

Historic Scripture Lessons for Easter-6 † Rogaté (Prayer) Sunday

Old Testament

Jeremiah 29:11-14 NIV For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

Epistle

James 1:22-27 Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect Law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it - he will be blessed in what he does. 26 If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

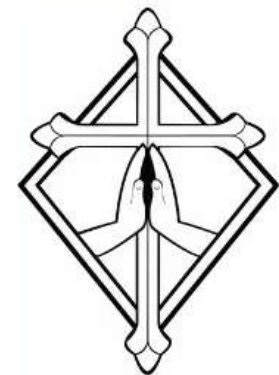
Gospel

John 16:23-30 In that day you will no longer ask Me anything. I tell you the truth, My Father will give you whatever you ask in My Name. 24 Until now you have not

asked for anything in My Name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. 25 "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about My Father. 26 In that day you will ask in My Name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27 No, the Father Himself loves you because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father." 29 Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now You are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. 30 Now we can see that You know all things and that You do not even need to have anyone ask You questions. This makes us believe that You came from God."

3-Year Gospel (Sermon Text)

John 15:9-17 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. 10 If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love. 11 I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his Master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My Name. 17 This is My command: Love each other.



OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

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BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

✦ A.R. Burmeister 430-5859 ✦ Organ: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

May 6th, 2018 ✦ Easter-6 ☩ Rogaté Sunday = Pray

TODAY WE CELEBRATE The LORD'S SUPPER: If you are new to the area or Our worship and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before Communing. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take communion until you can speak with our pastor.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the guest, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you for your understanding. God bless your worship.

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP On silver liturgy sheets and in (red) hymnal p.15.

Service		
Opening Hymn	459 (5v)	Come, My Soul, Thy Suit Prepare
<i>Psalm 145</i>	<i>Ps.145 "4v"</i>	I Will Praise Your Name, My King & God
Hymn of the Day	413 (6v)	I Walk in Danger All the Way
<i>Offertory Verse</i>	655 (1v)	<i>I Pray Thee, Dear LORD Jesus</i>
Distribution Hymn	458 (9v)	Our Father, Thou in Heaven Above
Closing Hymn	457 (3v)	What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Suggested Bible readings for weekdays after the 6th Sunday of Easter

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
 Amos9:8-15 Isaiah 4:2-6 Isa. 29:18-24 Gen5:21-24 Mic. 7:7-13 Mic.7:14-20
 John 10:1-5 John 10:6-10 Mat.28:16-20 Acts 1:1-1 Lu.24:50-53 Acts1:12-26

PROPERs for EASTER-6(=5th SUNDAY after EASTER) MAY 6TH

INTROIT With a voice of singing declare, proclaim this; utter it even to the ends of the earth. "The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob!" Alleluia! O You Who hear prayer, to You all flesh will come. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing out the honor of His Name; make His praise glorious. ...Psalm 107

COLLECT O God, from Whom all good things do come: Grant us, Your humble servants, that by Your holy Inspiration, we may think those things that are right, and by Your merciful guiding may perform the same: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our LORD, Who lives, and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one True God, now and forever. C: ♪ A - - men.

GRADUAL C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ, Who has redeemed us with His Blood, is Risen and has appeared to us. Alleluia! I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I leave the world and go to the Father. Alleluia! ...from Psalm 66

SCRIPTURE LESSONS (printed on outside back page of the bulletin)

O.T. **Jeremiah 29:11-14** God *already knows* your thoughts & prayers.
 Epi. **James 1:22-27** Do what the Word says; don't just listen to Words.
 Gos. **John 16:23-30** The Father will give all you ask in My Name.

NEW Psalm 145 C: ♪ I Will Praise Your Name; My King- and My God-
 I will praise Your Name; my King- and my God.

Verse 1. ♪ I will give you glo-ry my God and King, and I will bless_ Your Name for-e-ver_ Ev'ry day I will bless and praise Your name fore-ver._

Refrain C: ♪ I will praise Your Name; My King- and my God. (← Repeat)

Verse 2. ♪ The Lord is full of grace and mer-cy, He is kind_ and slow to anger. He is good in all His works and full- of compassion._ **Refrain C:** ♪ I will...

Verse 3. ♪ Let all our works give You thanks O LORD, and let- all the faithful bless You. Let them speak of Your might O LORD, the glory of Your Kingdom.

Refrain C: ♪ I will praise Your Name; My King- and my God. (← Repeat)

Verse 4. ♪ The LORD is faith-ful in all His Words, and always near,_ His Name is Holy._ He lifts up all those who fall, He raises up the lowly._ **Refrain C:** ♪ I...

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
Sue Smith (Bev Foster)	Sue battling pancreas & liver growths.	Sad but faithfull
Jim & Elma Hendricks	LORD's will be done. Both at home.	Jim's BP spikes
Dee Kurczewski (David)	Dee was in hospital after falls. Back home, rehabbing	
Alex Pitman (relative of Elaine Jones)	Alex is in SC in trouble (with the law)	
Angelo Pousa (Tom & Viv Temple's friend)	Angelo battling health issues	
Jon Sawyer (Andrea)	Jon Sr flew to his first job since December stroke	
Joe Thacker (Bev Foster)	Joe is home recovering from double pneumonia	
June Weyenberg	June back home (by herself) doing rehab from knee surgery	

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters	Mary Lou Knigge	Vivian & Tom Temple
Treaters	BBQ Picnic Lunch	

Statistics	Last week	Year to date / Avg.
Sunday, Attendance (Communion)	14 / (12)	24 / 20
Bible Class Attendance: Sun/Wed	8 / 5	7 / 5
Last Sunday Offering & YTD	\$.	YTD Total \$.

Calendar of Events		
Today, May 6th	8:30 am	Bible Study - Heritage Hymns ELH #493
<i>Easter-6 Rogaté</i>	9:30 am	Divine Worship (W/ Communion)
<i>Pray to The LORD</i>	10:45 ff...	"BBQ" Picnic Lunch ... Stay and Enjoy!
Wednesday, 5/9	6:00 pm	OSL Bible Study PARABLE.11 Vineyard
Thursday, 5/10	1:30 am	OSL MAY (last) Council Meeting in hall
Sunday, 5/13	8:30 am	Bible Study - Heritage Hymns ELH #575
<i>Easter-7 Exaudi</i>	9:30 am	Divine Worship (No Communion)
<i>Coming Holy Spirit</i>	11:00 am	"FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ...Stay!

Elders: Tom Temple 213-4622; John Weber 853-5458; Don Wienke 815-8892.

April 29th ▲ ELS Centennial: Proclaim the Wonders God Has Done: 1918-2018



Bethany Lutheran College became a co-educational junior college in 1927 when it was purchased by the ELS. At that time a high school department also was established which shared both the faculty and the dormitories. The high school was discontinued in 1969. Today, Bethany Lutheran College offers twenty-four majors, twenty-four minors, and eight pre-professional programs taught by sixty-five full-time and adjunct faculty.

Next Sunday 5/13 Exaudi=Easter-7 (p.5 No LS) Hymn #s 227 236 230 217 261

EASTER-6/B Rogaté Prayer John 15:9-17 “LOVE WINS IN JESUS” 05.06.18 OSL

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide. – John 15:9-17

INTRODUCTION Today’s reading from John continues Jesus’ *“I am the vine, you are the branches”* (Last Sunday’s text and sermon). Joined to Jesus, you are a fruitful branch; apart from Jesus you can do nothing. **The “fruit” of which Jesus is speaking is “LOVE.”**

FLOW Follow the flow. From the Father to the Son to you. As the Father loves the Son, so the Son loves you. And now the invitation: Abide in My love. Stay there. Rest there. Dwell there. Hang in there. Be loved by Jesus as Jesus is loved by the Father. This is where “love” begins – ***not in our hearts, not in our decisions and choices, not in our initiative.*** It begins in the heart of the Father and His love for the beloved Son. **It flows to you from the Son by way the Cross, the Font, the Altar and His Word.**

LOVE == To abide in Jesus’ love is to *“Keep His Commandments.”* Be careful now. Very careful. If you hear that the wrong way, you are going to **turn this into a Law instead of a gift.** The word “keep” is **not** the word “obey” but **“cling to,” treasure, hold fast to.** Like a keepsake, something that you value greatly and won’t ever trade away or let go of. And, **commandments** here are not like the Ten Commandments of Moses. Jesus didn’t come to give commandments. In the end, He only has one: **Love.** But the “commandments” we are to keep are the very gifts that bring His love to us. **Baptism, the Supper, His Word.** Those are His “Commandments,” His tangible gifts that join us to Him in love, and through Him to the Father’s love. And they are **“not burdensome” as John says, not the way the Law of Moses is burdensome.**

CLING TO PROMISES So to put it all together: To abide in Jesus’ love is to cling to His mandates, to trust His Word and cling to His promise in Baptism and Supper, and in so doing to abide in His love for you. When you abide in your Baptism, that is, by daily contrition and repentance you drown and die to self in Jesus’ death, when you abide in Christ’s Word of Forgiveness, when you abide at the Supper of His Body and Blood, you are abiding in His love. And there’s a promise from Jesus: **His joy will be in you, and your joy would be filled up to overflowing.**

OLD vs. NEW (MAN) It helps to think of yourself here as Old Man and New at the same time, the way **Luther** said, *Simul Iustus et Peccator* *“simultaneously righteous and sinner.”* The Old Man hates anything that has to do with God’s love in Jesus. The Old Man wants everything His way. When someone says, *“I don’t need Baptism to be loved by God,”* or *“I don’t need the Lord’s Supper to abide in Jesus’ love,”* that’s **not** the New Man talking. It’s the Old Man, who does not love God or wish to be loved by Him. And that’s what we fight all the time. And it’s why Jesus has to put it in the form of a mandate or commandment, because our old sinful natures know only commandments. And so Jesus needs to say, *“Do this in remembrance of me,”* even though the New Man, our new natures in Christ, don’t need to be told this, and don’t really need to do anything to remember Jesus.

DOUBLE LIFE We need to understand this about ourselves, that we are **under constant tension between our sinful flesh,** our outer man who does not want to be loved in this way, **and our new, inner man in Christ,** the “new you” who delights in the gifts of Christ. Our old sinful natures need to be subdued, disciplined, told what to do, instructed, and ultimately mortified, killed by the Law. But it’s **not so that we die, but that we live,** that our fruit might abide forever, that we might abide in God and His love forever.

FRIENDS Jesus sits with this group of His chosen disciple in an Upper Room around a table on the very night that He is going to give His life for the life of the world. He knows them and how it is with them, even better than they know themselves. **He knows they will deny Him, betray Him, abandon Him.** But He loves them. He lays down His life for them. He calls them **not servants** but **“friends.” Friends.** He reminds them that they are not sitting around that table because they made all the right choices and chose Him. **He chose them.** He took the initiative. It may have seemed to them at the time that they chose Him, but in reality **Jesus chose them long before** they ever knew or met Jesus.

CHOSEN **And that’s how it is with us as well.** We may think we chose Jesus and decided to believe in Him. For many people, that’s how it subjectively feels. For some (most) of us, we have no conscious moment when we decided to follow Jesus. We’ve just always been doing it since our Baptism which happened at a time we don’t consciously remember. In fact, I would say that the **Baptized baby is one of the greatest illustrations** of what Jesus is saying here, *“You did not choose me, but I chose you.”* The little baby who is brought to Baptism by his parents **did not choose Jesus, rather Jesus chose him.** And even those of you who came to faith in Christ as adults were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, so any choices you made **came after God’s choice of you by Christ, His chosen and beloved Son.**

HEART of LOVE That’s the heart of God’s love. **He takes the initiative. He chooses. He loves.** He loves the **loveless, His enemies, sinners,** and calls them His friends and shares His table with them. He lets them in on the “inside story,” the intimate conversation between Father and Son. *“All that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”* This isn’t something the Twelve did, instead something they received. **Access. Privilege. Friends-of-Jesus status.** Whatever they ask the Father in the Name of the Son, He will grant it.

WE’RE THERE That love of God comes to us too. Even though we aren’t sitting in that Upper Room with the disciples, in hearing this text, **we’re eavesdroppers on this conversation between Jesus and His chosen apostles.** You and I have been incorporated in that intimate conversation between Father and Son as well. We’ve been **Baptized into it;** declared to be children of God, members of the family of God with the same access to the Father **in prayer** and the same love from Father to Son to disciple to each other.

AGAPÉ When we say that word “love” we automatically think of feelings and romance. But love is far deeper than that. The Greek word is **αγάπη,** and it’s not really a feeling but **an act of will.** The **Apostle Paul** wrote a wonderful description of it in his **first letter to the Corinthians** (chapter 13). He says agapé is patient and kind. It isn’t jealous or boastful, arrogant or rude. It

doesn't insist on getting its own way; it isn't irritable or resentful; it doesn't rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. **Agapé bears all things, trusts all things, hopes all things, patiently endures all things.**

MOM'S LOVE (Next Sunday is Mother's Day) One might think of a **mother's love for her child**. She endures all the changes in her body for nine months and the pain of childbirth all for the sake of her child. She quite literally lays down a significant portion of her life to bear, feed, and nurture her child. She may not always feel like doing it, in fact, there are times when she doesn't feel like doing it at all, but a mother is what she is and mothering is what she does. **Thank God for mothers**. At her best, she is a visible sign of what agapé love looks like. She is a sinner too, in case you've forgotten, so in love we forgive her where her love has failed to make it through to you. She loves through the sinful flesh just as you do. **Only Jesus can love perfectly.**

LOVE-TALK With all this "love" talk the past two week with love being the good fruit of faith, you might be tempted to think, *"I've got to get to work on loving others,"* and that would be true. **We all fall terribly short** in the harvest of love, precisely because we're asking the Old Adam infected by Sin to love with the love of God, which is a tall, in fact an impossible order.

IT'S ODD... Jesus knows that, which is why He says to His disciples, *"These things I command you so that you love one another."* In other words, don't focus on your love, because the harder you look, the less you'll see, the less loving you will be. Instead, focus on Christ and His love for you and for those around you. It's one of the **oddities that seems counterintuitive at first**. We think that if you want to improve in some area, you focus on the area you need to improve and practice and work on it. And that's generally true when you are talking about mastering skills such as **putting or painting or almost anything we do**. But love isn't a skill one masters. Love is the fruit that forms on **a branch that is joined by faith to the Vine and draws its life from Jesus.**

GET FIXED In other words, **fix your eyes on Jesus** and His love for you. **Abide in His love**. Keep yourself in the stream of His forgiveness. Realize what a wretched mess your life really is, and how utterly failed your attempts at love have been. Receive the tokens of His love, His death and Life, His Body and Blood, His Word and Spirit. All this **without any** merit or worthiness on our part.

HAVE HIS WAY In the Rite of **Private Confession**, there's a sentence: *"I have not let His love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed."* This is how we love with the love of God, by letting His love **first have its way with us** and then having that love which knows no bounds overflow to those around us. And when love fails, it's because we've gotten in the way, our old sinful natures have clogged up **the flow of love from God** through us to others.

IDENTITY *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide."* You are ever a child of God. But when the fruit of Jesus' love, when agapé appears, when you love one another with Jesus' love for you, you are seen for who and what you really are. **A disciple and friend of Jesus. chosen in love to abide in His love and to love one another. IJ'N, Amen. SDG The peace of God which ...**

POSSIBLE Prayer of the Church Rogaté-6th Sunday of Easter May 6th, 2018

We pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. + (Possible) Brief silence

Heavenly Father, You promise to hear our prayers for the sake of Your Son. Help us to accept Your invitation to **ask You for all good things** with boldness and confidence. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, we live in a world plagued by sinful doubt and skepticism over Your Word and salvation. By Your Holy Spirit, **open our hearts this day** to pay attention to what You proclaim to us. Soothe our doubting consciences with the certain knowledge that Your Gospel promises are true. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator of Heaven and earth, abide with all **homeless and destitute people**. Despite their temporary problems, give them faith to confess that You richly and daily provide everything they need to support their bodies and lives. Stir up generosity in our hearts as we respond to Your mercy by sharing Your good gifts with those in need. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of the nations, bring order where there is instability, peace where there is strife and safety where there is danger. Especially protect those who live and serve in **dangerous areas of our cities and country**. Give wisdom to those You place in authority over these locations as they deal with violence and danger. Through residents and authorities, make our neighborhoods safe and lead everyone to work together to promote peace and tranquility. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, through Your servant John, You give us a vision of the life of the world to come. By this Heavenly vision, sustain **those who suffer** in any way [*especially **OSL Prayer List***].

Sue Smith (Bev Foster) Sue battling pancreas & liver growths. Sad but faithful
Jim & Elma Hendricks LORD's will be done. Both at home. Jim's BP spikes
Dee Kurczewski (David) Dee was in hospital after falls. Back home, rehabbing
Alex Pitman (relative of Elaine Jones) Alex is in SC in trouble (with the law)
Angelo Pousa (Tom & Viv Temple's friend) Angelo battling health issues
Jon Sawyer (Andrea) Jon Sr flew to his first job since December stroke
Joe Thacker (Bev Foster) Joe is home recovering from double pneumonia
June Weyenberg June back home (by herself) doing rehab from knee surgery

Use John's testimony to strengthen their faith, that despite their current afflictions, they may look forward to the glory that will be revealed to them on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear Father in Heaven, we yearn for the day when the holy city of Jerusalem will come down out of Heaven, the day when You will fully dwell in the midst of Your people. **Until that day arrives, strengthen our faith** in Your wondrous promises as You dwell in our midst, in and under bread and wine. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen. Then, Lord's Supper, p.24**