

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

In God's Time
May 4 & 5, 2013

AS WE GATHER

This is a special week in the life of Christ and in the life of the Church as it bears witness to the risen Lord. In terms of His earthly life, Jesus has less than a week to spend on this planet before His return to heaven on the day we call the Ascension of our Lord. We are well-reminded that God's gracious plan of salvation did not end with the resurrection of Jesus from the grave on Easter morning. The forty days that followed that glorious event witnessed Jesus' continued intervention in the lives of His companions---He shows Himself in public, He blesses His disciples, the faithful women, and countless others. God works beyond the grave in all time and places for the good of His people!

10:30 PRE-SERVICE BELLS *"This is My Father's World" "Blessed Assurance"*

WELCOME

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:25

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #821 "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:

"Jesus out of ev-'ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood."

Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;

Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes, nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received Him When the forty days were o'er,

Shall our hearts forget His promise: "I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;

Alleluia! Here the sinful Flee to You from day to day.

Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea

Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;

Alleluia! Born of Mary, Earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne.

As within the veil You entered, Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,

Here on earth both priest and victim In the Eucharistic feast.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:

"Jesus out of ev-'ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood."

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

People: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

Pastor: Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him;

People: God is a refuge for us. *Psalm 62:8*

Pastor: I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with.

People: He has made everything beautiful in its time. *Ecclesiastes 3:10-11*

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

People: Merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed our own ways and have offended you by ignoring your laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; we have done those things which we ought not to have done. We sincerely repent of our sins. Graciously, hear our confession, gracious Lord, and grant us your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit within us, may we be led to live godly and righteous lives this day and each day to the glory of your holy name.

Pastor: To those who call upon Him with repentant hearts, God has promised forgiveness. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I announce to you the forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

People: Amen.

Pastor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

People: (sung)

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: O God, the giver of all that is good, by your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

FIRST READING Acts 16:9-15 (*Paul's vision and the beginning of the ministry in Macedonia*) During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.

EPISTLE Revelation 21: 9-14, 21-27 (*John's heavenly vision of the eternal city of God*) One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out

of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass. I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

5:00

“Here I Am Lord”

Choir

(Rise)

GOSPEL John 5:1-9 (*Jesus heals a man who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.*) Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?” “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, (Be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #672 *“Jerusalem the Golden” Rise for the last stanza*

Jerusalem the golden, With milk and honey blest-
The promise of salvation, The place of peace and rest-
We know not, oh, we know not What joys await us there;
The radiancy of glory, The bliss beyond compare!

Within those walls of Zion Sounds forth the joyful song,
As saints join with the angels And all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever with them; The daylight is serene;
The city of the blessed Shines bright with glorious sheen.

Around the throne David, The saints, from care released,
Raise loud their songs of triumph To celebrate the feast.
They sing to Christ their leader, Who conquered in the fight,
Who won for them forever Their gleaming robes of white.

O sweet and blessed country, The home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country That faithful hearts expect!
In mercy, Jesus, bring us To that eternal rest
With You and God the Father And Spirit, ever blest.

SERMON *"The Glory of the New Jerusalem"* Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27

(Rise)

CREED The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed and its explanation from
Luther's Small Catechism

People: **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.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you have promised us everlasting life in your glorious new creation of the heavens and the earth.

People: **In the midst of the trials of this life, fill us with hope and peace through looking forward to the life of the world to come.**

Pastor: Eternal Father, strong to save through our victorious Lord Jesus Christ. By your Word and Spirit grant us grace and peace in Christ, that whatever troubles and temptations afflict us in this world of sin and sorrow, we may never forget you or forsake you.

People: **Strengthen us by your grace and compassionate aid, helping us to remain patient and faithful until the day of resurrection.**

Pastor: Merciful Father, in your great love you have given us the gift of neighbors and community. Remember in compassion the cities of our land, that those in authority may deal with crime and corruption, maintaining the services needed to protect and serve their residents.

People: **Graciously give us good and faithful government officials, who hold and administer their offices not to be served, but to serve others. Guide them, we pray, that they may faithfully serve all people for the public good and the honor of your name.**

Pastor: Kind Father, in the days of His ministry among us, our Lord Jesus showed His kindness to those who cried to Him in their distress. Hear the cries of those who suffer and are in need of relief, especially those who are destitute or homeless, those who struggle to provide daily bread for themselves and their families, and those who mourn and remember loved ones, including Dorothy, Pam, Irma's family, Harold, Lee and Judy.

People: **Grant that they may receive the help and assistance they sorely need. Move us, also, to help and assist our neighbors that their daily needs be met.**

Pastor: Good and gracious God, in your fatherly kindness and compassion, you generously and daily provide for all our physical needs, pouring forth all your blessings of creation, without any merit or worthiness in us. In this springtime of the year, cause the earth to spring forth in abundance, providing abundant sunshine and seasonal rains.

People: Bless the farmers in their labors and protect the crops from disease and pestilence, hail and drought, and every kind of danger, that with thankful hearts we may enjoy the harvest of your goodness. Today we also thank you for special blessings, including the birth of a grandson to Ted & Cindy, for Cliff on his 90th birthday, for Wendy & Gary celebrating their anniversary and for the Krahn & Stefanic families.

Pastor: Loving Father, your Son is the Great Physician of our souls. As a sign of your kingdom breaking into this world, He healed many who were sick, injured, maimed and distressed. Extend your healing still over those among us who are sick or facing adversity, especially Jon, Danielle, Dorothy, Bob, Ron, Marga, Eleanor, Diane, David, Carol, Jean, Lois, Sarah, Gerald and Joe.

People: Until you give them deliverance and health, support them with the strength by which your Son bore the cross for us, that they may trust in your never-failing love and grace.

Pastor: Most merciful Father, your Son, our Lord Jesus, by His cross and Passion has made us children of God, reconciled us to you, and taught us to pray to you as dear children ask their dear fathers. Grant us that for which we pray, for we ask it in His name, trusting in your mercy, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI HYMN

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #822 "Alleluia! Let Praises Ring"

Alleluia! Let praises ring! To God the Father let us bring Our songs of adoration.
To Him through everlasting days Be worship, honor, pow'r, and praise,
Whose hand sustains creation. Singing, ringing: Holy, holy, God is holy;
Spread the story Of Our God, the Lord of glory.

Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto the Lamb of God we sing,
In whom we are elected. He bought His Church with His own blood,
He cleansed her in that blessed flood, And as His bride selected.
Holy, holy Is our union And communion.
His befriending Gives us joy and peace unending.

Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto the Holy Ghost we sing For our regeneration,
The saving faith in us He wrought And us unto the Bridegroom brought,
Made us His chosen nation. Glory! Glory! Joy eternal, Bliss supernal;
There is manna And an endless, glad hosanna.

Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto our triune God we sing; Blest be His name forever!
With angel hosts let us adore And sing His praises evermore
For all His grace and favor! Singing, ringing: Holy, holy, God is holy;
Spread the story Of our God, the Lord of glory!

HYMN #680 "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise"

Thine the amen Thine the praise Alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story Thine the harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the life eternally Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree All the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing Gone the pleading gone the cry
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly Thine the yes Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee Thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing Then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.

Thine the kingdom Thine the prize Thine the wonder full surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise Then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory Thine the story Then the welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night No more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree Then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy holy Celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

HYMN #556 "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice"

Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, With exultation springing,
And with united heart and voice And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done, How His right arm the vic-t'ry won.
What price our ransom cost Him!

Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay; Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day; In sin my mother bore me.
But daily deeper still I fell; My life became a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.

My own good works all came to naught, No grace or merit gaining;
Free will against God's judgment fought, Dead to all good remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair Left only death to be my share;
The pangs of hell I suffered.

But God had seen my wretched state Before the world's foundation,
And mindful of His mercies great, He planned for my salvation.
He turned to me a father's heart; He did not choose the easy part
But gave His dearest treasure.

God said to His beloved Son: "It's time to have compassion.
Then go, bright jewel of My crown, And bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free: Slay bitter death for them that they
May live with Your forever."

The Son obeyed His Father's will, Was born of virgin mother;
And God's good pleasure to fulfill, He came to be my brother.
His royal pow'r disguised He bore; A servant's form, like mine, He wore
To lead the devil captive.

To me He said: "Stay close to Me, I am your rock and castle,
Your ransom I Myself will be; For you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours and you are Mine, And where I am you may remain;
The foe shall not divide us.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for having fed us with the
body and blood of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Grant us your
grace, O Lord, that what we have received with our lips we may keep
with pure hearts and so may continue as true members of the Body of
Christ. May we truly treasure that which we have received, joyfully
anticipating the divine fellowship of your eternal kingdom. This we ask
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy
Spirit, bless and preserve you.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #924 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing, Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace,
O refresh us O refresh us, Trav-'ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful To Your truth may we be found.

Savior, when Your love shall call us From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let not fear of death appall us, Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever Reign with You in endless day.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Choir Director
Organist
Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Gregg Stanton
Debbie Ulbing, Pat Graf, Grant Gundersen
Amber Hren, Kyler Hutchins, Cassie Kallas
Nancy Hoelke
Roger Gottschalk
Kim Woller

