Sixth Sunday of Easter



May 5, 2024

9:30 AM

(You are welcome to share a prayer request to be used in worship today.

Prayer Cards will be collected during the Praise Song.)

WELCOME AND HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS TO COME

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Kent Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Duwamish and Muckleshoot peoples. We recognize, honor, and thank these Indigenous siblings – caretakers of this land who have lived, and continue to live here since time immemorial.

PRELUDE (and lighting of the altar candles)



EASTER DECLARATION

Leader: Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed.

Leader: Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed.

Leader: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

Alleluia!



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OPENING DECLARATION

Leader: The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

Let our joy be complete!

Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song:

Love one another!

Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family will join in the new song:

No longer servants but friends!

Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,

Rejoicing in the friendship of God.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray:

O Beloved One,

All the ends of the earth marvel

at your deeds of power; we feel your presence

as growth returning to the countryside;

we rejoice as we remember your faithfulness and steadfast love

revealed in the risen Christ.

Surround us with that faithfulness and steadfast love

Fill us with generosity and courage so that we may be called your friends

and go forth to befriend your world. In Jesus' name.

Response: Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity,

→ one God,

the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Response: Amen.

Pastor: People of God, in the baptismal waters we travel with Christ from death to life.

Our past, our sin, our failure, our doubt, and our shame are drowned and gone here.

Response: You, O God, wash us clean.

Pastor: Our fear, our confusion, our self-righteousness, our despair --

ALL are washed away by grace.

Response: You, O God, wash us clean.

Pastor: Our pride, our hypocrisy, and other people's opinions of us

no longer have the power to define us.

Response: You, O God, give us new life.

Pastor: The Spirit lives and moves through us now, a great and joyful mystery,

so we may bring love and mercy into the world as the body of Christ.

Response: You, O God, give us new life.

Pastor: Rejoice that God has claimed us in this baptismal grace,

not by our own doing or believing but by God's mercy alone.

Response: You, O God, give us new life.

Pastor: And so, as we begin worship, we give thanks to God

for the gracious gift of baptism

that joins us together in Christ by the Spirit's power.

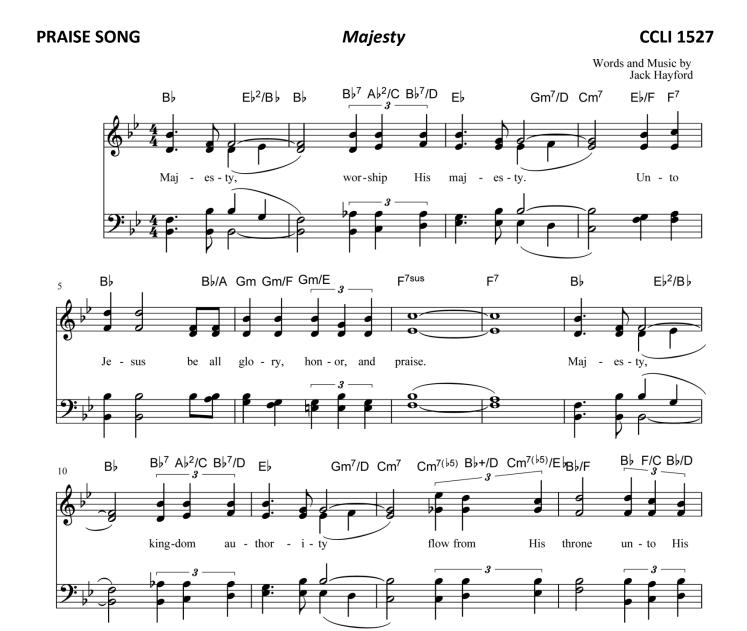
Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. We praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Response: Amen.





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THE WORD

THE FIRST READING Acts 10:44-48

Reader: The first reading today is from the tenth chapter of the book of Acts:

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.
⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶ for 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?" ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.



THE SECOND READING 1 John 5:1-6

Reader: Our second reading is from the fifth chapter of First John:

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴ for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵ Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶ This 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Response: Thanks be to God.

We invite you to stand for the Gospel.

Words and Music by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith



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THE GOSPEL READING John 15:9-17

Reader: The holy gospel according to John, the fifteenth chapter.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

Reader:

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ I 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. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I 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. ¹⁶ You 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. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

The gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, O Christ.

If you are standing, you may now be seated.

RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL (See page 7)

Thy Word

CCLI 14301, Verse 2



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



SERMON Pastor Tormod Svensson





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DECLARATION OF FAITH

Leader We declare our faith:

All: Your light is the only light we need

as we travel through life's mystery. Your word the only voice we hear — that still small voice that leads us to the place where we should be.

Your presence is the only company we need

as we walk this narrow road;

your fellowship the warmth we crave

to help us on our way.

May the truth of Easter,

the joy of Easter,

and the blessings of Easter be with us this day and all days.

Amen.



COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Leader: Let us pray:

We trust that like the disciples after Christ rose from the dead,

we will be able to stand and tell the whole message about this life that:

Love is stronger than hate.

Life has the final word over death.

Beyond what we can see with our eyes,

there is a bond of humanness that draws and keeps us together.

Christ has risen.

Response: He has risen indeed.

Leader: We watch with anxiety as the fragile lines

between Israel and Hamas grow and spread,

and the world wide community is strained once again.

Christ has risen.

Response: He has risen indeed.

Leader: In the midst there are also voices of reason and peace;

perhaps they speak in whispers, but they speak nonetheless. May those whispers rise to shouts that proclaim the way forward

with words and not weapons.

Christ has risen.

Response: He has risen indeed.

Leader: As the machines of greed and war trample the world and its peoples,

we remember that there are seeds of justice and love and goodness and grace

that are planted and watered every moment of every day.

Christ has risen.

Response: He has risen indeed.

Leader: We give thanks for our church, its congregations and its leaders,

especially our ELCA leadership – our national Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, and our Bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod, Shelley Bryan Wee.

We give thanks for those who

rise early in the morning to prepare food at countless soup kitchens around the world.

We give thanks for those who search the night streets for lost children and shepherd them to places of safety.

We give thanks for those who keep watch amidst the sick and dying in countless hospitals and in countless places.

We give thanks for those saints who have gone before us -- be with those who grieve – the family and friends of

We give thanks for those who speak words of compassion in the face of hate.

Listen now to the prayers of our hearts....

(silence for personal prayers)

(congregational prayers are lifted up)

The complete list of all whom the congregation is praying for this week is in the announcement insert in your bulletin.

Christ has risen.

Response: He has risen indeed.

Leader: It is a complicated and frightening world.

Strengthen us throughout our whole lives

that we may continually stand and bear witness

that Jesus Christ is our risen Lord.

Response: Amen.

PRESENT YOUR OFFERINGS AND RECEIVE THE MEAL OF GOD'S PRESENCE

OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: We gratefully pray:

How deeply you have loved us, Jesus;

how willingly you stepped into our experience,

how completely you empathized with all that we endure.

Response: Teach us to love as you have loved us.

Leader: How sacrificially you have loved us, Jesus;

how completely you gave yourself for us, how courageously you suffered for our sakes.

Response: Teach us to love as you have loved us.

Leader: How restoratively you have loved us, Jesus;

how generously you share your life,

how extravagantly you make yourself available to us.

Response: Teach us to love as you have loved us.

Leader: We praise you for your love

which is given so freely and so unconditionally.

Response: And we thank you for believing that we could learn to offer

such awesome love to share with each other and the world.

Amen.

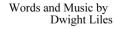


(**Note:** The ushers will collect your offerings in the center aisle during the song)

OFFERING SONG

We Are an Offering

CCLI 16220





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INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Leader: Come to the table to be made whole.

Come to participate in the work of making us one with Him and each other.

Come, for this is a table where all are invited. All are welcome.

If you are joining us online and want to participate in Holy Communion, gather your bread or cracker and your wine or juice. You will be communed after those who partake in the

sanctuary.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.



LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: We join in the prayer Jesus taught us to pray.

All: Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

ABOUT COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the Lord's Supper. Please wait in your pew until the usher indicates that it is your turn, then come forward using the center aisle. If you and/or your children are not comfortable participating in the Rite of Communion, know that all are still welcome to come forward for a blessing – just let the presider know your preference when you and/or your children are at the rail. When you are at the front, please fill in a vacant spot at the altar rail. You may either kneel or stand, whichever is most comfortable for you. If you would like a gluten free alternative to the bread, or If you prefer grape juice instead of wine, please indicate that to the presider. After you have communed, please discard the empty cup to be recycled in the trash can by the side wall before returning to your seat.



COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Pastor: Come, for this is a table where all are invited and all are welcome.





Text: Caribbean Conference of Churches Jamaica workshop

Music: LIVING BREAD, St. Vincent traditional, adapt.; arr. Patrick Prescod, 1932-2013

Text and music © Caribbean Conference of Churches

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(when all in the sanctuary have been fed)

Pastor: Those joining us online – pick up your bread and hear these words:

This is the body of Christ given for you.

Eat and receive saying, "Amen."

Lift up your cup of wine or juice and hear these words:

This is the blood of Christ shed for you.

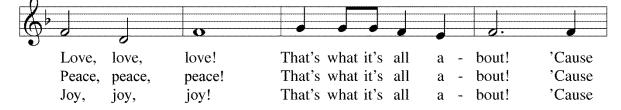
Drink and receive saying, "Amen."

COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Response: Amen.

SENDING HYMN Love, Love LS 134





God loves us, we love each oth - er, moth-er, fa-ther, sis-ter, broth-er.



Ev-'ry-bod-y sing and shout,

'cause that's what it's all a - bout! It's a-bout



Text: Lois Brokering and Herbert F. Brokering

Music: IT'S ABOUT LOVE, Lois Brokering and Herbert F. Brokering

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WE GO

Leader: Go now, and bear fruit for God, fruit that will last.

As Christ has loved you, so love one another,

and abide always in God,

that your joy may be complete.

And may God give you all you ask for in Christ's name;

May Christ Jesus reveal to you God's ways and call you his friends;

And may the Holy Spirit confirm the truth within you and make your joy complete.

Response: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Christ is risen.

Response: He is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Rejoice and be glad.

All: Thanks be to God!

Alleluia!

Pastor: Let us share God's love and peace with one another as we leave today.

(As we pass the peace, **ALL** people have the right to choose if they would like a verbal greeting, a handshake, or a hug.)

POSTLUDE







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Opening Prayer ~ from Friends of God: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday of Easter, written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain.

Thanksgiving for Baptism ~ adapted by Pastor Jess Harren and posted on 4/25/2019 on

http://pastorjess.com/congregational-renewal-stories-and-resources/thanksgiving-for-baptism, based on a writing posted on http://mccoffey.blogspot.com/2012/08/thanksgiving-for-baptism-rite.html and edited with permission of Pastor Michael Coffey

Declaration of Faith ~ written by John Birch, and posted on his **Faith and Worship** website.

http://www.faithandworship.com/

Community Prayers ~ adapted from a posting on the World in Prayer website. http://www.worldinprayer.org/

Offering Prayer ~ adapted from a writing by John van de Laar, and posted on his <u>Sacredise</u> website. Visit that site for other excellent lectionary-based resources.

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KENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

lives and celebrates the accepting love of Christ

CORE VALUES

We affirm the following values:

- * We value the love of God revealed in Christ Jesus;
- * We value God's love as a gift to be shared with everyone;
- * We value everyone as a child of God, and invite all to be embraced by God;
- * We value providing a loving, caring environment supporting spiritual needs;
- * We value that all people are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve God and community.
- * We value the participation of people of all ages, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, educational background, different abilities, and economic conditions.

OUR VISION

Kent Lutheran Church, a Christ-centered, sacred place for spiritual, cultural, and community enrichment.

Kent Lutheran Church is an RIC (Reconciling in Christ) congregation.

336 Second Avenue South, Kent, WA 98032-5849

Phone: 253-852-2057

Office email: klcoffice@kentlutheran.org

Web Site: www.kentlutheran.org

Visit us on Facebook: Kent Lutheran Church, Kent Lutheran Youth, KLC South Sudan Other KLC related web sites: www.KentGrandOrgan.org, www.klcsouthsudan.blogspot.com

Pastor Tormod Svensson

Pastor's Cell Phone: 301-707-1548 Pastor's email: pastorsvensson@gmail.com

Sean Haley, Director of Music Ministries
Jody McCaw, Office Ministries Manager
Mona Lee, Treasurer
Kathy Nixon, Financial Secretary
Joseph Lual, Seminarian

Lutheran Counseling Network counselors:

Karen Klemetson (Kent and SeaTac) 425-271-9711, ext. 3