 **Kerkhoven Lutheran Church**

 **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

Living and trusting in god’s amazing grace we welcome all to worship, learn and serve in celebration of Christ’s love.

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

 **May 9, 2021 9:00 AM**

**Prelude**

**GATHERING**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ELW p. 94**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ☩ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**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.**

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. **Amen.**

**GREETING**

Christ is Risen!

**He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

**GATHERING HYMN “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” ELW #631**

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,

 Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!

 Fix in us thy humble dwelling,

 all thy faithful mercies crown.

 Jesus, thou art all compassion,

 pure, unbounded love thou art;

 visit us with thy salvation,

 enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit

 into ev'ry troubled breast;

 let us all in thee inherit;

 let us find thy promised rest.

 Take away the love of sinning;

 Alpha and Omega be;

 end of faith, as its beginning,

 set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;

 let us all thy life receive;

 suddenly return, and never,

 nevermore thy temples leave.

 Thee we would be always blessing,

 serve thee as thy hosts above,

 pray, and praise thee without ceasing,

 glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish then thy new creation,

 pure and spotless let us be;

 let us see thy great salvation

 perfectly restored in thee!

 Changed from glory into glory,

 till in heav'n we take our place,

 till we cast our crowns before thee,

 lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

**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 Spoken Responsively ELW p. 138**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above,

and for our salvation,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,

for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,

and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE “This is the Feast” ELW p. 140**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,**

**whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength,**

**and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,**

**and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might**

**be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.**

**Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

**Amen**

**WORD**

### **The 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.

### The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 98 Reading Responsively**

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, rejoice, and sing.**

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 peoples with equity.

### **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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia” ELW p. 142**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **Gospel: 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**   **Commanded to Love**  **Pastor Tim Larson**

**HYMN OF THE DAY “Jesu, Jesu, fill Us with Your Love” ELW #708**

##### Refrain Jesu, Jesu,

 fill us with your love,

 show us how to serve

the neighbors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,

 silently washes their feet,

 master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain*

2 Neighbors are wealthy and poor,

 varied in color and race,

 neighbors are near us and far away. *Refrain*

3 These are the ones we will serve,

 these are the ones we will love;

 all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain*

4 Kneel at the feet of our friends,

 silently washing their feet:

 this is the way we will live with you. *Refrain*

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt.

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**apostles’ creed elw P. 105**

**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.**

**THANKSGIVING**

**OFFERING INTERLUDE**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each portion of the prayers ends with “Hear us, O God”. Congregation response: **Your mercy is great.**

**THE 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.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom

to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,

Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG “God Be with You Till we Meet Again”**  **ELW #536**

1 God be with you till we meet again;

 by good counsels guide, uphold you,

 with a shepherd's care enfold you;

 God be with you till we meet again.

*Refrain*  Till we meet, (till we meet,)

till we meet, (till we meet again,)

till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,)

till we meet, (till we meet,)

 till we meet, (till we meet again.)

 God be with you till we meet again.

2 God be with you till we meet again;

 holy wings securely hide you,

 daily manna still provide you;

 God be with you till we meet again. *Refrain*

3 God be with you till we meet again;

 when life's perils thick confound you,

 put unfailing arms around you;

 God be with you till we meet again. *Refrain*

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904, alt.

**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

***The Congregation is dismissed following the direction of the Ushers***

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**SERVING THIS MORNING**

Pastor – Timothy P. Larson

Musicians – Mariah Rudningen

Lector – Stella Doering

Ushers – Scott and Jenell Mitteness

Acolytes – Jay and Zoey Harkema

***PRAYER CONCERNS:*** *(Periodically these prayer concerns will be moved to the prayer concerns list in the newsletter)* Florence Smith, Pastor Bill Miller

**Stewardship Snippet:**  *“I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”* **–John 15:17**

Commandments and instruction are necessary parts of growing into adulthood and growing in the faith. While we may chafe at such stewardship, we realize that they are given in love for our good. We can give thanks to our ancestors for passing on the faith and teaching us God’s commandments. *--Rob Blezard Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission.*

**Next Sunday, May 16, 2021**: **Seventh Sunday of Easter**

9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion and Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Grace Rose Bengston, worship is in person and live streamed.

**KLC Worship Services are also available for viewing on YouTube!**

**Coffee Fellowship:** You are invited to join us for coffee fellowship in the parish hall following the worship service this morning.

**Stay In Touch:** If you have not been receiving bulletins, newsletters or prayer requests and would like to, please contact the church office with your information. kerkhovenlutheran@gmail.com or 320-264-2823

**Let Us Know:** If you have a prayer request to be **added or removed** from the KLC prayer list, please notify the church office. kerkhovenlutheran@gmail.com or 320-264-2823.

**KLC Office Hours for the Week of May 10 - 14, 2021:** Ann will be off on Monday, May 10, will be at the church on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 – 3:00. Wednesday from 9:00 am – 8:00 pm, due to confirmation. The church office is closed on Friday. If you have questions or need assistance please call: Ann Hanson – 320-894-4464.

**WELCA Quilting:** Quilting began on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. There will be quilting sessions at 9:00 am each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. Masks and social distancing protocols will be followed. There will be a catered noon luncheon with a free will donation each week.

**Quilt Sunday and Graduate Recognition:** Quilt Sunday and KLC Graduate Recognition will be held on Sunday, May 23, 2021 during the worship service with a reception following the worship in the Fellowship Hall.

**VBS:** Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held June 7 - 11 at Salem Covenant Church from 6:30-8:30 p.m. No meal will be served. The theme is Rocky Railway. You can e-mail your registration form to Barb Norton at mnorton1613@charter.net Please contact Barb Norton at 264-1613 (h) or 320-894-2128 (c) with any questions you may have.

**Call Committee:** At the church council meeting on Wednesday evening there was discussion regarding the call process for a pastor. According to KLC Bylaws the Nominating Committee is responsible to seek candidates for the Call Committee to present to the congregation. The newly elected Nominating Committee members are: Lane Carlson, Ann Hanson, Sue Nelson, Grace Marquardt and Christine Forsell. If you are interested in serving on the Call Committee, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee to express your interest. The Nominating Committee will be meeting within the next weeks to start calling potential candidates.

**On-Line Giving:** It is now possible to give your offering or a donation to KLC on-line at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YNJM> This link will now be available on our Kerkhoven Lutheran Facebook page and will also be available as soon as our new website is completed.

**Confirmation:** This Wednesday, May 12th marks the final Confirmation classes for this school semester. Classes will begin again in the Fall.

May 12: 6:00 pm 9th Grade

 7:00 pm 10th Grade



**May 9, 2021**

**John 15:9-17**

*Use this resource at home to guide your household’s daily devotions.*

**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

**Loving God, you no longer call us servants, but friends. Make us true ambassadors of your love, willing to put others first and to find joy in the happiness of our neighbors, for the sake of Christ. Amen.**

**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday’s reading.

***“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.”*(John 15:12-13)**



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

**Jesus invited his followers to love their neighbor. Through loving, people can cultivate a deep-seated and long-lasting joy—the kind that leads to happiness and resilience.**

**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household or community.

**What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**

**What brings you joy? What stresses you out? How are the two are related?**

**What does “loving your neighbor” mean to you?**

**For the littles: Who is your neighbor?**



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

**May God overfill your cup with love for one another. Amen.**

**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God’s word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

**Stop doing something that makes you unhappy. (Or at least do it differently.)**

**Go Deeper:** Go to **bit.ly/daily-devotions-rcl** for the daily readings!

Monday, Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 7:1-11; 1 Timothy 6:11-12

Tuesday, Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 11:1-17; 1 Timothy 6:13-16

Wednesday, Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 11:18-21; Mark 16:19-20

Thursday, Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Ps. 93; Eph. 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

Friday, Psalm 47; Exodus 24:15-18; Revelation 1:9-18

Saturday, Psalm 47; Deuteronomy 34:1-7; John 16:4-11