



The Sixth Sunday of Easter Devotional  
Mother's Day  
"Love"

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church  
Rev. Gerhard Mau, Officiating

Sunday, May 9, 2021

CARES

Confesses Jesus as Lord and Savior

Assembles to worship Him

Reaches out to share the Gospel

Educates people to follow Him

Serves our Lord and community

**As We Gather**

***The Lord Jesus Is with His Church in the Apostolic Ministry of the Gospel***

Today our Lord Jesus Christ instructs us: "Abide in My love" (John 15:9). Abiding in God's love means abiding in love for the people God places in our lives as well (John 15:12,17). The apostle John reminds us that love is of God. Love for God is to be born of God. Love overcomes what we experience in the world. Indeed, our reading from Acts 10 reminds us that God's love goes out to all people that all might believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and receive forgiveness and life in His name. As our nation honors mothers this day, Pastor Mau preaches a sermon on love using many quotations from many people regarding love.

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

### **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.  
The LORD has made known his salvation;  
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.  
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.  
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!  
Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody!  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!  
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who dwell in it!  
Let the rivers clap their hands;  
let the hills sing for joy together  
before the LORD, for he comes  
to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

### **Collect**

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

Risen and ascended Lord, while we were still in our sins You chose us, laid down Your life for us, and called us friends. By Your great love for us, inspire us to love one another and to go out into the world to bear fruit according to Your promise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Hymn 868 Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun**

- 1 Awake, my soul, and with the sun  
Thy daily stage of duty run;  
Shake off dull sloth and joyful rise  
To pay thy morning sacrifice.
- 2 In conversation be sincere,  
Thy conscience as the noonday clear;  
Think how the\_all-seeing God thy ways  
And all thy secret thoughts surveys.



- 3 All praise to Thee, who safe hast kept  
And hast refreshed me while I slept;  
Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake,  
I may of endless light partake.
- 4 Lord, I my vows to Thee renew;  
Disperse my sins as morning dew;  
Guard my first springs of thought and will  
And with Thyself my spirit fill.
- 5 Direct, control, suggest this day  
All I design or do or say  
That all my pow'rs with all their might  
In Thy sole glory may unite.
- 6 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Public domain



## Holy Gospel

John 15:9-17

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.  
Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>9</sup>[Jesus said:] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

<sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Stewardship Minute

**1 John 5:3 - "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome."** God's commandments are not burdensome. That's only true for Christians precisely because we know that we are not saved by our keeping of the Law. We are saved by grace. Therefore, we are set free by grace to walk in newness of life, to grow in faithfulness, and to rejoice in the Law of the Lord. The love of God is that we keep His commandments.

## Sermon "Love"

"Abide in My love" (John 15:9). "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). May 9, 2021

A blessed Mother's Day to all our mothers and to all the women who in some way took the initiative to effectively teach us and bring us closer to our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

Our Lord Jesus never forgot the love, sacrifice, and care His mother gave Him. His mother treasured the life's events around her Son like only a mother can. And His mother experienced a sword piercing her heart every time she felt her Son was threatened with harm. One of Jesus' last seven words from the cross was to honor and care for His mother. Is it ok for me to say that Mary experienced a love from Jesus that we can't experience because she experienced the love of her child who just happened to be the very Son of God? Today our Lord Jesus says "Abide in My love." "Love one another as I have loved you." On this Mother's Day, let's spend a little time with love.

Popular music has a lot to say about love. And a lot of it can be really good. When I was young, the Beatles sang "all the world needs is love". And I've lost track of how many mothers and grandmothers say of a child not faring well: "all that child needs is love".

Our world hungers for love. We hunger for love. And when the heart isn't filled with love, well, it becomes full of something that isn't good. We can't live on empty hearts. God made us to need love. We need His love. We are made to need the love of one another. And life is incomplete until we possess love and love.

The atheist Richard Dawkins notes "*Much as we might wish to believe otherwise, universal love and the welfare of the species as a whole are concepts which simply do not make evolutionary sense.*" Love makes no sense if you don't believe in God. After all, God is love. Love comes from God. God is the source of all love. "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*" If you want to understand love, you need God and to understand God.

Mother Theresa, who died one week after Princess Diana and just as world renown, says "*I try to give to the poor people for love what the rich could get for money. No, I wouldn't touch a leper for a thousand pounds; yet I willingly cure him for the love of God.*" The French aviator and author Antoine de Saint-Exupery (gzu:pei'ri) writes "*Love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking together in the same direction.*" British actor and writer Peter Ustinov says "*Love is an act of endless forgiveness, a tender look which becomes a habit.*" Martin Luther King Jr. notes "*Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.*" And over 2,500 years ago Lao Tzu said "*Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage.*"

You see, there are many places outside the Bible, including movies, that teaches us about love. As Christians we compare what we hear and see around us as love with what God says about love. The good descriptions we treasure; the bad descriptions we discard.

For example, John Lennon says, "*We got this gift of love, but love is like a precious plant. You can't just accept it and leave it in the cupboard or just think it's going to get on by itself. You've got to keep watering it. You've got to really look after it and nurture it.*" And his insight helps

me understand a bit more of God's love. Jesus did not come to make God's love possible. Jesus came to make God's love visible.

One of the great Scriptures on love is Paul's thirteenth chapter in 1 Corinthians. There He writes how love acts and behaves. *"Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, love does not boast, love is not proud. Love is not rude, love is not self-seeking, love is not easily angered, love keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but love rejoices with the truth. Love always protects, always trusts always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails"* (1 Cor. 13:4-8).

Love is what stitches everything good in life together. Paul writes in Colossians 3:12-14 *"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."*

Gary Chapman has come up with five "languages" in which love is "spoken". He says each of us will show our care and concern for another especially through one love language; and each of us will feel more loved in a particular love language.

For some, words affirming you, positive statements, encouragement really makes them feel loved. For others it's what people do for you that is really appreciated and makes one feel full. Still others it's in receiving something special that makes you feel special or in giving gifts that makes you feel special. Others prefer the language of time together, sharing common events or stories or just being there in the same room with another. And then there are those who feel most a part of life when physically touched in compassionate and appropriate ways. What expresses love and compassion to one person may not be seen as love and compassion by another. And so Gary Chapman says if we want to love more intensively, we need to learn another's love language.

In today's Gospel Jesus instructs us to remain in His love. What kind of love does Jesus have? It is the love of obedience to His Father's wishes and commands. Jesus knows the beauty of God's wishes and commands. Jesus knows the beauty of God's instruction. Jesus describes His love as a love that lays down one's life for one's friends. And that is what Jesus calls you. He calls you His friend. And that is what Jesus does for you. He lays down His life for you so that you may live and so that you may not just live any life, but an abundant life, a very fulfilled life, a life of being loved and of loving.

Jesus calls you His friend. But friends are to be equals and you and I are inferior to Jesus. Still Jesus calls you His friend. He comes to earth. He lives our lives without any intrusion of sin contaminating His conscience or will or action. And then Jesus exchanges His perfect life for our imperfect lives. Jesus goes to death on the cross so that we who are dead to God may have life in Jesus' name. Jesus is perfect love. Jesus exercises perfect love. Jesus gifts us God's love. Jesus says You are His friend, forgiven, restored, precious. Jesus is at your side always. He touches your heart with His love.

And what does Jesus want of us? Simply that we abide and live in His love. The apostle John put it this way *“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters”* (1 John 3:16).

Friend, abide in Jesus. Love one another.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

### Hymn 700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,<br>Joy of heav’n, to earth come down!<br>Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,<br>All Thy faithful mercies crown.<br>Jesus, Thou art all compassion,<br>Pure, unbounded love Thou art;<br>Visit us with Thy salvation,<br>Enter ev’ry trembling heart. | 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;<br>Let us all Thy life receive;<br>Suddenly return, and never,<br>Nevermore Thy temples leave.<br>Thee we would be always blessing,<br>Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,<br>Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,<br>Glory in Thy perfect love.           |
| 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit<br>Into ev’ry troubled breast;<br>Let us all in Thee inherit;<br>Let us find Thy promised rest.<br>Take away the love of sinning;<br>Alpha and Omega be;<br>End of faith, as its beginning,<br>Set our hearts at liberty.                    | 4 Finish then Thy new creation,<br>Pure and spotless let us be;<br>Let us see Thy great salvation<br>Perfectly restored in Thee,<br>Changed from glory into glory,<br>Till in heav’n we take our place,<br>Till we cast our crowns before Thee,<br>Lost in wonder, love, and praise! |

Text: Public domain

### Prayer of the Church

- P** Almighty God, heavenly Father, we appear before You without fear because we believe You love us through Your Son Jesus Christ.
- C** **We thank and praise You for the evidence of Your love in the gift of Your Son.**
- P** We praise You for sending us Your Holy Spirit, who helps us to accept Your love.
- C** **For this undeserved love we give You heartfelt thanks.**
- P** We thank You for our mothers, through whom You have brought us into this world.
- C** **We thank You for Christian mothers and for Christian women whose words and actions have built our faith in You.**
- P** Care for our mothers, just as they have cared for us countless times. Give them energy each day to love, nurture, teach, protect, console, and serve others in numerous ways.
- C** **Grant Your protection and safe delivery to all women with child. Grant consolation and Your unfailing love to women who long to have children but cannot.**
- P** Grant Your good gifts of healing as You alone can provide for all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [*especially \_\_\_\_\_*]. Allow each time of suffering be an opportunity to be drawn closer to Your eternal grace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**



## **Blessing**

Let us bless the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

The bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

## **Mission & Outreach Minute**

**John 15:9-17:** Jesus chose His disciples to go and bear much fruit through their love and their witnessing. The fire of the Spirit empowered them and still empowers us to share the greatest true story ever told!



## **Today our nation remembers and honors our mothers.**

We remember how God cares for us through Christian mothers. The Psalmist speaks of God making all our “delicate, inner parts” of our bodies knitting them together inside our “mother’s womb” (Psalm 139:13 NLT). Yet mothers go beyond nine months of nurture and care inside the womb. They teach us all life-long guiding our life’s journey (Prov. 1:8). Paul writes of the sincere faith of Lois and Eunice that they nurtured in their son and grandson Timothy (2 Tim. 1:5). Because of mothers and grandmothers, Paul could write of Timothy and of many of us: “Continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 3:14-15). Today we give God thanks for our mothers. Today we give God thanks for the gift of life through the love and sacrifice our mothers. Today we thank God for the spiritual life we have because of the teaching and wisdom of our mothers. Today we honor God by as we honor our mothers.

## Next Week's Bible Readings

Psalm 1 Acts 1:12-26 1 John 5:9-15 John 17:11b-19



### Dimes for Missions

Today's Dimes for Mission offering will go to teaching missionaries Brandon & Lynnea Holmes. They are serving at Faith Academy in the Philippines. Pray for their labors to share Christ through the school labors in the community. More information about the Ho9mes is on the "Sigh Up" bulletin Board



### Sunday Bible Study

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets in the School Library at 11:00 a.m. Today will study "Fermented Dough" (Mark 8:14-21) and "Gaining Sight" (Mark 8:22-26). We'll join Peter in confessing Jesus as the Christ (Mark 9:27-30) and react to Jesus' first passion announcement (Mark 8:31-9:1).



### Curbside Communion: Today, May 9, and the 23rd and 30th

Pastor Mau brings Communion to your car after worship Sunday mornings. Pastor checks his phone for text messages requesting Communion after worship. Text or call min at (847)62-9068. It's getting warmer, so cone on out!



### ASCENSION THURSDAY is this coming Thursday, May 13.

We at Hosanna-Tabor will join our sister congregations gathering this Thursday at **7:00 p.m.** for worship at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Rd, Livonia, MI, 48154. Holy Communion will be administered.



### SHARE: H-T Food Pantry: Saturday, May 15 @ 9:00 a.m.

SHARE Food Pantry is now the third Saturday of the month from 9 – 10 a.m.



### PENTECOST is on May 23, the Fourth Sunday of May.

We will offer worship times of **9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

The second service is especially geared to help you bring a friend or loved one who either doesn't drive far anymore, or who simply cannot be ready by 9:30 a.m. for worship. We will close this year's Pentecost service holding candles lit from one light from the altar to represent the Holy Spirit being passed from one Christian witness to another.

Do you have relatives who have difficulty getting to worship but could make a later service? Why not make arrangements to pick them up and bring them to the 11:00 a.m. service.

Holy Communion will be administered at both services.

Drive up Communion will be available between services.

There will be no Sunday Morning Bible Class May 23.



# Concordia News



7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher and Athletic Director: Jim Hoeft

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher and Assistant Principal: Judy Schwaegerle

## Lessons from a bottle cap

I hadn't really paid much attention to plastic bottle caps until we started collecting them this school year. The plan is to use them to create a pair of buddy benches. The original idea behind buddy benches was to give students a spot to go when they are in need of a friend. Numerous times in his letters Paul tells the family of believers to build one another up and encourage each other.

So what happened with the extra bottle caps? The art teacher has begun four collaborative art projects with the fifth through eighth grade classes. They made a sketch of their final designs and are placing bottle caps to create a mural. Students are searching for the right cap to place in a certain spot to create the overall picture. What most people consider junk when placed in a specific spot has become an important part of the overall picture. How often do we see ourselves as insignificant and yet God has placed us in the right place at the right time.

One of the classes is creating a lighthouse. In John 8:12, Jesus tells us, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus refers to us as lights as well. He tells us the purpose of our light is to let our good deeds point others to God.

We are so thankful that God has brought together the right people at the right place to let his light shine through the mission of Concordia. As we begin preparing for next year, we pause to thank you for your financial and prayer



(Still a work in progress)

## OPEN HOUSE CONCORDIA LUTHERAN SCHOOL

- ELEMENTARY CAMPUS
- MAY 16, 2:00 – 4:00

- KINDERGARTEN  
THROUGH
- GRADE 4

20805 Middlebelt at 8 Mile  
at Shadow of the Cross Church  
248-474-2488

- MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS
- MAY 20, 5:00 – 7:00

- GRADE 5  
THROUGH
- GRADE 8

9600 Leverne, Redford  
at Hosanna Tabor Church  
313-937-2233



## Watch Sunday Worship at Home

Can't make Sunday worship? You can still worship with the congregation or visit [hosannatabor.org](http://hosannatabor.org), scroll down the home page and click Sunday worship. Sunday's worship is available Saturday at 10 a.m.

---

### HOSANNA-TABOR: May 9 - 16, 2020

Pastor Mau's office hours: Tue, Wed, & Thu 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Pastor Mau may be reached at 847-962-9068 or [gmau@hosannatabor.org](mailto:gmau@hosannatabor.org)

Office hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sun.	09	Communion Service (Dimes for Missions: Mr. & Mrs. Holmes)	9:30 a.m.
		Mother's Day	
		Curbside Communion	10:45 a.m.
		Bible Study	11:00 a.m.
Mon.	10		
Tues.	11	"Inspired by Hope" thoughts and pictures due	
Wed	12		
Thu.	13	Quilters	9:00 a.m.
		Ascension Day Worship at Christ Our Savior, Livonia	7:00 p.m.
Fri.	14		
Sat.	15	S.H.A.R.E. Food Pantry	9:00 a.m.
		Sunday Worship at Home available on our website	10:00 a.m.
Sun.	16	Worship Service	9:30 a.m.
		Bible Study	11:00 a.m.

---

### SERVING US THIS SUNDAY. (May 9)

**Rev. Gerhard Mau**

**Elders:** Rich Lewandowski and Jim Pranschke

**Organist:** Roman Lizak

**Reader:** Simon Hoeft

**Counters:** Bob & Judy Cochran and Charles Fisher

**S.H.A.R.E.:** Cheri Petri & Chevy St Pierre

---

### SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY. (May 16)

**Rev. Gerhard Mau**

**Elder:** Chuck Fischer

**Organist:** Roman Lizak

**Reader:** Kris Bieniewicz

**Counters:** Gerry Moehring and Jane Reed