

Closing Hymn ..... “May the Peace of God”

*Christian Worship Supplement Hymn 745*

**Verse 1**

May the peace of God our heav’nly Father,  
And the grace of Christ the risen Son,  
And the fellowship of God the Spirit  
Keep our hearts and minds within his love.

**Refrain**

And to him be praise for his glorious reign  
From the depths of earth  
to the heights of heav’n.  
We declare the name  
of the Lamb once slain—  
Christ eternal, the King of kings.

**Verse 2**

May this peace which passes understanding,  
And this grace which makes us what we are,  
And this fellowship of his Communion  
Make us one in spirit and in heart.

**Refrain**

And to him be praise for his glorious reign  
From the depths of earth  
to the heights of heav’n.  
We declare the name  
of the Lamb once slain—  
Christ eternal, the King of kings.



**TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

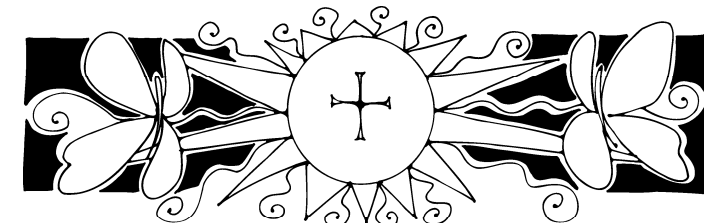
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*We invite you to worship with us again and we sincerely hope that you will accept this invitation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.  
For more information about Tree of Life, check out our website at [www.treeoflifenc.org](http://www.treeoflifenc.org).*



Sixth Sunday Of Easter

**MAY 17, 2009**  
**JESUS CALLS US NAMES... FRIENDS!**

**Good Morning!**

Welcome to worship at Tree of Life!  
What a privilege we have this morning to hear Jesus call us his friends. Let him once again remind us of the great love he has for us to lay down his life for us, then be encouraged to take that same love and exhibit it to others.  
May God bless our worship of him this morning!

**Opening Hymn** ..... "O Master Of The Loving Heart"  
*Christian Worship Hymn 491*

O Master of the loving heart,  
The friend of all in need,  
We pray that we may be like you  
In thought and word and deed.  
Your days were full of kindly acts;  
Your speech was true and plain;  
Of those who ever sought you, Lord,  
None came to you in vain.  
Your face was warm with sympathy;  
Your hand God's strength revealed;  
Who saw your face or felt your touch  
Were comforted and healed.  
Oh, grant us hearts like yours, dear Lord,  
So joyous, free and true,  
That all your children, ev'rywhere,  
Be drawn by us to you.

**Service of Word and Sacrament** ..... *Christian Worship page 26*

*STAND*  
M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.  
C: **And also with you.**

*STAND*

"Thank The Lord" ..... *Christian Worship page 36*

Thank the Lord and sing his praise.  
Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re-joice  
and proud-ly bear his name.  
He re-news his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth  
in joy with shouts of thanks-giv-ing.  
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

**BLESSING**

*Christian Worship page 37*

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.  
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: *(sung)* **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

“Holy, Holy, Holy” ..... *Christian Worship page 34*

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glo-ry.

You are my God, and I will ex-alt you.  
I will give you thanks, for you have be-come my sal-va-tion.

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glo-ry.

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.”

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** *(sing)* **Amen.**

“O Christ, Lamb Of God” ..... *Christian Worship page 35*

*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.*

BE SEATED

**DISTRIBUTION**

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**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.**

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: Amen.**

**Prayer and Praise** ..... “Lord, Have Mercy”  
*Christian Worship page 27*

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C:** *(sing)* **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C:** *(sing)* **Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C:** *(sing)* **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

**C:** *(sing)* **Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious: his name is worthy of praise.

**C:** "O Lord, Our Lord"..... *Christian Worship* page 28-29

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.  
Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Father,  
you crown our life with your love.

You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it;  
you make us pure and ho-ly in your sight.

You did not spare your on-ly Son, but gave him up for us all.  
O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word of the Fa-ther,  
you came to live with us;  
you made your Fa-ther known;  
you washed us from our sins in your own blood.

You are the King of glo-ry; you are the Lord!  
O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: 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.

**C:** *(sung)* **AMEN.**

*BE SEATED*

### 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 forever. Amen.

### THE SACRAMENT

**The Celebration of Holy Communion** .....*Christian Worship* pages 33-36



*At Tree of Life, we desire to have all commune with us at the Lord's Table. However, since the Scripture encourages us to "recognize the body and blood of the Lord," "examine ourselves," and join together as "one body," we ask those who are visiting with us this morning to take the time to understand these teachings and establish a unity of beliefs with us before partaking of this act of fellowship. By this practice of close communion, we are in no way judging your personal faith and relationship with Jesus, we just ask for an opportunity for us to share our beliefs with you so that together we can make a true expression of oneness at the Lord's Table.*

M: The Lord be with you.

**C:** *(sing)* **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C:** *(sing)* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

**C:** *(sing)* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

**Friendship Registers**

**Offering**

STAND

**Prayer of the Church** ..... *Christian Worship Page 32*

M: Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son’s body and blood, which you give to us to eat and drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

**C: Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.**

M: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waiver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

**C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith, and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**FIRST LESSON  
ACTS 9:36-42**

*“God showed his love to Tabitha and her family by bringing her back to life!”*

<sup>36</sup>In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. <sup>37</sup>About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.

<sup>38</sup>Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"

<sup>39</sup>Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

<sup>40</sup>Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. <sup>41</sup>He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive.

<sup>42</sup>This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

**PSALM OF THE DAY**

“Amazing Love”..... *Tree of Life Song Book*  
Graham Kendrick/© 1989 Make Way Music

**Verse 1**

My Lord, what love is this  
that pays so dearly;  
That I, the guilty one  
may go free.

**Verse 2**

And so they watched Him die,  
despised, rejected;  
But oh the blood He shed  
flowed for me. **Chorus**

**Chorus**

Amazing love, O what sacrifice,  
The Son of God, given for me;  
My debt He pays and my death He dies,  
That I might live, that I might live.

**Verse 3**

And now this love of Christ  
Shall flow like rivers;  
Come wash your guilt away,  
live again. **Chorus**

**SECOND LESSON**  
**1 JOHN 4:1-11**

*“Love of God demands that we test the spirits to see whether they speak from God.  
Love of neighbor demands that we show God's love to others.”*

<sup>1</sup>Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

<sup>4</sup>You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

<sup>7</sup>Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**Hymn** ..... “This Is My Will”  
*Christian Worship Hymn 497*

This is my will, my one command,  
That love should dwell among you all.  
This is my will, that you should love  
As I have shown that I love you.

"No greater love can any have  
Than that one die to save his friends.  
You are my friends if you obey  
What I command that you should do.

"I call you now no longer slaves;  
No slave knows all the master does.  
I call you friends, for all I hear  
My Father say, you hear from me.

"You chose not me, but I chose you,  
That you should go and bear much fruit.  
I chose you out that you in me  
Should bear much fruit that will abide.

"All that you ask my Father dear  
For my name's sake you shall receive.  
This is my will, my one command,  
That love should dwell in each, in all.

**KID'S CHURCH**

Peter Visits Cornelius  
11 AM Service Children ages 3 years to 2nd grade

**JESUS CALL US FRIENDS!**

John 15:9-17  
Pastor Mike Geiger

**Statement of Belief** ..... Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.

We 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 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.

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

*BE SEATED*