



because I live,
you also will live

John 14: 19

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer (ELCA)

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Worship

Scripture is from the NRSV Bible; Hymn is in ELW (Red) and LBW. (Green) hymnals.

Welcome

Announcements (see last page)

Ringing of Chimes

Gathering

Call to Worship

Psalm 66: 8 - 9, 18 - 20

Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,

⁹ who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

¹⁷ I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.

¹⁸ If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

¹⁹ But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

²⁰ Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who is present, who gives life,
who calls into existence the things that do not exist. **Amen**

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?

Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen

Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you.

Amen

Hymn "What Wondrous Love is This" #666 *ELW*, # 385 *LBW*

vs. 1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

vs. 2 When I was sinking down, sinking down sinking down when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

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

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 wellbeing of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For your holy church, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Helps, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God,

You hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

The Word**New Testament Reading**

1 Peter 3: 13 - 22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. **Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated,** ¹⁵ **but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.** Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

¹⁸ **For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.** He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you— not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation

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

The Gospel according to John: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel

John 14: 15 - 21

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. **You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.**

¹⁸ "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ **In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.** ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time**Sermon**

Rev. Diane M. Goulson

Blessing May the peace of God that passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn "What Wondrous Love is This" #666 *ELW*, # 385 *LBW*

vs. 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing.

Apostles' Creed

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

We Respond to the Word

Sharing the Peace The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Offering Gathered *Prepare your offering to be mailed to church.*

Offering Prayer

Merciful God,

Our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. You feed us with your Word for service in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the creator of heaven and earth. Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and bodies of water that give life to your creatures. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way, especially those with Covid, the unemployed, farmers, . . . Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Your commands are good and merciful. Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless, and free the oppressed and imprisoned in body, mind or spirit. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us. Unite us forever in your final victory over death. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care, through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sending

Blessing

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

Hymn

“What Wondrous Love is This”

666 *ELW*, # 385 *LBW*

vs. 4 And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on; and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on;
and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing God’s love for me,
and through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on; and through eternity I’ll sing on.

Dismissal Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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Liturgy from Sundays and Seasons, 2019, Year A, Guide to Worship Planning, Augsburg Fortress.
Music printed under CCLI #11304952

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Sunday, June 7th:

We will celebrate our students, teachers and our graduates. Please let Pastor Diane know of any college, technical school, or high school graduates that you would like us to celebrate. Please include students and teachers in your prayers as they finish off this challenging year. Thank you!

March Food Drive Results:

Le Sueur Food Shelf 3,243 pounds of food received

Cash and Check donations: \$ 39,247

Belle Plaine Food Shelf 9,421 pounds of food received

(Includes collections from February through April due to Covid 19)

Broke all records! Thank you all for your generosity! Praise God!

Contact Larry Krentz to sign up to mow the lawn at church.

Sermon:

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ, and from God, the Father, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

This has been quite a week at our house with Mother's Day on Sunday and Erica's birthday on Tuesday. We have been blessed with lots of phone calls, texts, emails, cards, a bouquet of flowers, balloons, special food treats and even a few distanced conversations with friends and family in the yard and on the driveway. People have shown love in such wonderful, thoughtful ways. They thought "outside of the box" when they came up with "new" ways for us to celebrate the days and the relationships being recognized.

In our scripture reading for today, the same thing is happening. The reader or listener is being challenged to think of their relationship with God in a new and creative way. And then they are reminded that how they see their relationship with God will affect how they see their relationship with others. Love is not linear, love spills out and cannot be contained.

If you love me, you will . . . these words have been used by many to manipulate or coerce people to do things they don't want to do or that they feel is not safe or appropriate for them to do. Sadly, we can use someone's caring about us in harmful ways. Such is our sinful selves.

Today's scripture shows us a healthy, healing, encouraging way to deepen a loving relationship. Our reading from the Gospel of John, has Jesus talking to his disciples, right before he goes to the cross. He knows they will be frightened, confused, and dismayed by what is to occur. He understands that they will not fully understand for a while what is really going on. So he speaks of love to them. He focuses on words of love that will help them remember his love for them and the power of his presence in their lives.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments," Jesus says. Do what I have asked you. Do what I have shown you. Love and serve others. *'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'*³⁸ *This is the first and greatest commandment.*³⁹ *And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'* (Matthew 22: 37 - 39)

"Love me, by keeping the commandments that I have told and shown you," Jesus says. And then he promises that they won't have to 'be church' alone. He knows that *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3: 23)*. He knows that they need "another Advocate" to be sent by the Father, so that they will have a helper, to help them to keep the commandments resulting in more love.

In May of 1989, March of 1991, and August of 2001, Daryl and I were called to "love" in a new way. Each time a child was placed in our arms, to be our daughter. Neither of us had experienced adoption before, and we did not know what it would be like to raise and love a child born to others. It was scary and wonderful all at the same time. We had people tell us we were crazy, brave, and lucky. Each time was new, knowing that each child came with their own sense of self, and biological aspects that we would have little influence on effecting. Deciding to love someone, not knowing what tomorrow will bring is humbling. Fortunately we were blessed with family, friends, fellow church members, and our God, who have walked with us, and loved and supported us along the way.

That is what Jesus is telling the disciples and us today. When we are fearful, confused, or anxious about tomorrow, we are to focus on love. Because Jesus knows we can't follow the commandments or be church on our own volition, he encourages us. "Because I live, you will live". "I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in

you.” “Those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” These are promises of an unending presence. These are the words of a love given, knowing that “*Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.*” This is a love that builds bridges and builds us up to serve.

This is a love that reminds us that God has made God’s self known to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the Christ. It is a love that reminds us that though sinful, God chooses to love us, with an unending love. A love that is new, healthy, and challenging in a world that uses love to manipulate others. To love God, to keep the commandments, is to serve others because you can and you know the result will be more love. Thanks be to God. Amen

God’s Work, Our Hands

Le Sueur Food Shelf T & Th. 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm; 2nd T 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

BP Food Shelf Wed. 5 - 7 pm; Sat. 9 - noon

NP Peace Center M, W, & F, 9 am - 12:30 pm; Th. 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Henderson FoodShare May 1st & 3rd Thurs. 4:30 - 5:30 pm **Redeemer**

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Prayers

Health Issues: Baby Boy M., Cindy K

Grieving Family of Myles G.

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Calendar at a Glance

Sunday, May 17 9:30 am Worship Online Live Facebook
Also available at www.redeemerlutheranhenderson.org after worship.

Tuesday, May 19 2:00 - 3:30 pm **Redeemer: LS Food Shelf**

Thursday, May 21 9:30 am **Henderson Foodshare**

2:00 - 3:30 pm **Redeemer: LS Food Shelf**

3:30 - 5:30 pm **Henderson FoodShare**

6:30 pm **Ascension of Our Lord Worship Service**

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Sunday, May 24 9:30 am Worship Online Live Facebook
Also available at www.redeemerlutheranhenderson.org after worship.

Tuesday, May 26 2:00 - 3:30 pm **Redeemer: LS Food Shelf**

Thursday, May 28 2:00 - 3:30 pm **Redeemer: LS Food Shelf**

Contact Laurie Flaspeter to help at Food Shelf

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Sunday, May 31 9:30 am Worship Online Live Facebook
Also available at www.redeemerlutheranhenderson.org after worship.

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Sunday, June 7 Celebrate our students, teachers & graduates

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Offerings: **May 10** \$ 1,595 General Fund

\$ 10 Memorial for Fritz Barta to Building Fund

Thank you! Thanks be to God!

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