

Easter 6

May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year B)



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Acts 10:34-48

We Are Witnesses

Peter spoke to Cornelius of the good news, telling him the story of Jesus beginning with John the Baptist and then all that the apostles had seen and witnessed while following Jesus. Peter then announced that God’s invitation to believe and follow was meant for all people. His impassioned preaching led many to faith.

Psalm 98

Joyful Songs to God

Sing to the Lord a new song. Tell of his mighty deeds throughout the earth, how he has not forgotten his people. God will come to set the earth right, to make all things new. God will establish righteousness in all the earth.

Second Lesson: 1 John 5:1-8

To Love God is to Keep the Commandments

John brings the message of love back to the commandments. The way by which we will love our neighbors, the children of God, is by keeping the commandments that God has given us. Yet again, John portrays love as a concrete way of life rather than empty words. For those who are in Christ, keeping God’s commandments is not burdensome, but rather a joyous response to God’s gift of eternal life.

Gospel Lesson: John 15:9-17

Love As I Have Loved You

Jesus called his followers to live a life grounded in love by abiding in his love. He declared that one would remain in his love by keeping his commandment. The commandment was both simple and complex: Love one another as Christ has loved us. Calling his followers “friends” now that they know his mission, Jesus repeated his command succinctly. Love one another.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: White or Gold
- Use the Kyrie and the Hymn of Praise in the Easter season.
- Use the Nicene Creed during this festival season.
- Have you ever noticed how good singing makes you feel? You can be in a grumpy mood one minute, but when you start praising the Lord in song, that dark mood disappears and lifts your spirit. How good God is to grant us such peace and serenity!
- What does it mean to say that God shows no partiality? Is this a concept we truly believe? If so, how do we live that out in our daily lives?
- How is love more than just an emotion?

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Blessed Assurance	---	699	---	638	190	190
What a Friend We Have in Jesus	439	---	770	742	223	223
What Wondrous Love is This	385	---	543	666	254	254
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service	423	---	848	712	---	---
Jesus, Lover of My Soul	---	---	---	---	219	219
Abide with Me	272	---	878	629	62	62
Built on the Rock	365	---	645	652	91	91
I Love Your Kingdom, Lord	368	---	651	---	90	90
Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus	487	---	685	802	---	---
In the Quiet Consecration	223	---	---	---	---	---

The hymn suggestions listed above are from various worship books: LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV = With One Voice, W&P = Worship & Praise, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress), LSB = The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), and REC = The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources).

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

- God So Loved
(CCLI# 7138599)
- How He Loves
(CCLI# 5032549)
- Love Like This
(CCLI# 7090451)
- Graves into Gardens
(CCLI# 7138219)
- Goodness of God
(CCLI# 7117726)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.