



ST. STEPHEN'S
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

300 West Street
Beaver Dam WI 53916
www.ssbdwels.com
office@saintstephen.org

Easter 6
May 6, 7 & 9, 2021

Church Office: (920) 885-3309
School: (920) 885-6484
www.ssbdwels.com/school
principal@saintstephen.org

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Hymn

365 | Love Divine, All Love Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all love ex - cel - ling, Joy of
2 Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha
3 Sanc - ti - fy your new cre - a - tion; Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down, Fix in us your hum - ble
and O - me - ga be. End of faith as its be -
spot - less let us be. Let us trust your great sal -



dwell - ing, All your faith - ful mer - cies crown.
gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
va - tion, Won for us on Cal - va - ry,



Je - sus, you are all com - pas - sion, Bound - less
We would ev - er seek your bless - ing, Serve you
Till we lay our crowns be - fore you, Till in



mer - cy from a - bove. Vis - it us with ben - e -
as your hosts a - bove, Pray and praise you with - out
heav'n we take our place, Till in glo - ry we a -



dic - tion; Com - fort us with heav'n - ly love.
ceas - ing, Glo - ry in your per - fect love.
dore you, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, adapt., alt.
Tune: HYFRYDOL (87 87 D) Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection.

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us.

He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ,

who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice

for the sins of the whole world.

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.

Amen.

Worthy Is Christ *Dignus est Agnus*

CW 265



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, Whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, And
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, And
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might Be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain Has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia!

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Music printed under OneLicense.net #A712959

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you are the giver of everything good. Inspire us, your humble servants, to long for what is right and through your gracious guidance accomplish it to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Reading

1 John 4:7–11, 19–21 (EHV)

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ The one who does not love has not known God, because God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another. ... ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar. For how can anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, love God, whom he has not seen? ²¹ This then is the command we have from him: The one who loves God should also love his brother.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 15:9–17 (EHV)

"As the Father has loved me, so also I have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ I have told you these things so that my joy would continue to be in you and that your joy would be complete. ¹² "This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this: that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you continue to do the things I instruct you. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ These things I am instructing you, so that you love one another.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Sermon (on both readings)

Define "Love"!

1. ... to see someone as _____,
2. ... to _____ your _____ for someone.

Prayer of the Church

Loving Father, you have given us your love, you sent your Son in love, and you move us to love.

Lord, we will sing of your great love forever. **You are our glory, strength and our shield.**

Gracious God, you showed your love among us by giving us a new birth through your Word of truth. Fill our hearts with the power of your love, that we may show that love to others, and that our joy may be complete.

Lord, we will sing of your great love forever. **You are our glory, our strength and shield.**

Open our lips to make your faithfulness known throughout the world and through all generations. Empower us to produce fruits of love to display your glory to the world.

Lord, we will sing of your great love forever. **You are our glory, our strength and shield.**

You gave your Word, and you have also given your church people to proclaim it. Give your blessing, courage and strength to the new workers who are about to be sent into your harvest field. Send them out to bring your message to the lost and to bless to your church.

Lord, we will sing of your great love forever. **You are our glory, our strength and shield.**

Our Father in heaven, from whom every family in heaven and on earth receives its name, you describe your tender comfort as being like a mother's comfort. We give you thanks for providing love and care through our mothers. Give Christian mothers strength and wisdom from your Word, that they may glorify you in all they do and be a blessing to their children.

Lord, we will sing of your great love forever. **You are our glory, our strength and shield.**

Remember, Lord, your servants who suffer, who bear in their hearts pains of mind or body, [*especially...*] Sustain, strengthen and restore their health if it is your will. Do not let the evil foe deceive or discourage them.

Lord, we will sing of your great love forever. **You are our glory, our strength and shield.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

O Lord, save your people who hope in you. Comfort us with your Word, since you have redeemed with your most precious blood, and grant us perpetual joy and happiness with you where sighing is at an end and sorrow cannot come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

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."

Distribution

377 | Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

Stanzas as needed

**1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, With exultation springing,
And, with united heart and voice And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done, How his right arm the vict'ry won.
How dearly it has cost him!**

**2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay; Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day; In sin my mother bore me.
Yet deep and deeper still I fell; Life had become a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.**

**3 My own good works availed me naught, No merit they attaining;
My will against God's judgment fought, No hope for me remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair Left naught but death to be my share
And hell to be my sentence.**

**4 But God beheld my wretched state Before the world's foundation,
And, mindful of his mercies great, He planned my soul's salvation.
A Father's heart he turned to me, Sought my redemption fervently;
He gave his dearest treasure.**

**5 He spoke to his beloved Son: "Tis time to have compassion.
Then go, bright Jewel of my crown, And bring mankind salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free; Slay bitter death for them that they
May live with you forever."**

6 The Son obeyed his Father's will, Was born of virgin mother,
And, God's good pleasure to fulfill, He came to be my brother.
No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore; A servant's form like mine he bore
To lead the devil captive.

7 To me he spoke, "Hold fast to me—I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I myself will be; For you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, your friend divine, And evermore you shall be mine;
The foe shall not divide us.

10 "What I on earth have lived and taught Be all your life and teaching;
So shall my kingdom's work be wrought And honored in your preaching.
Take care that no one's man-made laws Should e'er destroy the gospel's cause.
This final word I leave you."

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.

When all have received, the pastor says these or similar words:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go + in peace.

Amen.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.

His mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Lord of love, despite our many sins, you bless us with your love day after day. Move our hearts to imitate your love, to love our friends in you, and to love our enemies because of you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.