

If you love Me, you will
keep My commandments.

-John 14:15-



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAMBURG
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 10, 2026
Monday, May 11, 2026**

John 14:15 – *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”* Jesus is clear: our obedience to His Word comes from our love for Him. But where does that love come from? Jesus tells us that as well: “Her sins, which are many, are forgiven — for she loved much” (Luke 7:47). Christ shows us His love and gives us the forgiveness of our sins, which causes love to well up in us and thereby keep the commandments of Jesus. For after all, the summary of the Law is “love.”



WELCOME VISITORS: We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors today. We pray that your worship with us is rewarding. Please be sure to sign your name and address in our guest register, located in

the narthex. If you are looking for a church home we would like to invite you to be a part of our Bible Based Church family.

PRINTED ORDER OF WORSHIP

Special Music today by Ed Stiver and Jeremy Fromm

OPENING HYMN

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us
You came from heaven 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

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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit

C Amen!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

P “God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.

C If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

P But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

C If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

P If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

C If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives.” (1 John 1:5b-10)

P Let us then confess our sins:

(A moment for silence for private personal confession to the One Who created us and redeemed us)

C Gracious Father, we come before You as a rebellious and sinful people. We have disobeyed Your commandments; we have worshipped ourselves and the things we have made. We have rejected Your will for our lives; we have preferred our way to that of Christ. Forgive us, O Lord, for straying away from that which You intended us to be, and for failing to follow the example of Christ.

P “Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.” (based on Ps 32:1,2) Upon, This your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the Grace of God unto you, and by the command and in the stead of the Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 18:18; John 20:23) “Be of Good Cheer; your sins are forgiven you.” (Matt. 9:2 KJV) Now, go live a life

worthy of your calling in Christ Jesus, and produce fruit in keeping with true repentance. (Eph 4:1)

C Amen! By God's Grace in Jesus Christ I am saved. By grace I am forgiven. By Grace I am set free.

RESPONSIVE HYMN

"God You Are My God (Step By Step)"

O God You are my God
And I will ever praise You
O God You are my God
And I will ever praise You
I will praise You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days.

O God You are my God
And I will ever praise You
O God You are my God
And I will ever praise You
I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days

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PSALM 66:8–20

- P** ⁸Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,
C ⁹**who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.**
- P** ¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
C ¹¹**You brought us into the net;
you laid a crushing burden on our backs;**

P ¹²you let men ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

C ¹³**I will come into your house with burnt offerings;
I will perform my vows to you,**

P ¹⁴that which my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

C ¹⁵**I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened
animals,**

with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;

I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

P ¹⁶Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

C ¹⁷**I cried to him with my mouth,
and high praise was on my tongue.**



God has surely listened
AND HAS HEARD MY PRAYER.
PSALM 66:19, NIV

P ¹⁸If I had cherished iniquity
in my heart,
the Lord would not have
listened.

C ¹⁹**But truly God has
listened;
he has attended to the
voice of my prayer.**

P ²⁰Blessèd be God,
because he has not rejected
my prayer
or removed his steadfast
love from me!

P Jesus replied to Satan “Man does not live on bread alone

C **But on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”**
(*Matthew 4:4*)

FIRST READING

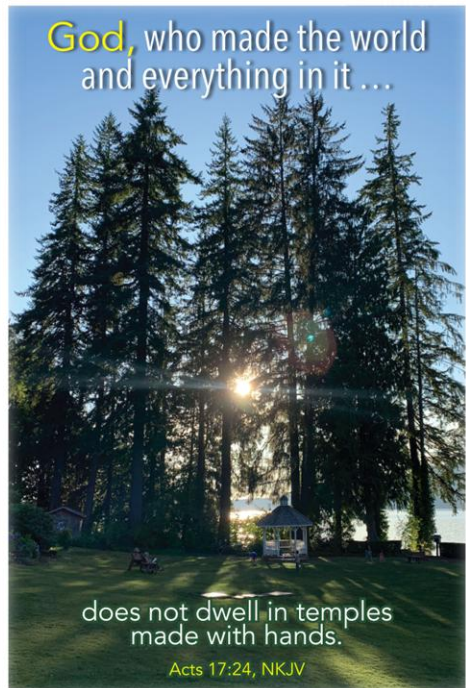
Acts 17:16-31

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and

the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?”

²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, in the



hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for

“In him we live and move and have our being’;

as even some of your own poets have said,

“For we are indeed his offspring.’

²⁹Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

P “and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

C **All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)**

RESPONSIVE HYMN

“Count Your Blessings”

Chorus

**Count your blessings
Name them one by one
Count your blessings
See what God hath done
Count your blessings
Name them one by one
Count your many blessings
See what God hath done**

1 When upon life's billows
You are tempest tossed
When you are discouraged
Thinking all is lost
Count your many blessings
Name them one by one
And it will surprise you
What the Lord hath done

Chorus

**Count your blessings
Name them one by one
Count your blessings
See what God hath done
Count your blessings
Name them one by one
Count your many blessings
See what God hath done**

2 Are you ever burdened
With a load of care
Does the cross seem heavy
You are called to bear
Count your many blessings
Every doubt will fly
And you will be singing
As the days go by *Chorus*

3 When you look at others
With their lands and gold
Think that Christ has promised
You His wealth untold
Count your many blessings
Money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven
Nor your home on high *Chorus*

4 So amid the conflict
Whether great or small
Do not be discouraged

**God is over all
Count your many blessings
Angels will attend
Help and comfort give you
To your journey's end Chorus**

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EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.



¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.



**“BECAUSE I LIVE,
YOU ALSO WILL LIVE.”**

JOHN 14:19, NIV

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

¹⁵[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

P “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God

C **And keep it.”** (*Luke 11:28*)

SERMON HYMN “*Amazing Grace*”

- 1** **Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!**
- 2** **The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.**
- 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.**
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.**

Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond
Text: Public domain

SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED

☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He’s given
Jesus Christ His Son.**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He’s given
Jesus Christ His Son.**

**And now let the weak say “I am strong,”
Let the poor say “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us.**

**And now let the weak say “I am strong,”
Let the poor say “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks, give thanks.**

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THE FAMILY OF GOD PRAYS TOGETHER

THE 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.

BENEDICTION

☪ “The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (*Number 6:24*)

☪ Amen!

CLOSING HYMN

“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”

- 1 Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.

- 2 Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from
shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

- 3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming
night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

- 4 Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826-93

Text: Public domain

DAILY BIBLE READINGS



Sunday: Numbers 3:1-16, 39-48;

Numbers 4:1 – 8:4; Luke 14:25 – 15:10

Monday: Numbers 8:5-26; Luke 15:11-32

Tuesday: Numbers 9:1-23; Luke 16:1-18

Wednesday: Numbers 10:11-36;

Luke 16:19-31

Ascension Day

Thursday: Numbers 11:1-23, 31-35;

Luke 17:1-19

Friday: Numbers 11:24-29; 12:1-16; Luke 17:20-37

Saturday: Numbers 13:1-3, 17-33; Luke 18:1-17



**CHURCH
CALENDAR
ST. JOHN'S and
FAITH**

Sunday, May 10

**8:30 a.m. Worship at
St. John's
10:15 a.m. Worship at
Faith**

11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

2:30 p.m. Church Softball League at Immanuel

Monday, May 11

5:30 p.m. NO Choir Rehearsal at Faith

6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith

7:30 p.m. Elders' Meeting at Faith

Tuesday, May 12

6:00 p.m. Church Council at St. John's

7:15 p.m. Elders' Meeting at St. John's

Wednesday, May 13

10:00 a.m. Ablelight

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

Thursday, May 14 ASCENSION DAY

10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's

Sunday, May 17

8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at St. John's

9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal at Faith

10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith

11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

12:15 p.m. VBS Planning Meeting at Faith

2:30 p.m. Church Softball League at Faith

4:30 p.m. ISI at Pine Ridge Restaurant, Merrill

Monday, May 18

5:30 p.m. NO Choir Rehearsal at Faith

6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith

Wednesday, May 20

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

Thursday, May 21

10:30 a.m. Community Bible Class at St. John's

FAITH and ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES



*Please remember the following in
your prayers:*

Gary Baumann Lisa Burish
Joe Calmes David Czech
Doris Dahlke Rodney Dahlke
Alice Fromm

Christopher Emmerich Wallace Emmerich Jim Goetsch
Duane Grunenwald Gerhard Hannemann
Angie Harkner Dale Janisch Cecelia & Lucille Klade
Rob Koebe Jim Koebe Hugo Koppa Karen Love
Bob Meyer Gene Mootz Debbie Olson Sarah Piel
Mark Pester Bob Porath Marge Radenz Karen Rajek
Jo Schedler MiKenzie Schultz Audrey Steckling
Lorraine Steckling Carl Uttech Deb Wiederhoeft
Florence Williamson Laurie Young
Susie and Ellie Zastrow

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thank You for your generous sacrificial offerings
to the Lord, to help us keep our ministry going.
You can also mail your offerings to Our Churches
at**

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

15425 County Road K South, Merrill, WI 54452 or

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

134058 County Road L, Athens, WI 54411

(Please do not send hard cash through the mail)

**Please help us spread the Word. Visit us online at
Pastor's (Don Love) Facebook Page, or Faith
Lutheran Church, or on the church website at**

www.faithlutheranmerrill.com



Lord,

thank you for the women
who have loved us,
prayed for us
and walked with us
in faith.