



The Sixth Sunday of Easter May 9, 2021

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.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

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

PSALM: Psalm 98

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,

whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made | known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight |
of the nations.**

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

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing. R**

⁵Sing to the LORD | with the harp,
with the harp and the | voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound | of the horn
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.

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

⁹The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peo- | ples with equity. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This 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.

GOSPEL READING: John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

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

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I 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. ¹⁶You 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. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

ANNOUNCEMENTS-----May 9, 2021

We welcome you to Emmaus in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will be worshiping virtually on Zoom for the near term. The links for the Zoom meetings in May (by computer or telephone) will use the same meeting I.D. number and the same passcode for each Sunday and each Wednesday. Share the Zoom link and sign-on information with your non-Emmaus friends!

God invites us to Holy Communion this morning.

Though we are not gathered in person together, we are still gathered together as Christ's body. At the appropriate time during the service Pastor Andy will consecrate the elements for all those who are participating. For those who are not communing, you are invited to read (or have read to you)

the following blessing, which has been adapted from Dan Erlander: "You are a precious child of God. God will always love you, be with you, and forgive you all the days of your life. Amen."

The Worship & Music Team are inviting you to a 3-week Holy Communion discussion which will be hosted by Pastor Andy. Please join us today at 10:30 a.m. (also on May 16th) for an ongoing discussion of Lutheran history and theology, current day implications, and practices at Emmaus Lutheran Church. The Zoom link is different from regular worship:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89285824370>
Meeting ID: 892 8582 4370
Passcode: COMMUNION
Dial +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 892 8582 4370
Passcode: 474499038

The Spring Church Workday is this Saturday, May 15th starting at 8:00 a.m. (rain date is May 22). We need all the help we can get raking, trimming, pruning, dusting, and cleaning. Come for an hour or come for the whole morning! Bring your rakes, leaf blowers, gloves, tarps, and masks. Many hands make light work and many chores need to be done before our building is re-opened.

In-person worship services at Emmaus will resume on May 23rd! The first gathering will be an outdoor service held in the back parking lot like we did last fall. No reservations will be required, and we will of course ask for mask wearing, social distancing, and no singing. We will also live-stream the service on Zoom for those at home.

The Social Ministry Committee is asking the congregation to help make Cleaning & Toiletry Kits for *Maine Needs – A Community Effort*.

Maine Needs is a grassroots nonprofit organization powered by a growing collective of volunteers. They assemble and distribute several different kinds of kits including items necessary for warmth, wardrobe, and literacy. Most needed

however are the Cleaning Kits. You can see images of kits being made at www.MaineNeeds.org/kits. People truly are struggling to pay rent and heat, and food stamp benefits can't be used to buy basic cleaning and toiletry supplies so people are quite literally going without dish soap, laundry detergent and body soap during a pandemic. *Maine Needs* distributes the kits to people going without essential supplies through caseworkers, teachers, in-home nurses, as well as HeadStart and community organizations throughout all 16 Maine counties. The testimonial page is great to get a sense of what these "things" mean to people found at www.MaineNeeds.org/testimonials. If you would like to help donate items or have questions, please contact Molly Blakeman at 650-0559.

Are you Spring cleaning? The Annual Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, June 5th and Bob & Jencie Gerwig are looking for your donations to sell. You can drop your gently used items off at church during office hours (Tue, Thurs 8-3) or by appointment. Fellowship Hall is filling up fast! This year the sale will be mostly outdoors, and many volunteers will be needed to help set up, work the day of, and clean up. If you would like to help, please contact Jencie Gerwig, 774-4872.

The Youth Group is looking for donations of any old tomato cages, fencing, raised beds, sawhorses, or old gardening equipment for their summer project. They are looking to build raised beds to plant gardens for a food security project to support our church community and the community at large. If you have donations and/or would like to help volunteer for this project, please contact Stacey Carlson at 829-3467.

The Thankoffering for May will go to the Campership Fund to help sponsor kids interested in attending summer camp at Camp Calumet on Lake Ossipee. This year we are sponsoring 7 kids. You can use your Giving Envelope or just write "Thankoffering" in the memo line of your check.

Rev. Andrew Flatt-Kuntze is the pastor of Emmaus Lutheran Church. Pastor Andy is available in the church office from Sunday through Thursday (781-4820). You can also reach Pastor Andy via email at pastorandy.emmaus@gmail.com or by cell phone at (920) 204-4646.

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.: 61
Wednesday Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.: 8

IN NEED OF PRAYER: Pat, Gene, Bonnie, Bernie, Pat, David, Jerry, Chuck, Beth, Carole, Wayne, Linda, Babette, Carol, Jencie, Jim, Rev. Richard, Meikle, DuWayne, Caroline, Colleen, Dan, Adelynn, Pastor Eric, Pastor John and wife Suzanne, Elida, Arman, Sean, Gavin, Amanda, Luke, Rev. Juliet, Pastor Geoff and family, the Howe Family, and the Cotter Family. We pray for all who are being persecuted for their faith expressions throughout our world. We pray for all who serve our country and work for peace.