



Lutheran Church of the
Redeemer
Gastonia, NC

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024



Prelude

P: Christ is risen!

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

Welcome/Announcements

Please stand as able.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth through Christ's resurrection, by whose speaking we are given new life.

C: **Amen.**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and raised up as beings of the new creation. Therefore, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism: Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, in his resurrection. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew. Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Quench our thirst in the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

C: **Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

P: Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn 742 (blue hymnal)

Come, We That Love the Lord

Greeting

P: The grace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

C: **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. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Children's Sermon

First Reading Acts 10:44-48

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.

Psalm 98

L: ¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

C: ²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

L: ³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

C: ⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

- L: ⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.
- C: ⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**
- L: ⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.
- C: ⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**
- L: ⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading 1 John 5:1-6

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.

(after the readings)

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as able.

Alleluia (green hymnal, pg. 62)



The Holy Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to John (15:9-17)

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.”

(after the reading)

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

(time for reflection)

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day 143 (green hymnal)

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Prayers of the People

Each petition ends:

A: God of grace, C: **hear our prayer.**

Please be seated.

Offering of Financial Gifts *It is our faithful giving that enables the mission and ministries of this congregation to continue. We will be bringing our offering forward to the altar as a sign of our thankfulness to God.*

Please stand as able.

Offertory*Doxology*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise him, all creatures here below.

Praise him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Post-Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: 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. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution**The 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, 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.

Please be seated.

Communion is around the altar. *You are invited to Holy Communion where Christ has promised to be present offering eternal love and forgiveness. Non-communing children are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you do not wish to partake of the Sacrament, simply remain seated when your row is directed to the altar. We will bring communion to you if that is helpful.*

Communion Hymns

699 (blue hymnal)

Blessed Assurance

316 (green hymnal)

Jesus, the Very Thought of You

Chancel Choir
370 (green hymnal)

In His Time
Blest Be the Tie that Binds

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of Christ our Risen Lord strengthen you in faith and keep you in his grace today and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: **Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

Benediction

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 Hymn 551 (green hymnal)

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

We will take a five-minute break and then regather in the sanctuary for the congregational meeting.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

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email: redeemerchurch@bellsouth.net website: www.redeemergastonia.org

Visitors: Thank you for worshipping with us. We will have a NEW MEMBER SUNDAY on May 19. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of Redeemer, please speak with Pastor Jeff.

Our services are live streamed on the church's website – www.redeemergastonia.org; on our Facebook page, and also on YouTube – search Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Gastonia.

Please stay for a few minutes after worship for a brief congregational meeting.

Join us in the fellowship hall following the congregational meeting for a delicious taco luncheon? Didn't sign up? No worries, join us anyway! There will be a question and answer session for our "Lutheran Refresher."

WELCA is collecting sanitary napkins through mid-May which will be donated to Gaston County middle schools. In addition to regular sizes, they also need Teen sizes. Please place them in the WELCA bin in the narthex.

Spark Family Devotionals are available on the table in the narthex.

On May 19 Jacob Ledwak and Isabella Beane will be confirmed. Please keep them in prayer as they approach this special day. May 19 will also be **New Member Sunday**. We will gather in the fellowship hall following worship for a reception in honor of our Confirmands, our New Members, and also to thank Dean Newkirk on his last Sunday as our Director of Music Ministries. Plan now to attend to honor all of these friends!

The May Newsletter was emailed and there are some copies available in the narthex.

Deriter Club – On Tuesday, May 21, the Deriter Club will host “Miss Penny Pearl” for an hour of entertainment beginning at 11 a.m. Following this we will go to Jackson’s Cafeteria for a Dutch treat lunch. All are invited to attend.

Please remember in prayer the following:

Members of the congregation: Sidney Craig, Lydia Woody, Ginger MacDonald, Effie Rogers, Sandi Henderson, Gloria Kaylor, Nancy Reynolds, Louise Rabb, Russell Carey, Jerry & Dana Seagle, Gail Broussard, Joyce Hartsell, Janice Fowler, Betsy Easter

Son of: Jan Henson (Steven Henson)

Grandson of: Bob & Janice Gronstal (David Gronstal)

Brother of: Brad Alexander (Dana Alexander)

Sister of: Linda Barber (Lisa Swilley) Betsy Easter (Betty Easter)
Jerry Seagle (Kay Sherrill)

Uncle of: Jane Bridges (Darrell Posey)

Aunt of: Jane Bridges (Pat Bradshaw)

Nephew of: Janice Fowler (Chris Markwalder & Family)

Cousin of: Jane Bridges (Lester Bradshaw)

Those who are homebound: Bob Gronstal, Steve Mack, Ann Lanier, Helen Salsburg, John Salsburg

Friends of the congregation: Pam Aucoin, Lloyd Family, Bruce Zander