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**6th Sunday of Easter**

[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.” *John 15:9-10*

**AS WE GATHER**

A treasured children’s song, “I Love to Tell the Story, has a refrain that follows each of the stanzas penned by poet Arabella Katherine Hankey, repeating the simple words: “I love to tell the story; ’Twill be my theme in glory, To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.” The original Greek language in which John wrote his Gospel uses the word “love” either as a noun or a verb some nine times in the section of Jesus’ words heard in the Gospel for today. Jesus wants His disciples and us to know the abiding power of His love. It is that love that compels us to love one another—and the “others” beyond our circles of family, friends, and other close relationships. We are blessed in hearing the “old, old story of Jesus and His love” anew today. May we be blessed in telling it out in love as well!

**PSALM** 98

**+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Five, pg. 213)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Christ the Eternal Lord”* (*LSB* 829)

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**FIRST READING** Acts 10:34-48 *(bulletin insert)*

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below Collect of the Day)*

**EPISTLE** 1 John 5:1-8 *(bulletin insert)*

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 15:9-17 *(bulletin insert)*

# NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover)

**HYMN** *“Love in Christ Is Strong and Living”* (*LSB* 706)

**SERMON *“Love as God”***

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** (*LSB*, pg. 215-216)

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**PREFACE** (*LSB*, pg. 216)

**LORD’S PRAYER, SUNG** (*LSB*,front inside cover)

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”* (*LSB* 770)

*“When I Behold Jesus Christ”* (*LSB* 542)

**POST-COMMUNION LITURGY** (*LSB*, pg. 218)

**HYMN** *“Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won”* (*LSB* 490)

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**