

# resurrection **REALity**

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**Jesus' Business Is Love;  
Therefore, So Is Ours**

# Easter 6

May 4/5, 2024

**Theme of the Day:** *Jesus' Business Is Love; Therefore, So Is Ours*

The entirety of God's Word can be summed up in one word: love. God's Law is all about love. *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart..."* and *"Love your neighbor as yourself"* (Matthew 22:37,39). The gospel is all about love: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..."* (John 3:16). From his compassion for the sick and broken, to his sacrificial death on the cross, to the peace he provided after his resurrection, Jesus was the perfect embodiment of love. Love is his business.

Therefore, love is our business too. The resurrection reality is that with the same supernatural power by which God raised Jesus from the dead, God now enables us to live a new life—one marked by radically selfless love. The motivation and ability to do this comes from seeing the endless love Christ has for us. We love only because he first loved us.

resurrection  
**REALity**



**Series Theme:** *Resurrection Reality*

St. Paul writes, “Christ has indeed been raised from the dead” (*1 Corinthians 15:20*). Big word: Indeed! Paul is stressing that we must not think of the Jesus’ resurrection like a happy ending to another epic fable. The resurrection is not legend. It really happened. Easter is not just a holiday. Easter is history. On time’s infinite line, Jesus’ resurrection is the moment that defines reality for us all. If Christ remained dead, he is a fraud and failure. But Christ has indeed been raised. So, the reality: Jesus is exactly what he claimed to be—the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. If Christ remained dead, then the grave is the final, ugly, rotten end of us all. But Christ has indeed been raised. So, the reality is Jesus’ resurrection proves that “all will be made alive” (*1 Corinthians 15:22*). The reality of the resurrection does not just change our future, but the way we look at life now.

The greatest theologian of the early church, Augustine, called the season of Easter “a joyful week of weeks”—seven wonderful weeks, each seven glorious days long. In this glorious season, let us meditate upon the breath-taking implications of the resurrection reality.

Our worship follows this pattern.

|                |   |                 |
|----------------|---|-----------------|
| March 31       | Without the Resurrection Faith is Futile              | Easter Sunday   |
| April 6/7      | The Living Lord Gives Proof and Peace                 | Easter 2        |
| April 13/14    | We Have a Meaningful Message to Share                 | Easter 3        |
| April 20/21    | The Risen Savior Provides Good Shepherding            | Easter 4        |
| April 27/28    | The Living Lord Produces Active Faith                 | Easter 5        |
| <b>May 4/5</b> | <b>Jesus’ Business Is Love; Therefore, So Is Ours</b> | <b>Easter 6</b> |
| May 11/12      | Christ’s Ascension Means He Is Closer Than Ever       | Ascension       |
| May 18/19      | Christ Has Not Left Us Alone                          | Pentecost       |





## **A Note to All Our Guests**

During this service, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. Since this sacrament is the Lord's Supper and not ours, we are careful to follow our Lord's instructions. In particular, we take to heart these important truths:

1. In the Lord's Supper, Jesus truly gives us his body and blood together with the bread and the wine. Jesus says, "Take and eat; this is my body...Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood" (*Matthew 26:26-28*).
2. In the Lord's Supper, we express a unity of faith with one another. "Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf" (*1 Corinthians 10:17*).
3. Our Lord urges us to practice this unity with great love and care. "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself" (*1 Corinthians 11:27,29*).

Because we take these truths seriously, we invite all communicant members of our congregation or of a sister congregation in the Wisconsin Synod (WELS) or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) to commune with us today. However, we ask that those who are not members of a sister congregation refrain from taking the Lord's Supper with us at this time. In doing this, we are not judging anyone's faith. Out of love for our Lord and all people, we simply desire to discuss the Bible's teachings with our guests before communing together. We want all who commune to receive the Lord's Supper for their benefit and in a way that follows our Lord's instructions. If you have any questions about this or any other teaching of the Bible-or if you would like information about how to join our congregation-please feel free to speak to our pastor.

# We Come into the Presence of God

## Musical Introduction

*This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.*

## Invocation

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ †, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Confession of Sins

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unending love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**Amen.**

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## **Prayer and Praise**

For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**Christ, have mercy.**

For the well-being of your Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

**Amen.**

## Opening Hymn: 523 How Deep the Father's Love for Us



1 How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how vast be - yond all  
2 Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on his  
3 I will not boast in an - y - thing: no gifts, no pow'r, no



mea - sure, that he should give his on - ly Son to  
shoul - ders. A - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call  
wis - dom. But I will boast in Je - sus Christ: his



make a wretch his trea - sure. How great the pain of sear - ing loss.  
out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held him there  
death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from his re - ward?



The Fa - ther turns his face a - way as wounds which mar the  
un - til it was ac - com - plished; his dy - ing breath has  
I can - not give an an - swer. But this I know with



Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.  
brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.  
all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran - som.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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# We Listen

## First Reading

*Acts 9:36–42*

<sup>36</sup>In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. <sup>37</sup>About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. <sup>38</sup>Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!”

<sup>39</sup>Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

<sup>40</sup>Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. <sup>41</sup>He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. <sup>42</sup>This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

*Love*  
One Another

# Hymn: 802 All Is Well



1 The sun beams on be - hind the clouds and  
2 He feels our weak - ness, knows our need, and



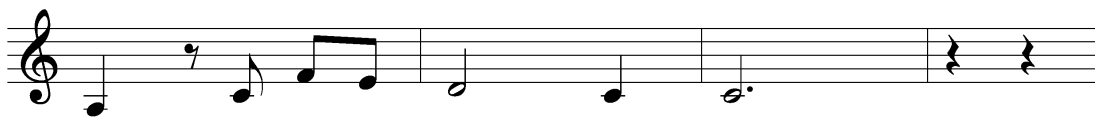
in the dark still grace a - bounds; all is well be-cause of  
for our good he in - ter - cedes; all is well be-cause of



God's great love. The road of dis - ap - point - ment  
God's great love. Through ev - 'ry fail - ure, ev - 'ry



runs where un - seen mer - cies wait for us, and all is  
fear, the Lord of com - fort draws us near, and all is



well be-cause of God's great love.  
well be-cause of God's great love.



*Refrain*  
How bright - ly shines the love of the Fa - ther in our Sav - ior,



Je - sus Christ. With faith - ful hands he ful - fills ev - 'ry



prom - ise; he will nev - er leave our side.



**12**  
3 His com - ing soon will fill the sky and



all that's wrong will be made right; with



new - born eyes we will be - hold the glo - ry of the ris - en



Lord. All will be well be - cause of God's great love;



yes, all is well be - cause of God's great love.

*Refrain*

Text: Vikki Cook, b. 1960; Steve Cook, b. 1958

Tune: Vikki Cook, b. 1960; Steve Cook, b. 1958

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## Second Reading

*1 John 4:7–11,19–21*

<sup>7</sup>Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

<sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

## Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Gospel**

*John 15:9–17*

<sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup>This is my command: Love each other.

## **Children's Message**

## Hymn of the Day: 728 This Is My Will



1 This is my will, my one com - mand, that love should  
2 No great - er love can be than this: to choose to  
3 I call you now no long - er slaves; no slave knows  
4 You chose not me, but I chose you, that you should  
5 All that you ask my Fa - ther dear for my name's



dwell a - mong you all. This is my will, that you should  
 die to save one's friends. You are my friends if you o -  
 all his mas - ter does. I call you friends, for all I  
 go and bear much fruit. I chose you out, that you in  
 sake you shall re - ceive. This is my will, my one com -



love as I have shown that I love you.  
 bey what I com - mand that you should do.  
 hear my Fa - ther say you hear from me.  
 me should bear much fruit that will a - bide.  
 mand, that love should dwell in each, in all.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010, alt.

Tune: Gaelic, 19th cent.

Text: © 1969 James Quinn, SJ, admin. OCP Publications. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 717189

Tune: Public domain

## Sermon

# We Respond

## Offering

*If you would like to give an offering, there is an offering plate by the back door of church.  
If you are a guest in our church, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering.  
You enrich us simply by being here.*

## Prayer of the Church

### Lord's Prayer

**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.**

# The Sacrament

## Preface

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

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## Proper Preface

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,  
bless - ed is he, 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.

## Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."



Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

### O Christ, Lamb of God

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

### Distribution

*Guests, please read and take note of the explanation of our communion practice on page 3 in this service folder. If you have any questions about this or any other Bible teaching, please feel free to speak to the pastor after the service. We thank you for your help.*

*Gluten-free wafers and grape juice available upon request.*

## Song of Simeon: 951 Lord, Now You Let Your Servant

Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac -  
cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles  
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Song of Simeon'. It consists of five staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are: 'Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.' The final note of the fifth staff is a double bar line.

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev.  
Text and tune: Public domain

Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925–1989

### Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

### Blessing

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

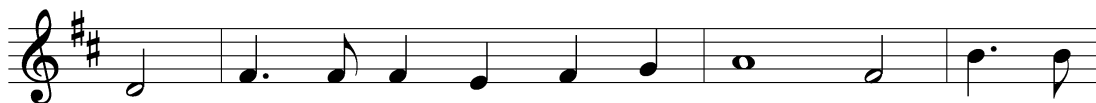
The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

## Closing Hymn: 697 May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill



1 May we your pre - cepts, Lord, ful - fill and do on  
2 So may we join your name to bless, your grace a -  
3 Spir - it of life, of love, and peace, u - nite our



earth our Fa - ther's will as an - gels do a - bove;  
dore, your pow'r con - fess, to flee from sin and strife.  
hearts, our joy in - crease, your gra - cious help sup - ply.



still walk in Christ, the liv - ing way, with all your  
One is our call - ing, one our name, the end of  
To each of us the bless - ing give in Chris - tian



chil - dren, and o - bey the law of Chris - tian love.  
all our hopes the same: a glo - rious crown of life.  
fel - low - ship to live, in joy - ful hope to die.

Text: Edward Osler, 1789–1863, alt.

Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Text and tune: Public domain

## Closing Musical Interlude

*This is an opportunity to sign the red Friendship Register at the end of your pew.*

**It is the mission of**



**to**

**Grow in the Word**

**and to**

**Go with the Word**



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is part of a group of 1250 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 45 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 34 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.



Why do we exist as a church?  
What is our mission?  
Why does it matter?

Join us at 9:15 am in the sanctuary for  
a challenging, motivating, and empowering study about  
the most important mission in history . . .

the mission of the church.

## Serving in Worship

**Pastor:** Jon Bergemann  
**Organist:** Casey Kippes  
**Cantor:** Caitlin Kippes  
**Ushers:** Erik Guldborg, Steve Danekas,  
and Riley Bowditch  
**Communion**  
**Setup/Cleanup:** Karen Bassler and  
Inge Wegner  
**Communion**  
**Assistants:** John Roland, Todd Paradis  
and Bill Jaeger  
**Greeters:** Laurel and Dave Bowen  
**AV Team:** Bob Reichert, Joe Garetto,  
Kristen Reynolds,  
Zach Dankert

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# GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN ACADEMY

To know, to grow, and to show.

## Join us for Bible Class

Sundays 9:15 am - 10:15 am Sanctuary and online



All children aged PreK-6th grade are welcome to join us to learn about God's word through stories, music and activities. We will meet in the school library, at the end of the school hallway, on Sundays from 9:10-10:20a.

Email [BLAST@gsdg.org](mailto:BLAST@gsdg.org)

**Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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[www.gsdg.org](http://www.gsdg.org)

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