

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 5, 2024**

**686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

- 1 **Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
Fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore Thee;  
May I still Thy goodness prove.**
- 2 **Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by Thy help I've come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.**
- 3 **Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now like a fetter  
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
Prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.**
- 4 **Oh, that day when freed from sinning,  
I shall see Thy lovely face;  
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,  
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;  
Take my ransom'd soul away;  
Send Thine angels soon to carry  
Me to realms of endless day.**

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–90, alt.  
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- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” In the last chapter of Mark our Lord

promises, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” And the apostle Peter has written, “Baptism now saves you.”

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

*The pastor addresses each candidate:*

- P** How are you named?  
**R** *[Name]*

*The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of each candidate while saying:*

- P** *[Name]*, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ✠ forehead and upon your ✠ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

- P** Let us pray.  
Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.  
We pray that You would behold *[name(s)]* according to Your boundless mercy and bless *[him/her/them]* with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in *[him/her/them]*, which has been inherited from Adam and which *[he himself / she herself / they themselves]* *[has/have]* committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that *[he/she/they]* be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, *[he/she/they]* would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- C** **Amen.**
- P** From ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are, whenever

possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.

**P** Is it your intention to serve [*name of candidate(s)*] as sponsors in the Christian faith?

**R** Yes, with the help of God.

**P** God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

**C** Amen.

**P** Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*The pastor places his hands on the head(s) of the candidate(s), and the congregation joins in praying:*

### Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

**P** The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even  $\dagger$  forevermore.

**C** Amen.

*The pastor addresses the candidate(s) and asks the following questions:*

**P** [*Name(s)*], do you renounce the devil?

**R** Yes, I renounce him.

**P** Do you renounce all his works?

**R** Yes, I renounce them.

**P** Do you renounce all his ways?

**R** Yes, I renounce them.

**P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

**R** Yes, I believe.

**P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?

**R** Yes, I believe.

**P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

**R** Yes, I believe.

**P** [*Name*], do you desire to be baptized?

**R** Yes, I do.

*The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:*

**P** [*Name*], I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:*

**P** The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life  $\dagger$  everlasting.

**C** Amen.

*The pastor may place a white garment on the newly baptized while saying:*

**P** Receive this white garment to show that you have been clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all your sin. So shall you stand without fear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the inheritance prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

*The pastor may light a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and give it to the newly baptized while saying:*

- P** Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

*The newly baptized may be welcomed with the following:*

- A** In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you [*a member / members*] of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and [*an heir / heirs*] with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our [*brother(s)/sister(s)*] in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- C** **Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.**
- P** Let us pray.  
Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted [*name(s)*] the new birth in Holy Baptism and made [*him/her/them*] [*a member / members*] of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and [*an heir / heirs*] of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as [*he/she/they*] [*has/have*] now become Your [*child/children*], You would keep [*him/her/them*] in [*his/her/their*] baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure [*he/she/they*] may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Peace ☩ be with you.
- C** **Amen.**

## Introit

*Psalm 66:1–2, 8–9, 20; antiphon: v. 16*

Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
**and I will tell what he has done for my soul.**  
Shout for joy to God, all the earth;  
**sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!**  
Bless our God, O peoples;  
**let the sound of his praise be heard,**  
who has kept our soul among the living  
**and has not let our feet slip.**  
Blessèd be God,  
**because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!**  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**  
**and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
**and I will tell what he has done for my soul.**

## Kyrie

*LSB 152*

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** 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.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.  
O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## First Reading

*Acts 10:34–48*

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual

*adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

Christ has risen from the dead.  
**[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.**  
He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;  
**he has put all things under his feet.**

## Epistle Reading

*1 John 5:1–8*

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

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

## Holy Gospel Reading

John 15:9–17

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.  
**C** Glory to You, O Lord.
- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## 602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives

sts. 1–2, 4–5

- 1 The gifts Christ freely gives  
He gives to you and me  
To be His Church, His bride,  
His chosen, saved and free!  
Saints blest with these rich gifts  
Are children who proclaim  
That they were won by Christ  
And cling to His strong name.
- 2 The gifts flow from the font  
Where He calls us His own;  
New life He gives that makes  
Us His and His alone.  
Here He forgives our sins  
With water and His Word;  
The triune God Himself  
Gives pow’r to call Him Lord.
- 4 The gifts are there each day  
The holy Word is read;  
God’s children listen, hear,  
Receive, and they are fed.  
Christ fills them with Himself,  
Blest words that give them life,  
Restoring and refreshing  
Them for this world’s strife.
- 5 The gifts are in the feast,  
Gifts far more than we see;  
Beneath the bread and wine  
Is food from Calvary.  
The body and the blood  
Remove our ev’ry sin;

## We leave His presence in His peace, renewed again.

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## Sermon “My Friends” John 15:9-17

## Confirmation

*The pastor addresses the catechumens.*

- P** Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord’s bidding. Jesus said, “Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord. Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?
- R** Yes, I do.
- P** Do you renounce the devil?
- R** Yes, I renounce him.
- P** Do you renounce all his works?
- R** Yes, I renounce them.
- P** Do you renounce all his ways?
- R** Yes, I renounce them.
- P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?
- R** Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
- P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?
- R** Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
- R** Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

- P** Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?
- R** *I do.*
- P** Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?
- R** *I do.*
- P** Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** *[Name]*, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.
- R** *Amen.*
- P** Let us pray.  
Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Almighty and most merciful Father, in the waters of Holy Baptism You have united Your children in the suffering and death of Your Son Jesus Christ, cleansing them by His blood. Renew in them the gift of Your Holy Spirit, that they may live in daily contrition and repentance with a faith that ever clings to their Savior. Deliver them from the power of Satan and preserve them from false and dangerous doctrines, that they may remain faithful in hearing Christ's Word and receiving His body and blood. By the

Lord's Supper strengthen them to believe that no one can make satisfaction for sin but Christ alone. Enable them to find joy and comfort only in Him, learning from this Sacrament to love You and their neighbor and to bear the cross with patience and joy until the day of the resurrection of their bodies to life immortal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**
- P** Peace be with you.
- C** **Amen.**

### Prayer of the Church

- P** ...Lord, in your mercy:
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** ...through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

### Offering

#### 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 salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

LSB 160

### Sanctus

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## Pax Domini

LSB 163

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

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 163

**C** 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.

## Distribution

### Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love

toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benediction

LSB 166

**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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## 687 Thine Forever, God of Love

**1** Thine forever, God of love!

Hear us from Thy throne above;

Thine forever may we be

Here and in eternity!

**2** Thine forever! Oh, how blest

They who find in Thee their rest!

Savior, guardian, heav'nly friend,

O defend us to the end!

**3** Thine forever, Lord of Life!

Shield us through our earthly strife.

Thou, the life, the truth, the way,

Guide us to the realms of day.

**4** Thine forever! Shepherd, keep

These Thy frail and trembling sheep;

Safe alone beneath Thy care,

Let us all Thy goodness share.

**5** Thine forever! Thou our guide,

All our wants by Thee supplied,

All our sins by Thee forgiv'n;

Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav'n.

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