

# TODAY'S BULLETIN

**As We Gather:** Abiding in Christ's Love

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!

**Serving in Our Church Service Sunday:** It's Fellowship Sunday

**Serving Next Sunday:** Today Wangerin

**Saturday's Reader:** Pastor Iovine

**Sunday's Reader:** Stephanie Coppola

**VADJA HYMN SERVICE:** On May 26 during Memorial Day weekend, we will bring back the Jaroslav Vadja Hymn Service for our Sunday church services. We will use it through Labor Day weekend in September.

**COFFEE HOUR ON SUNDAY:** Each Sunday, before and after our church service, we hold fellowship coffee time. Everyone is invited to join.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK:** Our verse is taken from John 15:7

**(Jesus said) "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."**

**THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS:** Join us this coming Thursday for our noontime Bible Class as we will begin a new Bible study focus. As always, please bring your lunch. See you there!



## Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

New Milford, NJ  
LCMS — New Jersey District

Saturday  
**May 4, 2024**  
Easter 6

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Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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**ASCENSION DAY CHURCH SERVICE:** Circuits One and Two of the New Jersey District, LCMS invite you to come worship our risen and ascended Lord Jesus at an indoor Ascension Day Service.

The service will take place this Thursday, May 9 at 7 PM in the sanctuary of Zion Lutheran Church in Westwood (155 Second Ave., Westwood NJ 07675).

Rev. Peter DeMik, pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ridgewood will serve as Preacher at our Ascension Day Service.

**FOOD PANTRY UPDATE:**

A food pantry needs update is available on the table in the back of the church. Take one along with you today!

**READINGS FOR EASTER 7:**

- Acts 1:12–26 (The Lord chooses Matthias to fill the empty spot among the Twelve created by Judas' death.)
- 1 John 5:9–15 ("Whoever has the Son has life.")
- John 17:11b–19 (Jesus prays that we may be one as He and the Father are one.)

**HYMNS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:**

- "A Hymn of Glory Let us Sing" - Hymn 493
- "Christ Sits at God's Right Hand" - Hymn 564
- "O Christ our True and Only Light" - Hymn 839
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**NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVICES**

- **Saint Matthew's** Saturday, May 11 @ 5:00 pm
- **Saint Matthew's** Sunday, May 12 @ 9:30 am
- **Holy Trinity** Sunday, May 12 @ 11:30 am

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# Sixth Saturday of Easter

Blended Church Service - Divine Services 3, 4, and Creative Worship

## Welcome & Church Announcements

## Moment of Prayer

### Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### Confession and Absolution

P Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

C: **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.**

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

C: **Amen.**

### Salutation and the Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

### First Reading

Acts 10:34–48

(People from every nation are accepted by God.)

L: The First Reading for the 6th Sunday of Easter is taken from Acts, Chapter 10:

So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: 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. 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, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, 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. 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. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. 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. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle Reading**

1 John 5:1–8

(The victory of Christ overcomes the world.)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from 1st John, Chapter 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. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

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. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel Reading**

John 15:9–17

(Obeying Christ's commands and remaining in His love)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th Chapter:

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

(Jesus said) "As the Father has loved me, so have I 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. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. 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. 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. These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **The Nicene Creed**

**A: 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.**

## **Today's Sermon**

## **Prayer of the Church**

### **Service of the Sacrament**

#### **Preface**

**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 Him thanks and praise.**

**P:** 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.

Blessed are You, O Lord of heaven and earth. We bless You now for sending Your Son Jesus Christ to give us assurance of Your fatherly care, knowing that all of our days are spent in God's sight. Directed by Your Holy Spirit and reflecting Your limitless love toward us, grant that we abide in Christ's love, awaiting the fulfilled promise of eternal life in Your heavenly kingdom, where saints and angels gather around Your throne in glory everlasting.

**C:** **Amen.**

#### **The Words of Our Lord**

**P:** 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. This do in remembrance of Me."

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.”

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

A: **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.**

### **Pax Domini**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

### **Distribution**

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

### **Benedicamus and 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.**

## Moment of Prayer