



Come to Believe † Come to Belong
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 5, 2024

PRELUDE

Rob Aaron

“Come to believe, Come to belong, Come to receive, the promise of God”

P) Alleluia! Christ is risen! C) **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence for self-reflection)

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name.

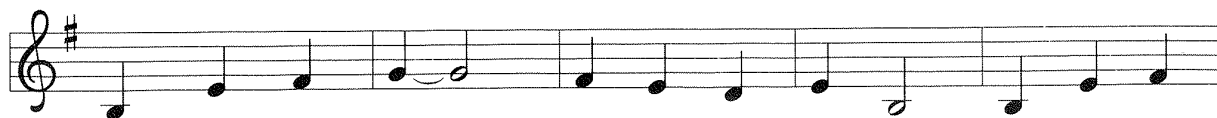
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

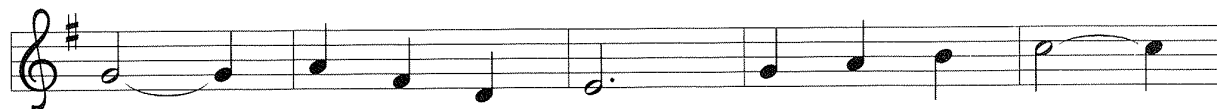
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

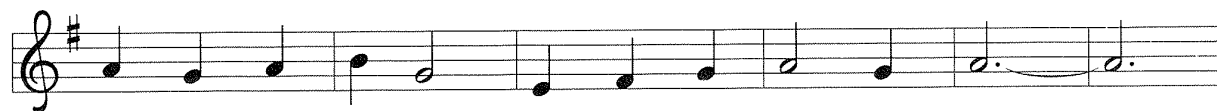
“Christ Be Our Light”



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

GREETING


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

And also with you.

KYRIE (Lord, Have Mercy)

Leader
In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
For the reign of God, and for
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
Lord. For your
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your



word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

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

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

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

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

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

God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together: **O God, you have prepared for those who 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, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Be Thou My Vision”

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING

Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 98

¹ 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.

² The LORD has made known his salvation;

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

³ 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.

⁴ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,

with the lyre and the sound of melody!

⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

the world and those who dwell in it!

⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands;

let the hills sing for joy together

⁹ before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

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

SECOND READING

1 John 5:1-6

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶ This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

John 15:9-17

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord!

⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

SERMON

Pastor Gary Heltsley

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing,
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised,



call - ing for you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's
plead - ing for you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and
prom - ised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has



wait - ing and watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.
heed not his mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me?
mer - cy and par - don, par - don for you and for me.



Refrain
“Come home, come home! You who are wea - ry, come home.”



Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly, Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P) Let us pray to our Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people.

A brief silence

Lord Jesus, you've called us to love you and one another, and to bear your love into the world. The world needs you so much! Make us faithful and fruitful, so we help nourish hearts starved for your love.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Bless the people of this congregation with faith, hope, and charity. Fill us with wisdom and prudence. Through the gift of your Holy Spirit, make us glad to obey your commandments.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Bless this beautiful creation with all that it needs to flourish. Make us wise stewards of it, especially the creatures entrusted to our care. May everything you have made praise and glorify you!

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Fill our elected and appointed leaders with the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might. Teach them to love justice; to act with mercy toward the poor and hungry in their lands; and to walk humbly before our Father. Grant to all people the blessings of peace and unity on earth.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Bless all who protect life, health, and freedom. Grant them wisdom and integrity. Let their labors help create a safe and just world where the innocent may live in peace. Help us to honor their service.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Grant your life-giving Spirit to all who cry to you for help, especially those we name out loud and silently in our hearts (*allow time for silent and spoken prayers*). Grant them wholeness of body and mind, confident hope in your goodness, and the peace which the world cannot give them.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Lord Jesus, thank you for choosing, forgiving, and saving the faithful who have gone before us. Grant that in this life, we may bear the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Gather us into your Kingdom, where those fruits will be perfected, to your glory and to the delight of all the redeemed.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

P) Grant to us all that is in accordance with your will, dear Jesus, and accomplish your salvation among us; for you are risen from the dead and dwell in majesty with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Doxology*

**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. A-men**



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together...

**Loving God, we give you thanks for the generous gifts you have first given us.
May that which we offer to you, come joyfully from our hearts and be
pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right... and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Sung*)

*Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our
 debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is
 the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION – We believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine/juice, which are his body and blood. All are welcome at the Lord's Table (*the red liquid is wine; the white liquid is grape juice*).

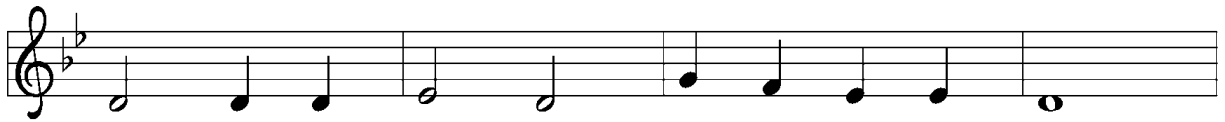
"Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

"Precious Lord Take My Hand"

1 Pre-cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin-ger near,
3 When the dark-ness ap-pears and the night draws . . near,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . al-most . . gone,
and the day is . . past and . . gone,
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv-er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

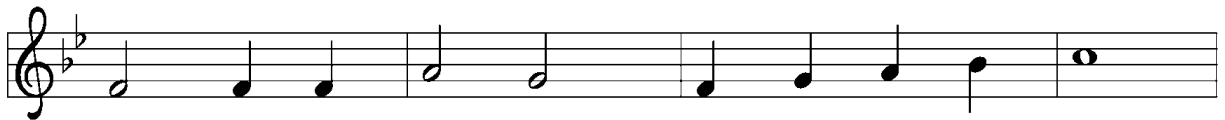
"Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart"



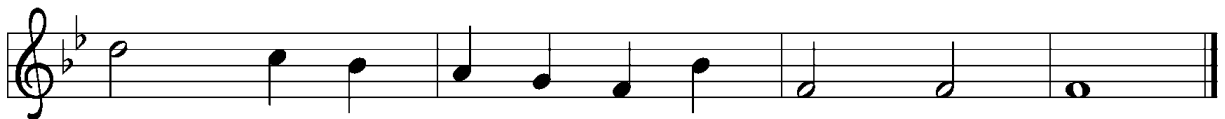
1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wear it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.



"We Praise You, O God"



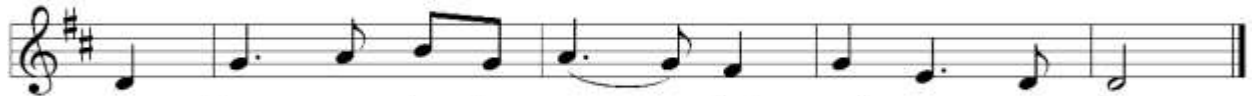
1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers, we bless you;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

"This is the Day"



This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the



Lord has made; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be



glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the



Lord has made; we will re-joyce and be glad in it.



This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING and PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray together...**We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you, and in fervent love toward one another, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

SENDING SONG *“Son of God, Eternal Savior”*



- 1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
- 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
- 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of Peace;
- 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Rob Aaron – piano ~ Nancy Martin – choir director

Pr. Gary Heltsley – presiding

TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeters: Liz Webber & Janet Wright

Ushers: Jim & Arlene Burton

Reader: Jay Wittreich

Barista: Steve Dixon

Sacristans: Diane Heltsley & Charlotte Pedersen

Communion Assistants: Dianne Baxter & Joleen Wheaton

Close Up: Guy Bralley

Altar Flowers: Dennis & Bonnie O'Hanlon

(IN LOVING MEMORY OF PASTOR BRIAN PEDERSON)

Last Week's Attendance: 97 **Last Week's Offering:** \$4,309.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to North Bay Lutheran Community Church! We hope you are blessed today as we worship the Lord together. If you are a visitor, please feel free to fill out an attendance card located in the slot in front of you and drop it in the offering plate. We also invite you to stay for fellowship following our service. We are glad that you're here!

Fellowship Time Today – *May Birthday Celebrations* (cake provided by NBLCC). **May 12th:** NBLCC will provide fruit and pastries in honor of Mother's Day.

Neighborhood Bible Study will meet on **Tuesday, May 7th** at 12:45pm. For more information, please contact Sue Nichols at 360-277-3414.

Dementia Support Group will meet on **Wednesday, May 8th** at 10:00 am. For more information, please contact Patty at 360-271-0055 (C) or 360-275-3939 (H), or email at palmcanal@hotmail.com.

Lap Quilts – All of you who may be interested in making lap quilts to distribute to people in hospitals and/or nursing homes please join us on **Thursday, May 9th** at 10:00 am. You don't need to know how to sew or quilt; we need folks to cut fabric, arrange squares, or sew. This is a time of fellowship, and all are welcome. For more information, please contact Dixie Carver at (360) 801-6202 or Rosemary Wheaton at (360) 204-3501.

