

*Victorious*

**Selfless Love over Self-Gratification**

*The Fifth Sunday of Easter*

May 15, 2022

## **SERIES THEME: VICTORIOUS**

To the world he seemed like a defeated man: opposed and killed by his enemies, his followers scattered in fear. Yet three days after Jesus' death he rose victorious from the dead. Nothing would ever be the same. The rest of eternity is now a victory march for the risen Christ. During Easter, we should not think of ourselves as passive observers in Christ's victory. We are more than fans cheering for our favorite athlete! Rather, we are active participants in Christ's triumph. Just as his death was our death, so also his life is our life. Buried with Christ in baptism, our life is now hidden with him on high. The victory is ours, now and forever.

Easter is more than a day. It is an entire joyful season. The six solemn weeks of Lent are eclipsed by seven weeks of unbridled joy. These seven weeks correspond to the period of fifty days on the Jewish calendar between Passover and Pentecost. The Church reserves its highest praise for the Easter season. We do not merely watch from the sidelines as Christ marches in victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell. We join in the festal procession!

## **SELFLESS LOVE MARCHES VICTORIOUS OVER SELF-GLORIFICATION**

The disciples argued among themselves about who was "greatest" (Luke 22:24). We are not immune from such hubris. Sinful man is entirely self-focused. We often try and prove our goodness by comparing ourselves to others. You see this sense of superiority in the way we prioritize life, typically putting our wants ahead of others. Easter ends this focus on self. Right now, we know we have value, not because of the greatness of our actions, but because of the great things Christ did to save. We also know a resurrection to glory is in our future. Easter helps us avoid the trap of self-glorification and opens our eyes to a more excellent way: selfless love. Christ did not glorify himself, but selflessly did everything for the benefit of others. This week, he promises to be our inexhaustible power supply that we might also put selfless love into practice.

**Worship Leader**  
**Organist/Pianist**

Pastor Mark A. Haefner  
Quinton Corwin

## **Acknowledgments**

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## Hymn: 469 Welcome, Happy Morning

*Stand*

### Invocation

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*

### Absolution

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.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Glory to God in the Highest

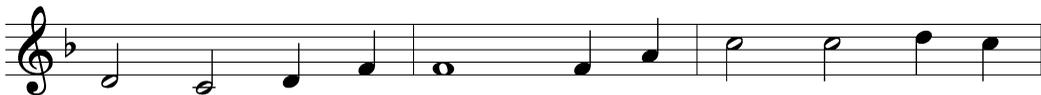
*Tune: BEACH SPRING*



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en, peace to those he loves so  
2 On - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who takes our sin a -



well. On the earth let all his peo - ple speak his  
way, now with him in tri - umph seat - ed— for your



grace, his won - ders tell: Lord, we praise you for your  
mer - cy, Lord, we pray: Je - sus Christ, most high and



glo - ry, might - y Fa - ther, heav - en's King; hear our  
ho - ly, Sav - ior, you are God a - lone in the



joy - ful ad - o - ra - tion and ac - cept the thanks we bring.  
glo - ry of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

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## THE WORD

### Salutation

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

### First Reading

*Acts 11:1–18*

The apostles and brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. <sup>2</sup>When Peter went up to Jerusalem, those who insisted on circumcision criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, "You went to visit men who were uncircumcised and ate with them!"

<sup>4</sup>So Peter began to explain everything to them, point by point. He said, <sup>5</sup>"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision in which an object like a large sheet was

let down from heaven by its four corners. It came right to me. <sup>6</sup>When I inspected it very carefully, I saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter! Kill and eat!'

<sup>8</sup>"But I replied, 'Certainly not, Lord, for nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

<sup>9</sup>"A voice spoke from heaven a second time: 'What God has made clean, you must not continue to call unclean.' <sup>10</sup>This happened three times, and then everything was pulled up into heaven again.

<sup>11</sup>"At that very moment, three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them without any hesitation. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he saw an angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and call for Simon, the one called Peter. <sup>14</sup>He will speak words to you by which you and all your household will be saved.'

<sup>15</sup>"As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came down on them, just as he came down on us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>Then I remembered how the Lord had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup>So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to try to stand in God's way?"

<sup>18</sup>When they heard these things, they had no further objections, and they praised God, saying, "So then, God has granted repentance that results in life also to the Gentiles!"

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm of the Day: 145A I Will Exalt My God and King



\* 1 I will ex - alt my God and King, and I will  
\* 3 The LORD our God is rich in grace, both ten - der  
\* 4 All you have made will praise you, LORD; your might - y



ev - er praise your name. I will ex - tol you ev - 'ry  
and com - pas - sion - ate. His an - ger is most slow to  
acts your saints will show, till all the peo - ples on the



day and ev - er - more your praise pro - claim.  
 rise; his love and kind - ness are most great.  
 earth the splen - dor of your king - dom know.



You, LORD, are great - ly to be praised; your great-ness  
 The LORD is good in all his ways; his crea-tures  
 E - ter - nal is your king - dom, LORD, for - ev - er



is be - yond all thought. From age to age your peo - ple  
 know his con-stant care. To all his works his love ex -  
 strong and ev - er sure; while gen - er - a - tions rise and



tell the might - y won - ders you have wrought.  
 tends; all crea - tures in his mer - cies share.  
 die, your glo - rious reign will still en - dure.

Text: Psalter, 1912, alt.. Tune: C. Hubert H. Parry. Text and tune: Public domain

## Second Reading

## 1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I have the gift of prophecy and know all the mysteries and have all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away everything I own, and if I give up my body that I may be burned but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient. Love is kind. Love does not envy. It does not brag. It is not arrogant. <sup>5</sup>It does not behave indecently. It is not selfish. It is not irritable. It does not keep a record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>It does not rejoice over unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup>Love never comes to an end. But if there are prophetic gifts, they will be done away with; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be done away with. <sup>9</sup>For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, <sup>10</sup>but when that which is complete has come, that which is partial will be done away with. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put away childish things. <sup>12</sup>Now we see indirectly using a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, just as I was fully known.

<sup>13</sup>So now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Gospel Acclamation**

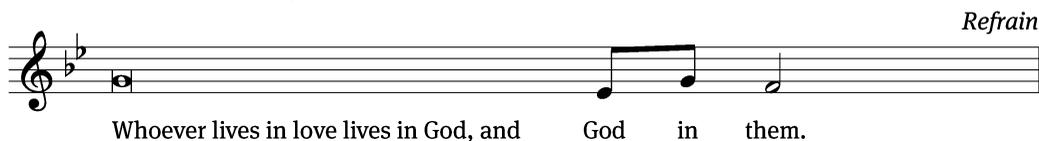
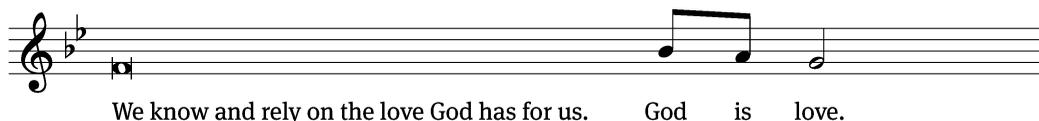
*1 John 4:16*



*Refrain*



*Tone*



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**Gospel**

*John 13:31–35*

<sup>31</sup>After Judas left, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify the Son in himself and will glorify him at once.”

<sup>33</sup>“Dear children, I am going to be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

<sup>34</sup>“A new commandment I give you: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, so also you are to love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Hymn of the Day: 727 Where Charity and Love Prevail**

**Sermon**

*Stand*

**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.**

*Be seated*

### **Prayer of the Church**

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

**Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.**

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

**Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.**

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

**Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.**

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

**Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.**

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

**Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.**

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

**Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.**

*Special Intercessions*

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## **Offering**

**Hymn: 731 Oh, How Good It Is**

## **Prayer**

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **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 ever. 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.**

**Choir:** May God the Father of Our Lord

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today:** 8:00 AM Bible Study, 8:45 AM Worship, 9:45 AM Sunday School and Fellowship, Choir Practice.

### Monday

9:00 AM Blue River Pastors' Circuit Meeting in Clatonia  
6:00 PM Trinity School Graduation and potluck at NELHS

**Friday:** 10 AM Ridgewood Devotions

**Sunday:** 8:00 AM Bible Study, 8:45 AM Worship, 9:45 Sunday School and Fellowship, Choir Practice

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Personal assisted listening devices are available.

**Given to the Lord:** Attendance: Bible Class 11, Sunday School 4, Worship 38 in person, Facebook live 2, Clicks 11, Audio/YouTube . Offerings: Home: 1,190.00, WELS 182.00, NELHS 98.50, Trinity 300.00. **To God be the glory!**

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