will be happy to show you the way. Main level restrooms are equipped with diaper changing stations. For your child's safety, please accompany them when they leave the Sanctuary to use the restrooms.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS - are now available, please see an usher or greeter.

HEARING ASSISTANCE – The ushers have headsets which will amplify the sound for you. Please return to an usher or leave in the pew at the conclusion of the service.

GLUTEN-FREE WAFERS & ALCOHOL-FREE GRAPE JUICE– are available during communion, for those who desire either.

G.I.F.T. ZONE - is a special area in our worship space for parents and young children who wish to worship together with more child-friendly furniture and special resources to utilize during worship.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS – are distributed during the children's sermon.

NURSERY – is available for infants-3 years old during the 10:45 Worship Service; located downstairs in the preschool in the Education Building. Greeters/Ushers will be happy to assist you.

CHILD SAFETY – is very important to us, so we ask at least 1 adult to accompany your child if he/she leaves the Sanctuary during worship. Please do not allow children to play on the playground without parental supervision. During the week, church doors are kept locked to maintain security for our Preschool. Please ring the intercom by the office doors to check in.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP TIME – is held each week following the 8:15 service and prior to the 10:45 service, inside the education building.

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY – As a community of disciples, we pray for one another and others - not just in times of illness, but also for praise, thanksgiving, and forgiveness. If you have a prayer request, simply fill out the bulletin blue sheet and place in the offering plate (or call/email the office). Please indicate if your request is for public or private prayer.