

# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MOTHER'S DAY

Amazing Love

Seeing as God Sees, Loving as God Loves

May 9, 2021



## AS WE GATHER

“In the sight of God” is a phrase used throughout Scripture. It reminds us of God’s unceasing care and concern for His creation. In Proverbs: “Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So, you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man” (Proverbs 3:3–4). All our life is in God’s amazingly loving sight as He watches over all His creation and especially over people. Out of love for Christ and one another, we can strive to see others around us in the same way that God sees them. A simple and poignant Sunday School song says simply, “God sees the little sparrow fall. It meets His tender view; if God so loves the little birds, I know He loves me too.” The central theme of the song is the care of God for His creation. The words also serve as a reminder that God sees us, His children, in a special way. We are the crown of His creation, as are all the people He has fashioned. Seeing people as God sees them is central to our lives of faith!

### **PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:**

**God of all Living, we gather to open our hearts to You trusting that You will welcome us with open arms. We come to worship You. The One who leads us through times of trial; the One who supports us in sorrow and struggle; the One who is beside us when all is bleak. Heavenly Father, we give thanks to You for mothers everywhere. We give thanks for their love, care, concern, and compassion. We lift up to You especially those who have struggled in their roles**

as mothers, where the path has not been smooth. We pray for those whose mothers perhaps failed in any way. Bring hope in the midst of their lives, whether as mothers or as children. For those relationships that are strained, grant reconciliation. Where there is pain, bring the healing of Your grace and mercy. May our own hearts of love extend to all mothers everywhere; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen

## **WELCOME:**

**WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE:** We gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God, who, like a mother, knows us intimately, loves us unconditionally, teaches us the way we should go, and comforts us in times of need. We've come to worship God, who loved us before we were yet born, who knows us even better than we know ourselves, whose presence never leaves us, and whose love for us never ceases. Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church on this special Mother's Day. A day to give honor and recognition to all mothers, whether they are biological or spiritual mothers. It is a day to thank them for their love, and care, and support throughout the years. Let's worship together!

**SOLO**

**Ms. Angela Henderson**

## **INVOCATION**

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

## **OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 146:1-2, 5, 10*

**Pastor:** Praise the LORD!

**People:** Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**Pastor:** I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

**People:** I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**Pastor:** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

**People:** whose hope is in the LORD his God.

**Pastor:** The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.

**People: Praise the LORD!**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**Pastor:** As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

**Pastor:** Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

**People:** **Gracious God, in heartfelt repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are sin-stained people by nature. Each day we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We have not seen people in the loving way that You see them. We have not always been ready to care and quick to help. We do indeed deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is in the merits of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives, lead us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.**

**Pastor:** God is loving and merciful. He sees us with loving eyes and graciously hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

**✠ WORD ✠**

**INTROIT** *Psalm 66:1–2, 8–9, 20; antiphon: v. 16*

**Pastor:** Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

**People:** **Shout for joy to God, all the earth;  
sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

Pastor: Bless our God, O peoples;  
let the sound of His praise be heard,  
**People: who has kept our soul among the living  
and has not let our feet slip.**

Pastor: Blessed be God,  
because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His  
steadfast love from me!  
**People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

### **HYMN OF PRAISE “There is a Name I Love To Hear” TFBF 250 Sts. 1-2**

1 There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth; it sounds like music  
in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain:

Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus, because  
he first loved me!

2 It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free; it tells me of his  
precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea. [Refrain]

### **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Risen and ascended Lord, while we were still in our sins, You chose us, laid down Your life for us, and called us friends. By Your great love for us, inspire us to love one another and to go out into the world to bear fruit according to Your promise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**FIRST READING** *Acts 10:34–48* (People from every nation are accepted by God.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SOLO**

**Ms. Angela Henderson**

**EPISTLE** *1 John 5:1–8* (The victory of Christ overcomes the world.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

Leader: Christ has risen from the dead. God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor, He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands; He has put all things under His feet.

**HOLY GOSPEL**    *John 15:9–17*            (Obeying Christ's commands and remaining in His love)

Leader:        The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

**People:**        **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader:        This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:**        **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**SOLO**                    **Ms. Angela Henderson**

**SERMON**

**SOLO**                    **Ms. Angela Henderson**

**(We Bring Our Tithes & Offering To The Lord)**

**CATECHISM**        *The Third Article*

Leader:        We learn from our First Reading today that the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to Gentiles as well as to Jews, which includes all the peoples of the world. Let us speak together the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding the Third Person of the Holy Trinity.

**People:**        **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.**

Leader:        What does this mean?

**People:**        **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

**In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.**

**In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.**

**On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.  
This is most certainly true.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Leader:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We thank God for the Church and pray that God's people live confidently and joyfully share the message of salvation in word and deed. Gathered by the Holy Spirit, we pray that we be blessed with all grace and evidence the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Lord, be with us and bless us.

**People** **Loving Father bless your people.**

**Leader:** We pray for our families, especially for mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers on this special day. We ask the blessing of our bounteous God on all those who share in our Christian fellowship and join with us in worship and for all who are part of the household of faith. Also we pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized or shut-in, those who are grieving, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill and shut-in, and all those whose needs are

known to us, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, grant that we bring Your blessing to situations of need in all places.

**People**      **Loving Father bless your people.**

Pastor:      Most merciful God, we thank You for all those faithful people whose words and actions have guided us in the past, especially remembering those no longer with us on earth, who now share in Your eternal presence. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, direct us to walk Your servant way throughout our lives, seeing each person through Your loving eyes, until that day when we stand in Your glorious presence in heaven.

**People:**      **Amen.**

**HYMN**      **“Now Thank We All Our God” TLH 36 St. 1**

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices; who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

**LORD’S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

## **RECOGNITION OF MOTHERS**

Pastor:      Since 1870, the second Sunday in May has been designated as a time to honor mothers in the United States. In more recent times, expressions of appreciation and honor have been extended to grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and all women whose contributions to the well-being of children have enriched society. Through the ages, many women have been remembered and honored by the Church.

## **PRESENTATION**



**BENEDICTION**     *Numbers 6:24–26*

**Pastor:**     The Lord bless you and keep you.  
                  The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
                  The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People:**     **Amen.**

**SOLO**

**Ms. Angela Henderson**

