

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter

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.

WELCOME! We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

Worshipping. Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

Communion: *Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.*

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

270 South Broadway + Hicksville NY 11801

Church Office: Monday/Tuesday 9 am - 2 pm Wednesday/Thursday 9 am - 3 pm, Friday Noon - 3 pm

Church Office: 516/931-0710

Rev. Dr. Joann Heaney-Hunter

Christine Goetzger-Sedlak, President of the Congregation

Mason Griffin, Minister of Music

Fern Funk, Parish Administrator (*email ststephenoffice@msn.com*)

Church Website www.ststephenshicksville.com

Join us on Facebook: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hicksville, NY

+ GATHERING +

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **C Amen.**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *I Come with Joy* (ELW 482)



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



! Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

Refrain



for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.


Refrain




Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and




peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's

peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high-
est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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. **C Amen.**

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

A reading from Acts.

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. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: *This Day Was Made by the Lord* ~ Christopher Walker

Refrain
This day was made by the Lord, let us re-joice, let us be glad.

2
let us re-joice in sal - va - tion!

- Verses
Cantor
1. I thank you, your love is e -
 2. Your hand raised me up _____ in
 3. The stone which the build - ers re -
 4. You o - pened the gates _____ of
 5. ¶ You are my strength and my

All

1. ter - nal, you have giv - en me life. You have giv - en me life.
 2. tri-umph, you have giv - en me life. You have giv - en me life.
 3. ject - ed is the cor - ner - stone, _ is the cor - ner - stone. _
 4. heav - en, you have giv - en me life. You have giv - en me life.
 5. Sav - ior, you have giv - en me life. You have giv - en me life.

to Refrain

1-5. I will pro - claim the won - ders you do!

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

A reading from 1 John.

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. **C Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

P The holy gospel according to John. C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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. C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* (ELW 367)



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: “Christ has
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: “Christ has
set heart and will on things a - bove that we
and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: “Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Sing, choirs of
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Now still he
con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!” Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

C 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

The response to the Prayers of Intercession is: C hear our prayer.

A Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **C Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C And also with you.**

P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Debbie De Louise (5/9)

BIRTHDAY SONG

He who began a good work in you 2x

Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)

Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)

He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you!

+ MEAL +

OFFERING: *Spirit, Open My Heart* (ACS 1043)

Refrain





fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
 deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
 day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **C Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P ...Grace our table with your presence. C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P ...burning with justice, peace, and love. C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **Our Father, who art in heaven...**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. C **Thanks be to God.**

LAMB OF GOD



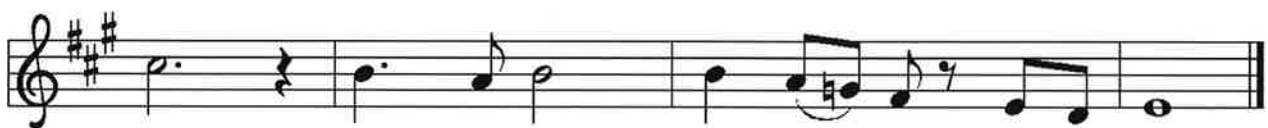
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

SONG DURING COMMUNION: *Beautiful Savior* (ELW 838)



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **C Amen.**

+ SENDING +

P The Lord be with you. **C And also with you.**

BLESSING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen! **C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always. **C Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Bind Us Together* (WOV 748)

Refrain

Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that
 can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,
 bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love.

1 There . . is on - ly one God. There . . is on - ly one King.
 2 You are the fam - ly of God. You are the prom - ise di - vine.

There . . is on - ly one Bod - y; that . . is why we can sing;
 You are God's cho - sen de - sire, you are the glo - rious new wine.

Refrain

DISMISSAL

A Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

The Spirit is shaping an affective and apostolic heart in all of us. Let us listen to that Spirit-song well and learn its melody. This song is a song of presence, of being with the other without calculation. We are not slaves; we are not members of Christ based on hierarchies of status or greater or lesser rank. We are lettered and unlettered, male and female, newborn and long-born, friends. Such friendship in Christ makes us companions at the Lord's table. There is scandal in this: it goes against the competition models we have learned. It brings us into a communion of people bonded together in affective ties because God chose us and loved us first. The friendship we share here is one we can bring to others. Such a mission is a joy. Such action indicates a fresh initiative of the Spirit. Such a task brings delightful merriment and creative hope for our world.

—*John J. O'Brien, C.P.*

Upcoming Commemorations

Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760

Thursday, May 9, 2024

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

**Announcements for the week of
May 5, 2024**

*Sanctuary Candle for May is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Ed Dressler by Loretta Dressler*

Financial Statements (January, 2024 - April, 2024) are available for pick up in the Narthex. Please look them over carefully and if there are any discrepancies, notify the office.

May is St. Stephen's Month to support LSS's Hunger Prevention Program - New LIFE Center. Please refer to the attached flyer. Additional flyers are available on the Narthex table.

June Newsletter blurbs are due to TMaurer145@aol.com on Wednesday, May 15.



Poppy Paint Night ~ May 22

7 pm - 9 pm.

Join us for a fun paint night at Lets Craft located at the Samanea Mall (the old SOURCE MALL) on Old Country Road in Westbury.

Discover the mesmerizing world of painting through the expert guidance of Diane. Unleash your creativity as you learn to capture the vibrant colors on canvas. This workshop caters to all skill levels and includes

personalized instruction in blending, brushwork and composition. No prior knowledge of painting is necessary and all painting materials are provided.

Tickets (\$35 - \$45) are available at Let's Craft website www.Letscraft.org or contact Beth Feeny at 516-729-5481.

Celebrations in May



May 9th ~ Debbie De Louise

May 18th ~ Roger Engert

May 19th ~ Dorothy Eberhardt



May 24th ~ Anthony & Gail Agarenzo

Join us on Zoom Monday evenings at 7 pm (May 6, 13, 20 and June 3) as we focus on Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. In observance of Memorial Day, there will no session on May 27.

WELCA Conference Bible Study Wednesday, May 15 ~ lead by Pr. Rebecca Sheridan (Faith Lutheran, Syosset). Location: Cedar Creek Park, Seaford weather permitting with backup site being St. David's Lutheran Church, Massapequa Park. Topic: Mental health and Wellness. Study is available online by searching for WELCA Bible study, May 2024. Contact Joyce Anderson (516-496-8871) for additional information.

A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly Sunday service altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial/in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored/memorialized by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at 516/931-0710.

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (May 5th - May 11th)

Today	6th Sunday of Easter
	9:30 am Holy Communion
Monday	7:00 pm Zoom Study
Tuesday	7:00 pm <i>Back to Basics (AA)</i>
Next Sunday, Ascension Sunday	
	9:30 am Holy Communion

SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY

	<u>Sunday, 9:30 AM</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER:	Christel LaVorgna
LECTOR:	Jaclyn Shurman
ACOLYTE:	Sara LaGuarina
ACCOMPANIEST:	Gregory Hunter
USHERS:	Rich Humann, Tyler LaVorgna
GREETER:	Lynn Browning
AUDIO/VISUAL:	Tyler LaVorgna
ALTAR GUILD:	Beth Feeney, Christel LaVorgna

PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. Please remember to keep the office updated.

PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Lauren Artus
Dolly Braun
Dottie Eberhardt
Roger Engert
Lois Menik

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

Joe (brother-in-law of Mark Hammaren)
Vinny Aiello (husband of Laureen Aiello)
Fred & Janet Barrell (brother-in-law & sister of Susan Portz)
Wendy & Joe Bezko Colligan (sister & brother-in-law of Jeanne Bezko)
Roseann DeGennaro (cousin of Laureen Aiello)
Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien)
James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger)
John Parrett (husband of Claire Parrett)
Krista Parrett (daughter-in-law of Claire Parrett)
David Smiloff (brother of Debbie De Louise)
Diana Smiloff (sister-in-law of Debbie De Louise)
Arlene Stafford (aunt of Kathy Hesse)
The family and friends who mourn the loss of Elaine Lehe (sister of Maureen O'Brien)

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS

Dan Buckholt (friend of Allison Barone)
Robert Ciaccio (friend of The Barone Family)
Ed & Marie Gomula & The Gomula Family (friends of Debbie De Louise)
John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)
Carol Lorenzut (friend of Bill & Lauren Artus)
Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)
Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)
Bonnie Pearl (friend of Fern & Mike Funk)
Ilona Riggers (past congregant)
Bill Stanton (friend of Kelli Barone)
Stephanie Thorton (friend of Hesse Family)



**Lutheran Social Services of New York
New LIFE Center-Long Island**

311 Uniondale Avenue, Uniondale, NY 11553

MAY IS OUR MONTH TO SUPPORT

Lutheran Social Services of New York
Hunger Prevention Program - New LIFE Center - Long Island
Food is needed for the elderly, the unemployed, and families with children.

You can help by contributing items from the list below:

Non-Perishable Items

White Rice (1 - 2 pounds bag/box)
Macaroni & Cheese/Pasta/Spaghetti/Spaghetti Sauce
Pancake Mix/Syrup
Coffee, Regular & Instant/ Tea/Hot Chocolate/Parmalat Milk
Flour/Sugar
Cookies/Cake Mix/Frosting/Brownies
Cereal/Canisters of Oatmeal
Crackers/Chips/Granola Bars/Microwave Popcom

Canned Goods

Juice/Assorted Drinks/Juice Boxes/Applesauce
Canned Meats/Tuna/Salmon/Sardine/Chicken/Ham
Chicken Noodle Soup/Soup/Mix Vegetables
Chef Boyardee/Chili
Dried and Canned Beans (No Black Beans)
Peanut Butter/Jelly/Jam

Condiments

Salad Dressing/Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Mustard/BBQ Sauce/Salt/Pepper/Oil

Baby Items

Formula/Baby Food/Shampoo/Lotion/Wipes
Diapers (size 3, 4, 5, 6)
Baby Clothing (New or used size 0 to 24 months)

Personal Items

Paper Products/Shampoo/Soap/Toothpaste/Toothbrushes/
Shaving Cream
Feminine Products
Any Grocery Bags (new or used)

FOOD FOR THE MONTH PROGRAM