**6th Sunday of Easter**

“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” *John 15:12*

**AS WE GATHER**

“In the sight of God” is a phrase used throughout Scripture. It reminds us of God’s unceasing care and concern for His creation. In Proverbs: “Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man” (Proverbs 3:3–4). All our life is in God’s amazingly loving sight as He watches over all His creation and especially over people. Out of love for Christ and one another, we can strive to see others around us in the same way that God sees them.

**PSALM** 98

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

**OPENING HYMN** *“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”* (*LSB* 686)

Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;

streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,

teach me ever to adore Thee; may I still Thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I’ve come;

and I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand’ring from the fold of God;

He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be;

let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand’ring heart to Thee:

prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;

clothed then in the blood-washed linen, how I’ll sing Thy wondrous grace!

Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; take my ransom’d soul away;

send Thine angels soon to carry me to realms of endless day.

**READINGS** Acts 10:34-48*,* 1 John 5:1-8*,* John 15:9-17

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

Love in Christ is strong and living, binding faithful hearts in one;

love in Christ is true and giving. May His will in us be done.

Love is patient and forbearing, clothed in Christ’s humility,

gentle, selfless, kind, and caring, reaching out in charity.

Love in Christ abides forever, fainting not when ills attend;

love, forgiving and forgiven, shall endure until life’s end.

**SERMON *“Love as God”***

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

**DISTRIBUTION**

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

Jesus lives! The vict’ry’s won! Death no longer can appall me;

Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done! From the grave will Christ recall me.

Brighter scenes will then commence; this shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! To Him the throne high above all things is given.

I shall go where He is gone, live and reign with Him in heaven.

God is faithful; doubtings, hence! this shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! For me He died, hence will I, to Jesus living,

pure in heart and act abide, praise to Him and glory giving.

All I need God will dispense; this shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! I know full well nothing me from Him shall sever.

Neither death nor pow’rs of hell part me now from Christ forever.

God will be my sure defense; this shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! And now is death but the gate of life immortal;

this shall calm my trembling breath when I pass its gloomy portal.

Faith shall cry, as fails each sense: Jesus is my confidence!

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

Christ the eternal Lord, Whose promise here we claim,

Whose gifts of grace are freely poured on all who name Your name;

with thankfulness and praise we stand before Your throne,

intent to serve You all our days and make Your glory known.

Christ the unchanging Word to ev’ry passing age,

Whose timeless teachings still are heard set forth on Scripture’s page;

transform our thought and mind, enlighten all who read,

within Your Word by faith to find the bread of life indeed.

Christ the redeeming Son, Who shares our human birth,

and by His death salvation won for ev’ry child of earth;

inspire our hearts, we pray, to tell Your love abroad,

that all may honor Christ today and follow Him as Lord.

Christ the unfading Light of everlasting day,

our Morning Star in splendor bright, the Life, the Truth, the Way;

that light of truth You give to servants as to friends,

Your way to walk, Your life to live, till earth’s brief journey ends.

Christ the ascended King exalted high above,

Whose praise unending ages sing, Whom yet unseen we love;

when mortal life is past Your voice from heaven’s throne

shall call Your children home at last to know as we are known.