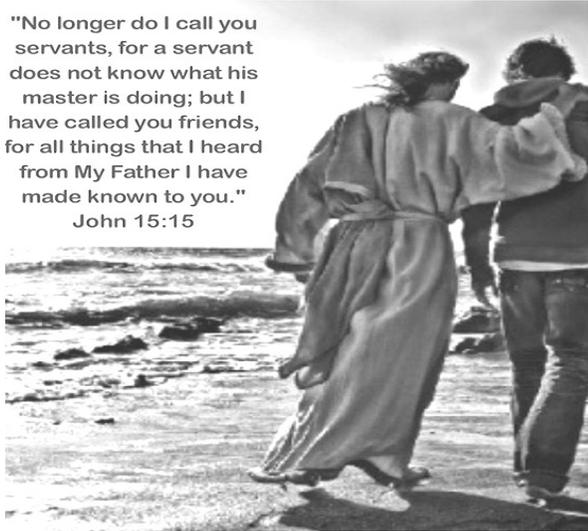


**Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Baccalaureate Sunday  
Worship  
May 9, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.  
Christ Lutheran Church  
Cottonwood, Minnesota**

"No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."  
John 15:15



*This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.* (adapted from *Sundays and Seasons*, Augsburg Fortress, 2020)

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.  
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.*

Prelude

Call to Worship

Words of Welcome

Pastor: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

**All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: This is the day that the Lord has made,

**All: let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Opening Words of Faith

from Psalm 100

Pastor: O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done wonderful things.

**All: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

**All: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.**

P: With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

**All: He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.**

Thanksgiving of Baptism and Confession and Forgiveness

P: Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

P: By our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, God raised us to new life. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

*Silence for a time of self-reflection*

P: God of grace,

**All: we confess that we do not always live as resurrected people. We live within the fears and cares of this world, that we do not have enough, that we are not good enough. Forgive us for not seeing your image in us. Forgive us for not seeking your life in us. Help us to see we are made in your love, your image, your peace. We ask all of these things in the name of the risen Christ.**

P: Hear the Good News: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ †, your sins are forgiven. May the almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**All: Amen. Thanks be to God.**

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O God,

**All: you have prepared for those you love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*You are invited to hum or sing along softly with the music.*

**Easter Song of Praise**

**“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”**

**Stanza 1 ELW# 392**

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,  
his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the  
vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful  
Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: “Je - sus  
out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood.”

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

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## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

The Lesson 1 John 5:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

L: Word of God, Word of Life

**All: Thanks be to God**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

### Gospel Acclamation

### "A New Commandment

WOV# 664

A new com-mand-ment I give un - to you, that you love one an - oth-er as  
I have loved you, that you love one an - oth-er as I have loved you.  
By this shall peo-ple know you are my dis - ci - ples, if  
you have love one for an - oth - er; by this shall peo-ple know  
you are my dis - ci - ples: if you have love one for an - oth - er.

Text: John 13:34-35  
Music: NEW COMMANDMENT, anonymous

Public Domain

Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the fifteenth chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have 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>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

Message

Pastor Janel Kuester

**Hymn of the Day**

***“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”***

**ELW# 742**

**Words and Music are printed on the next page.**

## What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?  
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886  
Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

Public Domain

### Milestones Ministry – Recognition and Blessing for Our Graduating Seniors

*Trinity Broberg, Evan Gregoire, Colby Marczak, and Lucee Olson*

Profession of Faith - The Apostles' Creed

**All: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of God's People

*The congregation responds to the prayer petitions with, "hear our prayer."*

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**

## SENDING

*God sends us in mission to the world*

*Your offering can be received this day at the door in the offering plate,  
through the mail, or dropped off at the church office.*

*You can also do a one-time or recurring gift via the website.*

*Thank you for your generosity.*

Community Announcements

Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray: God of love,

**All: receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Blessing

P: May the God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

Sending Words

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Sending Hymn

“Joy to the World”

Stanzas 2-4 ELW# 267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Public Domain

Postlude

**Worship Assistants, Thank You For Serving This Sunday, May 9, 2021**

**Musician:** Krishana Dempcy      **Assisting Minister:** Carolyn Olson

**PA Operators:** Josh Fragodt, Chad Gregoire

**Video Camera Operators:** Bev Isaackson, Tracy Sterner

**Ushers:** Shawn Myers (captain); Josh Anderson, Ryan Fromm, Derek Golberg, Scott Hanson, Greg Lund, Gary Morken, Will Myers

**Altar Care:** Anne Isaackson, Rose Wisdorf

**Count Offering:** Jon Myrvik, Tracy Sterner

*Thank you to all who contributed to the making of the high school senior quilts:*

Sandy Boehne (coordination, creation and finishing), Scott and LeeAnn Boehne (Lakeview embroidery), Jean Dahl (personalized calligraphy), Karen Geihl (personalized embroidery), Quilting Crew (tying). It is a loving mixture of people to make these beautiful quilts come to fruition.

*Next year the coordinator position will be open.* Would you prayerfully consider leading the project and helping it to continue for future students? As you can see from the list of people thanked above, you are not alone in the project.

**Worship Options**

On Church YouTube Channel – links are posted on both the church Facebook Page and on our website.

On the Local Cable Channel 180: Sundays at 10:45 a.m. & Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

In person worship: Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Bulletins are emailed and are posted at our website: [christcottonwood.org](http://christcottonwood.org).

**QR Code for Online Giving**



**Thank You** --The ministry to which God has called us is continuing in differing ways. We are grateful for your ongoing financial offerings that can be mailed to the church (P.O. Box 166, Cottonwood, MN 56229) or given online with the following link:

<https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1600>

You are  
Invited!

*To Graduation Open House Receptions for our  
High School Seniors —*

**Trinity Broberg:** Saturday, May 22, from 11:00am to 2:00pm at Cottonwood Community Center, 142 West Main Street, Cottonwood

**Evan Gregoire:** Saturday, May 22, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, at his home, 5 Northwood Drive, Cottonwood (Chad and Julie)

**Colby Marczak:** Saturday, May 22, from 4:00pm to 7:00 pm at his home, 2586 County Road 24, Cottonwood (Les and Kim)

**Lucee Olson:** Friday, May 21, from 7:00pm to 10:00pm at Shooters Sporting Clays, 10713 300th St (9.5 miles E of Marshall on Hwy 19; then 2 miles N on Co. Rd. 51/ Aspen Ave., then 1/4 mile W on 300th St)

### **Upcoming Synod Assembly**

This year the Synod Assembly will look different on so many levels. It will all be Virtual through Zoom and will cover some more dates on the calendar to make sure the process for the Bishop election will happen smoothly. This will be an exciting process, as after 18 years, Bishop Jon Anderson has chosen to not run for the office again.

**If you are interested in serving as a voting member, please contact the church office as soon as possible.**

**The church covers your assembly costs.**

#### **Dates to Set Aside:**

**June 6** - times to be determined, but mid-afternoon and evening is expected with long recess in the middle

**June 11** – times to be determined, but afternoon and evening is expected with long recess in the middle

**June 12** – times to determined, but morning (a short call to order); afternoon through evening is expected with a long afternoon recess

There will be other dates where you can choose to be on Zoom to hear committee updates and test how to vote.



### *Fellowship Fun Night*

**Sunday, June 13, 7-9 p.m.**

**At Christ Lutheran Church Yard**

**For all ages – children are welcome**

Is anyone else missing hanging out together in fellowship time? COVID has separated us for long enough. Be sure to mark the evening of June 13 for this “Fellowship Fun Night.” The evening will be filled with the following opportunities of being in fellowship and fun together on the church property facing the lake.

**Bonfire Pits and a S’mores Bar** – come and enjoy The Classic, The Nutty Buddy, and The Grasshopper.

**Picnic Tables** available for a place to sit down and enjoy catching up – or bring your own lawn chair.

**Outdoor Games:** Bean Bag Boards, Horseshoes, Giant Jenga, Yardzi, Tenzi Dice, Ladder Ball, Frisbee Golf, or Bocce Ball to name a few.

**Paint Rocks:** Rocks will be available for painting which will be used in part for the July event.

### **Save the Dates:**

More Fellowship Fun Nights are scheduled for July 18, August 22 and September 12.

## Prayer Requests

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:6-7 to, “*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*” Your prayers are a gift to those requesting them, and encouragement for one another as we experience challenges, sorrows, or thanksgivings of any kind.

### **Health Concerns, as well as Others In Our Hearts and On Our Minds:**

Sandra Arnold	Brooks Baker	Landyn Berends	Brody Bloch
Cole Busack	Norm Evers	Grant Johnson	Bob Kaeter
Teri Kemmer	Cole Louwagie	Lane Louwagie	Gretchen Noon
Bobby Olson	Lloyd Powell	Savannah Rausch	

All those dealing with illness, addictions, depression, cancer, unemployment, under-employment, and any challenges in their lives.

### **Independent Living/Assisted Living/Care Center Residents/Homebound:**

Arvilla Berg, Darleen Cole, Michele Engholm, Elaine Elston, Irene Evers, Norm Evers, Marge Gigstad, Janet Gniffke, Julie Jaeger, Marietta Jarcho, Betty Lovsness, Lila Mauland, Laurie Pickthorn, Donna Neuharth, Bobby Olson, Alnora Pederson, Margaret Rewerts

### **Our Graduating Seniors:**

*Trinity Broberg, Evan Gregoire, Colby Marczak, Lucee Olson*

**Families of our Congregation:** *Erin Eaton-Jones Amber Engesser, Colt Alm  
Claire and Kathie Erickson*

**Death:** Family of Evelyn Johnson, grandmother of Jeannette Myrvik

### **Workers in Other Countries, Missionaries, and Local Congregation Missions.**

*Robin’s Nest Children’s Home, Jamaica  
Kikatiti Secondary School, Tanzania  
World Mission Prayer League (WMPL)*

<b>Facebook -</b>	Christ Lutheran Church Cottonwood MN
<b>Website -</b>	www.christcottonwood.org
<b>Mailing -</b>	P.O. Box 166; Cottonwood, MN 56229
<b>Office Phone -</b>	507.423.5100
<b>Pastor Janel Kuester -</b>	Cell: 651.726.4003; pstrjanel@gmail.com