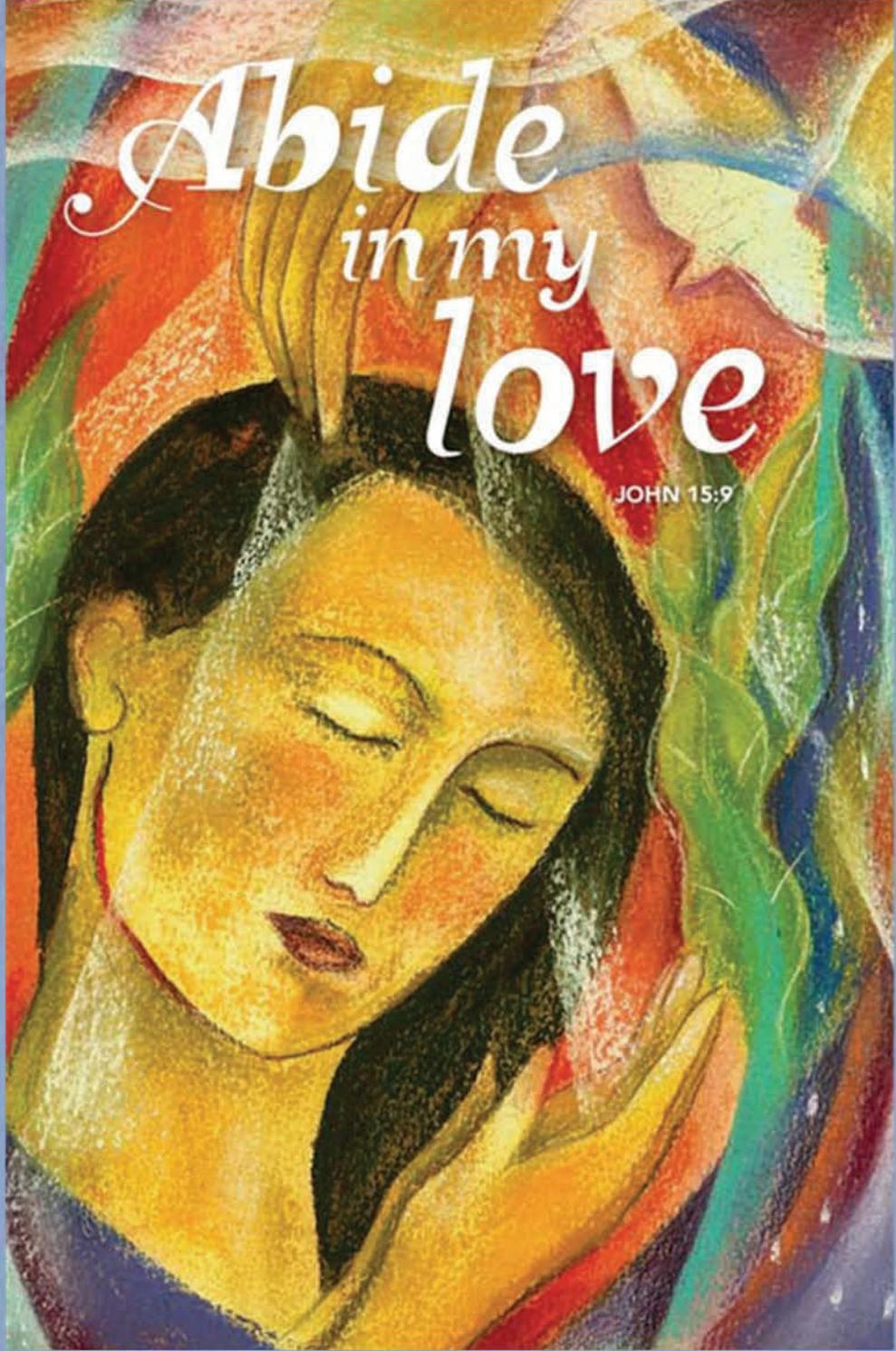


MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 6, 2018



Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church

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www.mttaborlutheran.org

Welcome to Mt. Tabor. *We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today! Please fill out and return the card in your pew rack so we may have a record of your attendance. Our ushers and greeters will be glad to answer any questions you may have about our worship service. We hope that you will experience the presence of the Risen Christ today!*

Mt. Tabor's Nursery. *A nursery is provided during both worship services for children of suggested ages infant to four years old. However, we encourage all children to remain in worship as it is in worship that they learn the faith of the church. In an effort to ensure a safe haven for our children, parents are responsible for signing their child in and out of the nursery as stated in our Risk and Abuse Policy.*

Child Protection Policy. *Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church is committed to being a safe place for children and youth. Our congregation has enacted policies and procedures designed to minimize the risk of abuse. Copies of our Child Protection Policy are available in the narthex and in the Church Office.*

Children's Activity Bags. *Children's activity bags are available in the Narthex and can be found hanging under the picture board. These bags contain coloring sheets, activity sheets and crayons for the children to use during the service as well as an information sheet for reminders about the bag. At the end of the service, the child can take home the sheets used and return the bag to the narthex so it is available for the next service. Our hope is that this children's ministry will be another way for our children to enjoy worship with their families.*

Communion. *Normally, communion is celebrated with wine and bread; however, those with allergies may choose to receive communion in one kind—either bread or wine. Either is an acceptable practice. Grape juice is also available.*

Processional Cross Flowers. *The processional cross flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Sue Gillis by the Cherub Choir & Ann Spainhour.*

Altar Flowers. *The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Jay W. & Connelly-Anne Ragley in honor of Ellis Ragley's birth on April 13th and Jack Ragley's 2nd birthday on May 2nd.*

Bulletin Covers. *The bulletin covers are given to the glory of God by Rebekah Morris in honor of the Outreach & Evangelism Committees.*

Worship Leaders

Rev. Wade T. Roof, III, Senior Pastor

Ms. Sharon Witherell, Director of Music/Organist

Rev. Emily Willhide, Pastor of Faith Formation

Ashton & Jennifer Roberts, Seminarians

Rev. Rus Stilwell, Pastor of Visitation

Luke Delason, Seminarian

Sixth Sunday of Easter

ELW Setting Four—Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Christ is Alive"

Jason W. Krug

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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. 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.

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

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from our tap, for rain, for Lake Murray, and for the Saluda, Broad, and Congaree Rivers.

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

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.

We give you thanks for your salvation through water.

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.

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

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.

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

GATHERING SONG

"We Are Called"

Hymn 720

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

p. 147

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

p. 148

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

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Acts 10:44-48

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 (hymn paraphrase)

“Oh, Sing to the Lord”

Hymn 822

SECOND READING

1 John 5:1-6

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? 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

p. 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 15:9-17

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Jennifer Roberts

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”* **Hymn 631**

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS **p. 234**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

...Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

PEACE **p. 152**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

ANTHEM (8:30) *“Canon of Thanks”* Donald Moore
(11:00) *“Come Thou Fount”* David H. Williams

OFFERTORY HYMN *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* **Hymn 885**

OFFERING PRAYER **p. 152**

Let us pray.
Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. **Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE **p. 152**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

p. 153

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

p. 153

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

p. 153

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

p. 154

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

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

COMMUNION

p. 154

COMMUNION SONG

p. 154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“I Come with Joy”

Hymn 482

“Jesus Loves Me!”

Hymn 595

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

Hymn 708

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

Hymn 798

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

Nancy M. Raabe

Lord Teach Us To Pray:

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the following members of our church family, who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Ashlyn Baxter, Kase Boone, Veronica Cargile, George Caulder Jr., Abigail Caulder, Clara Conrad, Adam Davis, Jeremy Goings, Bob Livingston III, Cindy Maxheimer, Jason Nelson, Adam Payne, Abby Grace Roof, Evelyn Scyphers, Robert South, Kayla Sox, Annabelle Wilson, Isabelle Wilson.

This Week's Prayer Concerns:

Cheyenne Steele, Clara Conrad, Sylvia Nelson, Anna Bryant, Mona Myers.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Carol Williams, Sue Gillis, Adele Rodgers, Sarah Cole, Lois Cromer, Mary Hamson, Matthew Hook, Hazel Rauch, Ann Callison, Terry Tucker, Jack Bozard, Penny Timmerman, Fred & Jeanette Carter, Edith Shealy, Chuck Willyerd, Sybil Kennedy, Faye Smith, Lisa Long.

Family & Loved Ones of Mt. Tabor:

Whitney Slice, Carl Watson Sr., Elizabeth Goldsmith, DJ Bigelow, Linda Goodson, Lynn Summer, Barbara Hilgeman, Floyd Cook, Joe Murphy, Ryal Williams, Pam Wiles Fogle, Danny & Carol Evans, Vivian Gwin, Patti Elkins, Terresa Glichowski, John Bundrick, Isabelle Sundlie, Rita Mellichamp, Mertice Summer, Bill Hunnicutt.

Members of Mt. Tabor Serving in the Military:

Mike Willhide, Scott Hash, John Post, Dallas Phillips.

Family and Loved Ones Serving in the Military:

Jacob Henry Burgan, Jacob Roe, Patrick Morris, Ben Barron, Barry Duncan, Michael Barfield, Adam Mintz, David Mathews, Bernd Koehler, John Ward.

The Family Of:

Clyde Blackburn, Catherine Swygert, Stanley Jeffcoat, Stephen McNeill, Doris Atkinson, Jake Bundrick, Luvenia Kaiser Jackson.

Please help us keep our prayer list up to date by calling the church office with any names to be added or removed. Otherwise, names remaining on the prayer list for more than 2 months will be removed.

8:30 A.M.	<i>Worship Assistants</i>	11:00 A.M.
	<i>Acolytes</i>	Tristan Spainhour
	<i>Crucifers</i>	Christian Hall
Cathy Crawford	<i>Lectors</i>	Kendrick Kerr
Cecilia Dunlap	<i>Greeters</i>	Rebekah Morris
		Roxanne Rich
John Payne	<i>Ushers</i>	Harry Prim
Joe Vasquez		Russell Pauly
Paul Jacobs	<i>Communion Assistants</i>	Roxanne Rich
Tina Conrad	<i>Nursery Assistants</i>	Lisa Richardson
Youth Choir	<i>Musicians</i>	Adult Choir
Transfigure Ringers		Transfigure Ringers

<i>Budget Information</i>	
OFFERINGS: Budgeted for 2018	753,543.00
I. Weekly Offering needed weekly to meet Budget	14,491.21
Offering Received for April 29	7,544.03
Easter Offering Received for April 29	400.00
II. 2018 Budget Giving (through April 29 week 17 of 52)	
Offering Needed for Budget	246,350.57
Offering Received	243,325.14
YTD Expense	230,010.27
Capital Campaign Total	489,164.58
Memorials/Donations/Pledges/Transfers/Interest	1,640.00
MECA 80% Fee Expense	-14,800.00
Capital Campaign Balance as of April 29	476,004.58
2018 Easter Offering Goal	35,000.00
Easter Offering Year to Date Total	19,833.20

Sunday School 2017-2018

Superintendent - Linda Spainhour

Secretary/Treasurer - Jeanie & Paul Jacobs

Nursery Pianist - Janice West

Nursery - Room 107

Nancy Allen

Dottie Ford

9th, 10th, 11th & 12th Grade - Room 301

Russell Pauly

Jennifer Pauly

Tommy Smith

Whitney & Ricky Glass

1, 2 & 3 Year Olds - Room 117

Barbara Livingston

Tina Conrad

Rhonda White

Mindy Williams

Curriculum - Deep Blue

Augsburg - Room 101

Freddie Fulmer Pastor Charles Easley

Pastor Lavaughn Keisler

Allen Wise

Jean Latimer

Curriculum - Augsburg Adult Bible Studies

4 & 5 Year Olds - Room 307

1st & 2nd Grade - Room 307

Pam Berrian

Irina Roof

Barbara Stilwell

Ann Spainhour

Betsy Sippel, Sub

Curriculum - Whirl

Friends & Followers - Room 207

Harry Prim

Room 124 Disciples - Room 109

Joe Vasquez

3rd, 4th, 5th Grade - Room 304

Deanna Sease

Jimmy Williams

Rebekah Morris, Sub

Curriculum - Whirl

New Seekers - Room 121

Don Simmons

Pam Burnett

Pastor Wade Roof

6th, 7th & 8th Grade - Room 302

Linda Spainhour

Whitney Glass

Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 6, 2018

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.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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