

# What Is Love?

May 6, 2018 – Sixth Sunday in Easter

# Opening Hymn

# Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

Christian Worship | 167



1 Je - sus Christ, my sure de-fense And my Sav - ior,  
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, lives; I, too, un - to  
3 No, too close - ly am I bound Un - to him by  
4 I am flesh and must re - turn Un - to dust, whence  
5 Glo - ri - fied, I shall a - new With this flesh then



now is liv - ing! Know - ing this, my con - fi - dence  
life shall wak - en. End - less joy my Sav - ior gives;  
hope for - ev - er; Faith's strong hand the rock has found,  
I am tak - en; But by faith I now dis - cern  
be en - shroud - ed; In this bod - y I shall view



Rests up - on the hope he's giv - ing, Though the night of  
Shall my cour - age, then, be shak - en? Shall I fear, or  
Grasped it, and will leave it nev - er. E - ven death now  
That from death I shall a - wak - en With my Sav - ior  
God, my Lord, with eyes un - cloud - ed; In this flesh I



death be fraught Still with many an anx - ious thought.  
could the head Rise and leave his mem - bers dead?  
can - not part From its Lord the trust - ing heart.  
to a - bid In his glo - ry, at his side.  
then shall see Je - sus Christ e - ter - nal - ly.

## Invocation

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A - men.

## Confession of Sins

**M:** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**C:** Who made heaven and earth.

**M:** I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

**C:** And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**M:** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C:** Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



**C:** Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

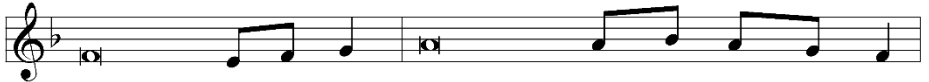
**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



**C:** A - men.

# Song of Praise

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Father al-mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



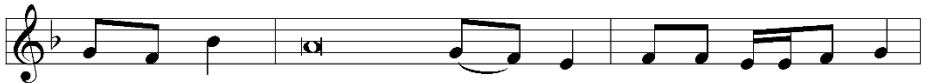
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



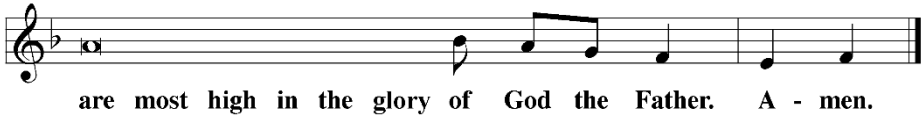
sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of



God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;



you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Spirit,



## Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.



M: Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you. Inspire us to think those things that are true and long for those things that are good, that we may always make our petitions according to your gracious will; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## First Lesson

Acts 11:19-26

<sup>19</sup>Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that took place at the time of Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. <sup>20</sup>But there were some men from Cyprus and Cyrene who came to Antioch and also began to speak to the Greeks, preaching the good news about the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup>The Lord's hand was with them, and a large number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

<sup>22</sup>A report about this reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to go on to Antioch. <sup>23</sup>When he arrived and saw God's grace, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with devoted hearts. <sup>24</sup>He was a good man who was full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a large number of people were added to the Lord.

<sup>25</sup>Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul. <sup>26</sup>When he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year they met with the church and taught a large number of people. It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians.

## Second Lesson

1 John 4:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit who does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming and is already in the world. <sup>4</sup>You are from God, dear children, and you have overcome the false prophets, because the one in you is greater than the one in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world. That is why they speak from a worldly perspective and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. The one who knows God listens to us, but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. That is how we can distinguish between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>The one who does not love has not known God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>This is how God's love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another.

## Verse of the Day

John 14:1-3

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Alleluia.



## Gospel

John 15:9-17

M: The Gospel according to Saint John:



<sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so also I have loved you. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you hold on to my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have held on to my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you these things so that my joy would continue to be in you and that your joy would be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this: that someone lays down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you continue to do the things I instruct you. <sup>15</sup>I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will endure, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>17</sup>These things I am instructing you, so that you love one another.

M: The Gospel of our Lord!



Hymn of the Day

Love Is Christ Is Strong and Living

Christian Worship | 490



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing,  
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing,  
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er,



Bind - ing faith - ful hearts in one;  
Clothed in Christ's hu - mil - i - ty,  
Faint - ing not when ills at - tend;



Love in Christ is true and giv - ing—  
Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,  
Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



May his will in us be done!  
Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.  
Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

Sermon

What is Love?

I John 4:7-11

Nicene Creed

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

I 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 fully



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.

I 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. I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

The minister leads the congregation in the 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.

## Offering

The members of Christ the King have joined together to do the Lord's work in their community and around the world. Visitors should not feel obligated to participate in this offering.

## The Preface

M: The Lord be with you.



C: **And al - so with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: **We lift them up un - to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: 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, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his 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



C: **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

M: 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."

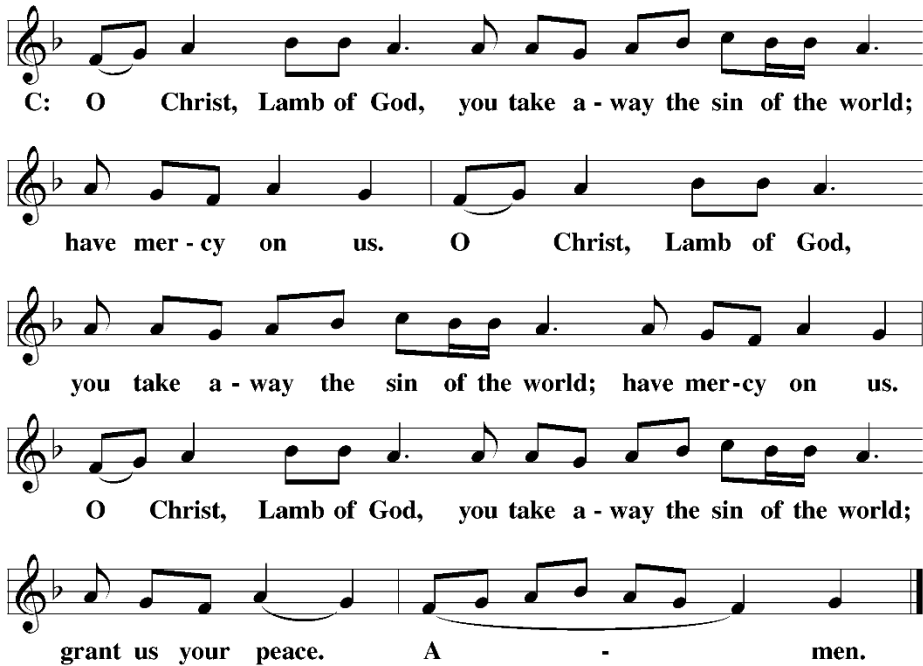
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.



## Lamb of God



C: 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 of Holy Communion

God's Word teaches we should examine and prepare ourselves before receiving Holy Communion (I Corinthians 11:27-28). It also teaches that we must recognize the true presence of Christ's body and blood in Holy Communion to receive it worthily (I Corinthians 11:29).

Out of respect for God's Word and love for souls, we ask guests who are not members of our church or an affiliated Lutheran church to meet with our pastor before receiving communion the first time.



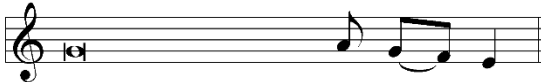
## Song of Simeon



**C:** 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.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**M:** O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



**C:** And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

**M:** O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C:** A - men.

## Blessing

M: 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.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

## Closing Hymn

## Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Christian Worship | 318



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, Our true faith con -  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing, To God ev - er -



fess - ing, The peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take  
liv - ing, The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will



leave. The sup - per is end - ed; Oh, be now ex -  
face. Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er



tend - ed The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be -  
car - ing, Em - brac - ing his chil - dren of each tribe and



lieve. The seed of his teach - ing, Re - cep -  
race. With your feast you feed us; With your

tive souls reach - ing, Shall blos - som in ac - tion for  
light now lead us; U - nite us as one in this

God and for all. His grace did in - vite us; His  
life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing With

love shall u - nite us To work for God's  
praise and thanks - giv - ing Give hon - or to

king - dom and an - swer his call.  
Christ and his name that we bear.



Sixth Sunday in Easter

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A member of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod (ELS).

Affiliated with the Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
(WELS).

### Welcome!

Welcome to Cristo Rey Lutheran Church! We are a Christian church centered on Jesus Christ. Our mission is to share the good news of eternal life through Christ with you.

We are both an established, yet new church. We have been serving Bell Gardens since the 1970s. At the same time, we recently began a partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod to revitalize our mission and ministry.

### Regular Worship Schedule

Divine Service in English ..... Sundays at 10:45am  
English Bible Study ..... Sundays at 10:00am

### Worship Acknowledgements

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