This Sunday’s image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John’s gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

WELCOME & PRELUDE  Canticle of the Turning
Text: Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney
Tune: Star of the County Down; Irish Traditional; arr. by Rory Cooney

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Let us pray.
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.

READING: Acts 10:44-48
While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
44While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 45The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46for
they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98

Shout to the Lord

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you.

All of my days I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength;

let every breath, all that I am never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King. Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;

forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.

Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965
Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech
Text and music © 1993 Darlene Zschech/Hillong Publishing, admin. in U.S. and Canada by Integrity’s Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

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READING: 1 John 5:1-6

*God’s children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God’s commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

1Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. 2By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, 4for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. 5Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

6This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

A Chair for My Mother  
by Vera Williams

GOSPEL READING: John 15:9-17

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

[Jesus said:] 9“As the Father has loved me, so I have 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. 11I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 12“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.
God of Eve and God of Mary

Refrain

God of Eve and God of Mary,
God of love and mother earth,
Thank you for the ones who with us Shared their life and gave us birth.

Verses

1. As you came to earth in Jesus, So you come to us today;
2. Thank you, that the Church, our Mother, Gives us bread and fills our cup,
3. Thank you for belonging shelter, Bonds of friendship, ties of blood,
4. God of Eve and God of Mary, Christ our brother, human son.

You are present in the caring Spirit, caring like a mother,
And the comfort of the Spirit, And for those who have no children,
That prepares us for life’s way.

Warms our hearts and lifts us up.
Yet are parents under God.
Take our love and make us one.

Tune: FARRELL, 8.7.8.7 with refrain; Thomas J. Porter, b.1958; © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.
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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

... Hear us, ...God:
fill us with your love.

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven
  hallowed be your name.
  Your kingdom come,
  your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
  as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
  and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
  and the power, and the glory are yours,
  now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

God has done marvelous things for us. I invite us, who have been baptized by water and the Spirit, to respond to God’s generosity.

You may give an offering
Online at www.advent-lutheran.org or
Mailed to Advent Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 607, Morgan Hill, CA 95038

PRAYER AT THE OFFERING

Let us pray together.
We remember, O God, your steadfast love and faithfulness. May our hands and voices echo your praise, and may the gifts we offer honor you and lead to a world that sings with joy.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.
HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cell-ing, joy of heav’n, to
earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,
pure, un-bounded love thou art; vis-it us with
thy sal-va-tion, enter ev’ry trem-bl-ing heart.

2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev’ry
troubled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;
its be-ginn-ing, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.

3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy
life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-
more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,
with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.

4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less
let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-
ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,
crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887
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DISMISSAL/POSTLUDE

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!