

Mon Acts 11:19-26 This event is important because Jesus was turning the steering wheel one notch into the left lane—contrary to Jewish policy (19). When some Greek Christians reached out to their countrymen, Jesus blessed their work—which alerted the mother congregation. After investigating, they learned that Jesus was behind this turn of events, and that’s how His Church became prepped for the services of Saul, God’s special spokesman.

Tues John 15:9-17 is loaded with spiritual food; today let’s focus on the LOVE which moved Jesus to come down to Earth; it’s the oxygen of His life and of ours, too. Loving others more than self means serving others more than self; it’s where the rubber hits the road. God’s saving love has been encoded by Jesus in our hearts, and we are activated by His password: fGsltwHg*Jn3:16.

Wed 1 John 4:1-11 What are the ABC’s of Christianity? **A** is for **Alpha** (Rev. 1:8), our eternal, generative Jesus. **B** is for **Beware** of anyone and anything that diminishes or detracts from Jesus; our world is full of this garbage. **C** is for **Continue** in God’s love which carries us through adverse conditions and over rough terrain. Since Jesus has paid off humanity’s sin-debts, let’s continue living in His love – and sharing God’s saving love with others.

Thurs Psalm 98 The Old Testament Hymnary has many tunes in the section Songs of Praise, and though #98 is fairly new, it is based on good, old realities—especially God’s good qualities and accomplishments (1-3). A praise band is not new (4-6) if it echoes Nature (7-8). We are looking forward to the day when Jesus arrives, and we are ready for His test question: “What do you think of Me, and what have you done about it?”

Fri John 15:9-17 We already knew that Jesus is not The New Law-Giver, and we understand that *commandment* means directives, so we don’t cringe as He steers us away from bad behavior into behavior which reflects God’s love for sinners, behavior which builds friendships and produces positive results in the hearts and lives of others, behavior which Jesus appreciates and supports (15-16). God is keeping our world in orbit because it still needs His/our love.

Sat Acts 25 reads like an excerpt from a novel. After the stage was set, Paul stated his defense; when Festus proposed a change of venue that would put Paul in danger, Paul out-manuevered his enemies by invoking his citizenship right to a fair trial in Rome. His case interested Herod Agrippa, the Jewish puppet king, so Festus rehearsed it for him (13-21), hoping that he had all the pertinent facts straight before he sent Paul to Rome. That long trip to Rome would be dangerous, and his court trial full of tension, but Jesus was still behind the steering wheel.

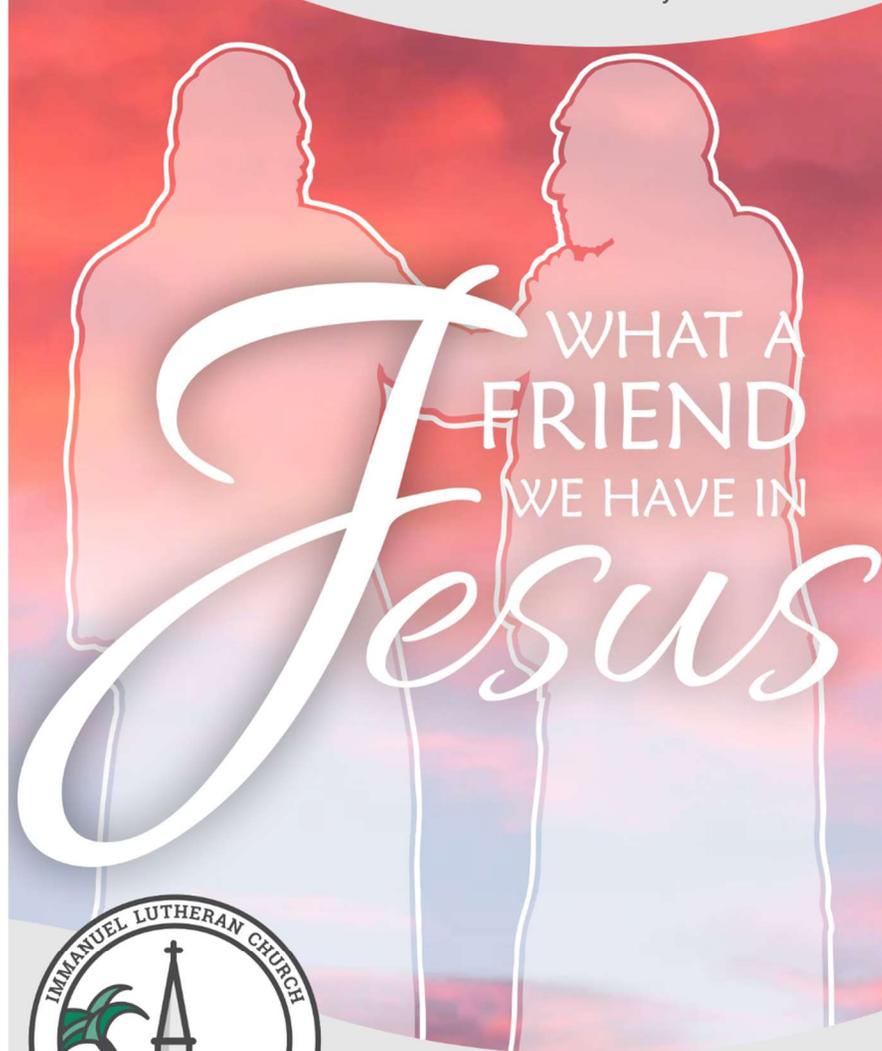
May 9, 2021

6th Sunday of Easter

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Ed Morris

Acolyte: Seth Bernthal



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PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Psalm 98

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. ² The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. ³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. ⁴ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! ⁵ Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! ⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD! ⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! ⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together ⁹ before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

P Pastor

OPENING PRAYER

C Congregation

HYMN: TLH #351:1,2 "Love Divine, All Love Excelling"

1. Love Divine, all love excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, oh, breathe Thy loving Spirit Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **A - - - men.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess

2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a Friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness-- Take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our Refuge-- Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.

PRAYERS & the BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

- P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.
- C** **♫ Amen, amen, a – men.**

HYMN: WS #776:1-2 "Lord, 'tis Not that I Did Choose You"

1. Lord, 'tis not that I did choose You; That, I know, could never be,
For this heart would still refuse You Had Your grace not chosen me.
You removed the sin that stained me, Cleansing me to be Your own;
For this purpose You ordained me, That I live for you alone.
2. It was grace in Christ that called me, Taught my darkened heart and mind,
Else the world had yet enthralled me, To Your heav'nly glories blind.
Now I worship none above You; For Your grace alone I thirst,
Knowing well that, if I love You, You, O Father, loved me first.

✠ Announcements ✠

Summer Schedule:

June 24-27 – CLC Annual Convention

July 11-17 – Miss Katie Naumann moves to Winter Haven, FL

July 18 – Teacher Installation of Miss Katie Naumann

July 19-23 – Vacation Bible School

August 10 – Immanuel Lutheran School Resumes

✠ Today: Orlando Service 8 am
✠ May 16: Confirmation Service
✠ May 19: Zoom Bible Class 6:30pm
✠ May 23: Promotion Sunday
✠ May 26: Zoom Bible Class 6:30pm

Branches Magazine: It's time to renew or subscribe. "The Branches" magazine is a publication designed and published by women of the CLC. It's time to renew, subscribe for the first time, or purchase gift subscriptions for others in your life who may benefit. Mother's Day, confirmations, and graduations are upon us! A subscription makes a great, year-long gift. \$15 for four, twenty-four page issues each year.

Last Week: WH – 31

Total Offering = \$1,770

General = \$1120 | CLC Missions = \$50 | Property Improvement = \$100 | KINSHIP = \$500

Cleaner (5/15): Ream | **Acolyte (5/16):** Landon Goodwin

HYMN: TLH #412**“May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill”**

1. **May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfil And do on earth our Father's will As angels do above; Still walk in Christ, the living Way, With all Thy children and obey The law of Christian love.**
2. **So may we join Thy name to bless, Thy grace adore, Thy power confess, From sin and strife to flee. One is our calling, one our name, The end of all our hopes the same, A crown of life with Thee.**
3. **Spirit of Life, of Love, and Peace, Unite our hearts, our joy increase, Thy gracious help supply. To each of us the blessing give In Christian fellowship to live, In joyful hope to die.**

SERMON – John 15:9-17 As the Father has loved me, so have I 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 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus!”

- I. Jesus is my friend—even when I don't love Him
- II. I can be Jesus' friend—when I love my friends

OFFERTORY

- ☩** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

HYMN: TLH #457**“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”**

1. **What a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!**

unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- ☩** O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- ☩** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

- ☩** *♩* A - - - men.

INTROIT*Ps. 66:1-2, 8-9, 16, 20*

- ☩** Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

- ☩** Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!

- ☩** Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard,

- ☩** who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

- ☩** Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!

GLORIA PATRI*Latin for “Glory be to the Father”*

☩ Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

VERSE OF THE DAY*Jn. 14:23*

- ☐ 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.

THE KYRIE*Latin for "O Lord"*

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

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST*TLH #237:1*

- ☐ **All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!**

- ☐ Let us pray. 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.

- ☐ **A - - - men.**

FIRST LESSON – Acts 11:19-26 Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. ²² The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent

Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. ²⁵ So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

SECOND LESSON – 1 John 4:1-11 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

CONFESSION OF FAITH*The Apostles' Creed*

- I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.