

The background of the image is a serene sunset scene. A calm body of water, likely a lake, occupies the bottom third of the frame. A dark silhouette of a tree line stretches across the middle ground. The sky is a deep blue, filled with numerous clouds that are illuminated from below by the setting sun, giving them a golden-yellow glow. The sun itself is partially obscured by the trees, appearing as a bright point of light. Overlaid on the left side of the image is text in a white, hand-drawn, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in five lines, with the first four lines on a red brushstroke background and the fifth line inside a red heart shape. The text reads: "THOSE WHO BELIEVE", "IN THE SON OF GOD", "HAVE THE TESTIMONY", "IN THEIR", and "HEARTS.".

THOSE WHO BELIEVE
IN THE SON OF GOD
HAVE THE TESTIMONY
IN THEIR
HEARTS.

1 JOHN 5:10, NRSV

ORDER OF THE SERVICE OF THE WORD
THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 9, 2021 — 8:00 A.M.

A warm welcome to all worshipping with Resurrection Lutheran Church today. In May of 2020, we celebrated forty-two years of ministry. Celebrating our Savior's love continues today in the faithful gathering of God's people, whether we are together in God's house or as you watch online from the comfort of your home.

LESSONS AND LITURGY TODAY

When Jesus instituted Holy Communion, He said, "A new command I give you: Love one another." With this new commandment Christ intends us to move beyond easy words of "I love you," to living acts of love in Christian service to one another. He calls us to love one another genuinely---with a love that exceeds emotions, but dares to invest time, talent, and treasure for the sake of another. Through Christ's forgiving love working in our lives, we can love one another.

❖ Denotes times when the congregation is invited to stand.

The congregation is encouraged to quietly and prayerfully prepare for worship during the prelude.

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring from Cantata No. 147 – J. S. Bach

GREETING

❖ **INVOCATION**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

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

P God so loved the world that He gave His Only Son,
C **That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have Eternal Life.**

P Jesus says, "My Command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
C **Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."**

P Let us not love in word or talk,
C **but in deed and in truth.**



ENTRANCE HYMN

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

LSB 469, vs.1, 4-6

**1. "Christ the Lord is ris'n today!" Saints on earth and angels say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply.**

**4. Lives again our glorious King! Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once He died our souls to save; Where thy victory, O grave?**

**5. Soar we now where Christ has led; Foll'wing our exalted Head.
Made like Him, like Him we rise; Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.**

**6. Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n! Praise to Thee by both be giv'n!
Thee we greet triumphant now: Hail, the resurrection, Thou!**

Text (sts. 1, 4-6) and Music: Public domain.

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CONFESSION OF SINS AND GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS

P Even though we know we are sinners, we often think of ourselves as being "not so bad". But this is an illusion. Especially in the light of God's Commandments, we fail miserably. Our only hope is to approach the Throne of the God of Love, seeking His Mercy in the Name of the risen Christ.

C **Most merciful God, we have sinned against You and against our neighbor in thought, word, and deed. And what is more, we have failed to love You and our neighbor in thought, word, and deed as we ought. Though we deserve eternal punishment, we look to You for grace, remembering the sacrifice of Your Holy Son in our place. We repent and intend to follow Your Commands. Forgive our sin, O God, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins.

P As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

❖ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, You are the Giver of all that is good.

C **Inspire us to think those things that are right and loving, and by Your Merciful Guiding to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 10:34-48

(Peter preaches to Jews and Gentiles, inviting them to believe in Jesus and receive forgiveness of sins through His name.)

Then Peter began to speak:

"I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right.

You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, Who is Lord of all.

You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the

baptism that John preached--how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him. We are witnesses of everything He did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed Him by hanging Him on a tree, but God raised Him from the dead

on the third day and caused Him to be seen.

He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen --by us who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead.

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the One Whom God appointed as Judge of the living and the dead.

All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His Name."

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.

The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles.

For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said,

"Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water?

They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."

So he ordered that they be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

All People that on Earth Do Dwell – arr. R. Vaughan Williams

All vs. 1-2, 5

Quartet vs. 3-4

Psalm 98

LSB 791

**1. All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, His praise forthtell; Come ye before Him and rejoice.**

**2. Know that the Lord is God indeed; Without our aid He did us make.
We are His folk, He doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.**

*3. O enter then His gates with praise; Approach with joy His courts unto.
Praise, laud, and bless His name always, For it is seemly so to do.*

*4. For why? The Lord our God is good: His mercy is forever sure.
His truth at all times firmly stood And shall from age to age endure.*

❖5. To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, The God whom heav'n and earth adore,
From us and from the angel host Be praise and glory evermore.

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EPISTLE

1 John 5:1-8

(We fear and love God and we keep His commands.)

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the
Christ is born of God, and everyone who
loves the Father loves His Child as well.

This is how we know that we love the
children of God: by loving God and
carrying out His Commands.

This is love for God:

to obey His Commands.

And His Commands are not burdensome,
for everyone born of God overcomes the
world.

This is the victory that has overcome the
world, even our faith.

Who is it that overcomes the world?

Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son
of God.

This is the One Who came by water and
blood--Jesus Christ.

He did not come by water only, but by
water and blood.

And it is the Spirit Who testifies,
because the Spirit is the truth.

For there are three that testify:
the Spirit, the water and the blood;
and the three are in agreement.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA VERSE

Christ the Lord Hath Risen – arr. A. Parker and R. Shaw

Cantus Christe

*Christ the Lord hath risen From His three-day prison,
Meet it is to make merrie, Jesus will our solace be.
Alleluia.*

*Christ our victor Giant Quells the foe defiant:
Let the ransomed people sing, Glory to the Easter King.
Alleluia.*

❖ **HOLY GOSPEL**

John 15:9-17

(Jesus' Great Commandment)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

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

"As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My Love. If you obey My Commands, you will remain in My Love, just as I have obeyed My Father's Commands and remain in His Love. I have told you this so that My Joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My Command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, Lord Christ.

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My Name. This is My Command: Love each other.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Bob Unger

HYMN OF THE DAY

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

LSB 700, vs. 1-3

**1. Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**2. Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.**

**3. Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.**

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(For an outline of the sermon, see page 13 of this worship folder)



CREED

APOSTLES' CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and earth.
And 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.
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. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR MOTHERS' DAY

P Most Gracious Heavenly Father, we thank You for our mothers to whom You have entrusted the care of human life from its very beginning in the womb. You have given to women the capacity and privilege of bringing new life into this world. In Your Will, grant that every woman may come to understand the full meaning of that blessing, which gives her the opportunity to reflect Your Selfless Love for every child she may be privileged to bear, and for all Your children everywhere.

C Watch over every mother who is with child, strengthen her faith in Your Care and Love for her and for her unborn child.

C Give her courage in times of fear or pain, understanding in times of uncertainty and doubt, and hope in times of trouble. Grant her joy in the birth of her child.

P To mothers You have given the great responsibility of being a child's first teacher and spiritual guide. Help mothers to grow daily in knowledge and understanding of Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and grant them the wisdom to impart this knowledge faithfully to their children, and to all who depend upon them. We ask You to send Your Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to all mothers who sorrow for children who have died; who are ill; who are estranged from their families; or who are in trouble of any kind. Help grieving mothers to rely on Your Tender Mercy, granting them hope in the midst of their grief.

C We ask Your Blessing on all those to whom You have entrusted the responsibility of motherhood. May Your Holy Spirit constantly inspire and strengthen them to faithful service through self-giving love. We pray all this in the Loving Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

❖ GREETING OF PEACE

All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (*Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3*) Any gesture accompanying this greeting (wave, hand over heart with slight bow) is welcome.

OFFERING

(The offerings of God’s people will be received through electronic giving, by postal mail, and in baskets located in the Narthex.)

MUSICAL OFFERING

Bound for Jubilee – arr. A. Parker and R. Shaw

Cantus Christe

Hallelu, Hallelu, I am on my way, bound for Jubilee!

*Oh my brother won't you come with me?
Oh my sister you must come today,
Oh my brother won't you come with me?
Or the devil might come and take you away,
Fore you get to Jubilee!*

*My Lord's callin', I must go with Him.
Can't you hear Him callin' you today?
My Lord's callin', I must go with Him.
Or the devil might come and take me away,
Fore I get to Jubilee!*

Hallelu, Hallelu, bound for Jubilee!

Hallelu, Hallelu, bound for Jubilee!

❖ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Lord God, in the loneliness and darkness of sin and death, You sent forth Your Son to touch us with the warmth of Your Love, forgive our sins, and show us the light of Life.

C Grant that we may walk in that light without fear all the days of our lives.

P Make bold, Your Church, O Lord, and all who serve her, that the Good News of Jesus' Death and Resurrection may go out to every corner of the earth and find ears willing to listen and hearts willing to trust.

C Restore the lost, Father, that those who have fallen away may know again Your Touch of grace and Your Word of hope. Use us to reach out to those whose faith has grown dim or whose lives have been severely tested by trial.

P Bless, O Lord, the leaders of this and every land that they may work for peace, act with justice, and protect the weakest and most vulnerable. Bless especially the service men and women who work for peace in places of war and violence.

C Remembering Your saints of old, and those of every generation who have responded to Your Voice with faith; we pray for that day when we and all Your people shall be one in Your Presence forevermore

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in your Mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your Hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your Mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray...

❖ 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.

❖ **BENEDICTION**

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His Face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *(Numbers 6:24-26)*
C Amen.

❖ **CLOSING HYMN**

Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious

LSB 548

1. Thanks to Thee, O Christ, victorious! Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!
Death hath now no power o'er us, Thou hast conquered in the strife.
Thanks because Thou didst arise And hast opened paradise!
None can fully sing the glory Of the resurrection story.

2. Thou hast died for my transgression, All my sins on Thee were laid;
Thou hast won for me salvation, On the cross my debt was paid.
From the grave I shall arise And shall meet Thee in the skies.
Death itself is transitory; I shall lift my head in glory.

3. For the joy Thine advent gave me, For Thy holy, precious Word;
For Thy Baptism, which doth save me, For Thy blest Communion board;
For Thy death, the bitter scorn, For Thy resurrection morn,
Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee, And in heav'n I shall behold Thee.

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P Go in peace and serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Nun Fruet Euch, Lieben Christen Gmein – J. Bender

$$+ \qquad + \qquad + \qquad + \qquad + \qquad + \qquad +$$

Acknowledgments

Portions of the liturgy from *CREATIVE WORSHIP for the Lutheran Parish @* Concordia Publishing House. UBP
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Servants in Worship

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 Liturgist.....Vicar Alan Shaw
 Organist/Director of Music MinistryRobert E. Unger
 Cantus Christe.....Garry Grabow, James Linn, Mark Dirks, Tim Striplin
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God's Love Letter, 5: Conquering (1 John 5:1-8) Easter 6

People of God can wonder at times if their faith is adequate. But even imperfect faith “born of God” through Holy Baptism (5:4; cf. John 3:5) that leans on God’s love given through the crucified/risen Christ overcomes and conquers in times of trial.

1. **Today is the fifth and final week of a 5-week series on 1 John**, a letter all about God’s love for us—and because of God’s love for us, our love for one another. Today John’s theme is the victory of faith when “the world” seems to be winning.
2. **Faith is a _____ from God.** We don’t become believers in Christ by asking Jesus into our hearts. We don’t choose to follow Jesus or “decide” to follow Him (cf. John 15:16). “Dead” people (Eph 2:1–2) can’t vote in the Kingdom of God!
3. **Faith is _____ from God.** This being born—something that we contribute to as little as a baby contributes to its own birth—is the work of the Spirit, active through the water of Baptism because of the reality of Jesus’ life and death (5:6-8).
4. **Faith is a _____ with _____ who is _____.** Consider my illustration of the child in the car seat who follows along and goes where Mom or Dad go.
5. **Our own faith _____ from our perspective than it truly is from God’s perspective.** Could it be that some self-professed “agnostics” are really Christians that don’t realize what the Scriptures say about faith? ALL who lean on Jesus and seek God’s strength, even with their doubts and fears and questions, can take heart that their sins are forgiven; they can bear up in challenging times. They (and we) are conquerors!

Central contrast: Faith seen “from below,” the way we see our own faith (imperfect, with all of its limitations) vs. faith seen “from above” (whole and complete), the way God sees it, in Christ Jesus.