

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022



A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church

8200 McClure Circle Charlotte, NC 28216

*At AMF we walk by faith - a living, daring confidence in God's grace - and believe that God is truly present and at work in the world and in our lives.*

*\*Indicates please stand as you are able*

Prelude

*Praise to the Lord  
Step by Step*

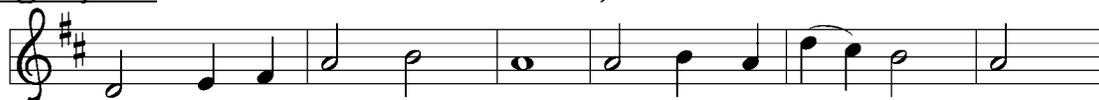
ELW #844  
W&P #132

Welcome

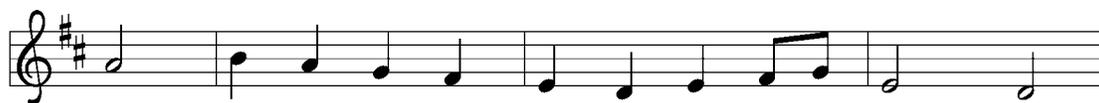
\*Gathering Hymn

*Come Down, O Love Divine*

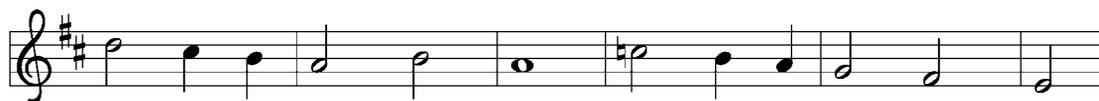
ELW #804



1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine  
2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn  
3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,  
4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,



and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear  
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,  
no soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place



and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

\*Thanksgiving for Baptism

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Pastor: In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation. Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.  
**All: Amen.**

\*Greeting

Pastor: 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.**

*Refrain*



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



*Refrain*  
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



*Refrain*  
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



*Refrain*  
God; to make all things new.

\*Prayer of the Day

Leader: Let us pray. Bountiful God,

**All: you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Message

*Patience*

*This is the day, this is the day  
That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made  
We will rejoice, we will rejoice  
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.*

First Reading – Acts 16:9-15

A reading from Acts.

<sup>9</sup>During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup>When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup>We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup>and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup>On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup>A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup>When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading – Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

A reading from Revelation.

<sup>10</sup>And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

<sup>22</sup>I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup>And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup>The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup>Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup>People will bring into it the glory and the honor

of the nations. <sup>27</sup>But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

<sup>22:1</sup>Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup>they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

\*Gospel Acclamation

*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*

ELW #172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

\*Gospel Lesson - John 14:23-29

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup>Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup>“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup>You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup>And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Molly Kuekes

\*Hymn of the Day

*We are Baptized in Christ Jesus*

ELW #451



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;  
2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,  
3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.  
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,  
glo-ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,  
God has made a new be - gin-ning from the ash - es of our past;  
as it was in the be - gin-ning, glo-ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.  
in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.  
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

\*Nicene Creed

Leader: Living together in trust and hope we profess our faith.

**All: 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 for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

#### \*Prayers of Intercession

Leader: Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

*After each prayer petition:*

Leader: God, in your mercy,   **All: hear our prayer.**

#### \*Sharing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

\*Offering Prayer

Leader: Let us pray. Living God,

**All: you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

\*The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

\*Preface

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

\*Holy Holy Holy

*You Are Holy*

ELW #525

Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer  
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more

än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nå - ra än - då.  
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.

Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,  
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here

väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.  
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

<sup>2</sup>  
Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,  
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,

du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!  
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!

Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,  
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!

ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.  
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

## \*Eucharistic Prayer

Pastor: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

**All: We praise you, O God.**

Pastor: Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**All: We bless you, O God.**

Pastor: We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**All: We thank you, O God.**

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pastor: Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pastor: We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

**All: Amen.**

## \*The Lord's Prayer

The image shows a musical score for "The Lord's Prayer" in G major, 4/4 time. The score is written on ten staves. The lyrics are: "Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - low - ed be your name, your king - dom come, your will be done on earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread, For - gi - ve us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial and de - liv - er us from e - vil, for the king - dom, the pow'r and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er." The score includes dynamic markings: *mp* at the beginning, *ritard.* after "Save us from the", *broaden* after "king - dom", *ritard.* after "now and for", and *mf* at the end.

## \*Invitation to Communion

Pastor: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**All: Amen.**

## Distribution of Holy Communion and Offering

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table, so please join us. You are invited forward to kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive communion. If you prefer to commune using the individually packaged elements, there are some on the altar rail. If you are giving an offering, you may leave it in the offering plate near the front on your way to the altar.*

*The Pastor will distribute the bread, let her know if you need a gluten-free wafer. The worship assistant will distribute the wine. Let them know if you prefer juice.*

# Lamb of God

# Now the Feast

*Congregation:*      *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God,      you take a - way the sin of the  
 you break the chains of ha - tred and  
 you are the way of jus - tice and  
 you are the way of mer - cy and

*Congregation:*

world:      have mer - cy on us,      mer - cy on us,  
 fear:  
 peace:  
 love.

**Final Stanza**

*Congregation or Assistant:*

mer - cy on us.      Lamb of God,      you

*Congregation:*

take a - way the sins of the world:      grant us peace,  
 grant us peace,      grant us peace.

# Communion Music

# Taste and See

# ELW #493

*Refrain - All*

Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,

taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

*Leader or All*

1 I will bless the Lord at all times.  
 2 Glo - ri - fy the Lord with . . . me.  
 3 Wor - ship . . . the Lord, all you peo-ple.

Praise shall al - ways be on my lips;  
 To - geth - er let us all . . . praise God's name.  
 You'll want for noth - ing . . . if you ask.

my soul shall glo - ry in the Lord;  
 I called the Lord, . . . who an - swered me;  
 Taste and see . . . that the Lord is good;

*Refrain*

for God has been so good to me.  
 from all my trou - bles I was set free.  
 in God we need put all our trust.

\*Post Communion Blessing

Pastor: May the body and blood of Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**All: Amen.**

\*Post Communion Canticle

*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

ELW #857

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your  
prais - es. I'm so glad you're in my life,  
I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heav-en to earth  
to show the way, from the earth to the cross my debt to pay;  
from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;  
Lord, I lift your name on high.

\*Prayer After Communion

Leader: Let us pray. We give thanks, generous God,

**All: for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. Amen.**

\*Blessing

Pastor: God, the Author of life,  
Christ, the living Cornerstone,  
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**All: Amen**

***Refrain***

***Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I cannot stray. Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.***

<sup>1</sup> I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r to help me over my weakest hour. Help me through the darkness thy face to see. Lead me O Lord, lead me.

***Refrain***

<sup>2</sup> Help me tread in the paths of righteousness, be my aid when Satan and sin oppress. I am putting all...my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

***Refrain***

<sup>3</sup> I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am blind without ... thy light to see. Lord, just always let me thy servant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

***Refrain***

\*Sending

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Leader: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

This coming Thursday, May 26th The Lost Cajun Food Truck will be coming to AMF from 5:30pm-7:30pm! Bring your family, friends, and neighbors - and camping or folding chairs - out for a delicious meal! The best part? You don't have to cook or clean up! Come support a local food truck while being in fellowship with your AMF family. We hope to see you there!

### **Racial Justice Zoom Book Study - Thursday nights at 7:30pm**

*Are you ready for another book?? Join us for a 6-week study. This book is just what you need to continue your journey to become an ally to our brothers and sisters who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color - BIPOC, to learn more about this topic, or to join in fellowship with your faith family as we work to change the culture in our churches and our country.*

*We will begin on June 16, 2022 and continue through July 21, 2022,*

**SO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT RACE, by Ijeoma Oluo** - *So You Want to Talk About Race* is a 2018 non-fiction book written by [Ijeoma Oluo](#), an American author of Nigerian descent whose columns and news articles on race have appeared in *The Guardian*, *The Stranger*, and *Jezebel*, among other places. The title gestures to the [discourse](#) that is necessary to combat racial oppression in the United States. The book made *Bustle's* list of 14 recommended debut books by women as well as *Harper's Bazaar's* list of the 10 best new books of 2018. It was a *New York Times* bestseller. In her candid introduction to race and racism in America, Oluo frames each chapter as a question, which she explains and unpacks, interweaving personal experiences with critical terms and issues.

Please reach out if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing all of you on Zoom, from the comfort of your own home. Let Pastor Molly know if you would like to participate and she'll make sure you're signed up.

From your racial justice book study leadership team,

Pam Petry, Beverly Foster, Pastor Ward Misenheimer, Pastor Molly Kuekes, Pastor John Petry

## Prayer List

*please contact our administrative assistant, Danielle ([announcementforamf@gmail.com](mailto:announcementforamf@gmail.com)), if you want to add a name to the prayer list*

**Members:** Elaine Beal, Greg Damron, Chris Dukes, Willie Graham, Ranee Hedrick, Robin Hussey, Pastor John Merck and Nancy Merck, Barbara McGee, Betty Mick, Robin Moore, Betty Sigmon, Martha Smith, and April and Dustin Woolford

**Loved Ones:** Rondal Bass (uncle of David Bass), Aiden Chirico (Edna Chirico's grandson), Sherry Harrell (former member), Linda Holden (friend of Edna Chirico), Herb McClintock (Jeanna Sheldon's dad), Kim Mick (Betty Mick's daughter), Cadie (Jan Huskey's granddaughter), Elmer Sundlie (Karen Sundlie's father), Ronnie Thomas (father-in-law of Alyssa McGee Thomas), Juniper (Paul Lover's granddaughter)

### *Worship Leadership*

**Pastor** – Rev. Molly Kuekes, [pastormolly@amflc.org](mailto:pastormolly@amflc.org)

**Organist/Music Director** – Penny Damron

**Pianist/Choir Director** – Patti Skinner

**Guitarist** – Charles Burton, Timothy Gentsch, & Paul Lover

**Worship Assistant** – Amy Johnson

**Livestream Operator** – Doug Wells

**Ushers** – Debra Sarvela & Jim McGee

**Sound Board Operator** – Junior Bryant

**Find us online!**

[www.amflc.org](http://www.amflc.org)



[A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church](http://www.amflc.org)



[A Mighty Fortress Charlotte, NC](http://www.amflc.org)