

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Always Prepared
May 24 & 25, 2014

AS WE GATHER

We have the certain hope of eternal life through the resurrection promises of our Lord. By faith, received at our Baptism, we are saved. In love for our Savior, we strive to do His will and keep His commandments. Peter encouraged first-century Christians facing persecution to “always [be] prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15). May God grant His children the courage to unapologetically defend His Holy Word in all circumstances. Christ’s message to us for our daily living, teaching, and preaching is paraphrased here by Luther: “What I on earth have done and taught Guide all your life and teaching; So shall the kingdom’s work be wrought And honored in your preaching. But watch lest foes with base alloy The heav’nly treasure should destroy; This final word I leave you.” *LSB 556:10*

WELCOME

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through
The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1:3*

FELLOWSHIP GREETING

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #905 **“Come, Thou Almighty King”** (Rise for last stanza)

Come, Thou Almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing;
Help us to praise; Father all glorious, O’er all victorious,
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword;
Our prayer attend. Come and Thy people bless, And give Thy Word success,
And let Thy righteousness On us descend.

Come, holy Comforter. Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour! Thou, who almighty art, Now rule in ev’ry heart,
And ne’er from us depart, Spirit of pow’r.

To Thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be
Hence evermore! Thy sov’reign majesty May we in glory see,
And to eternity Love adore.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying: God be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.

Pastor: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism you declared us to be your children and gathered us in your one, Holy Church, in which you daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Gloria in Excelsis

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Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

People: (sung)

Lord, God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: 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. Amen.

(Be seated)

10:30 BAPTISM of Madison Gale Vogt

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+ WORD +

FIRST READING Acts 17:16–31 (Paul proclaims the resurrection in Athens.)

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to dispute with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we want to know what they mean.” (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.) Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by man’s design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

EPISTLE 1 Peter 3:13–22 (Suffering for righteousness’ sake) Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.” But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL John 14:15–21 (If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.)

“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN

“Thy Word”

W & R #664

Refrain ***Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.***

When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way, still you’re there right beside me.

And nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end. *Refrain*

I will not forget your love for me, and yet my heart forever is wandering.

Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side; and I will love you to the end. *Refrain*

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SERMON

“A Heart Set Apart”

1 Peter 3:13-22

(Rise)

5:00 & 8:00 APOSTLES' CREED (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS 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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for both spiritual and physical needs, for sure and certain faith to love the Lord and to keep His commands, and for all those facing trials, praying to the Lord with confidence that He will hear and answer us. Holy Spirit, make our hearts Your holy dwelling place, that we may be set apart as God's holy children.

People: **Lead us, guide us, and direct us in all things that we may be prepared to share with others the hope and salvation that is ours in Christ.**

Pastor: Loving Lord, we pray for those who suffer for righteousness' sake, asking that they would be delivered from the fear of their enemies.

People: **In the midst of trial and trouble, bless them to honor Christ as Lord in their hearts.**

Pastor: Lord of the harvest, we pray for boldness to make a faithful witness to Christ, as St. Paul once did in the Areopagus.

People: **Grant us to live out our faith in word and deed, faithfully proclaiming God's truth in a world of deception.**

Pastor: Almighty God, we give You thanks that You graciously enlarge the kingdom of Your Son. We rejoice with the Vogt family as Madison Gale is baptized into Christ.

People: **Grant us to rejoice in Your salvation and grow together in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ as both Savior and Lord.**

Pastor: Lord of the nations, we remember those who have given all for our country and laid the ultimate sacrifice on the altar of freedom. We pray also for those who now wear the uniform of our armed services, praying that they would serve with honor, courage and commitment.

People: **Fill us all with thankfulness for their faithful service this Memorial Day weekend.**

Pastor: Lord of compassion, we pray for the lonely, the destitute and the homeless, that they would trust in the Lord for their daily bread. Make us all to be messengers of God's mercy as we reach out to those around us in need.

People: **Bless our inner cities and those who face the challenges of urban living, that Your gracious presence would give them peace, safety and security.**

Pastor: Lord God, guard and protect those who travel this holiday weekend, that they would be granted safe passage on the land, in the air and by sea.

People: **May their time together with loved ones be filled with joy and blessings.**

Pastor: Lord of healing and hope, we pray for those who have requested our intercession, Richard, Debra, Roy, LuEva, Carol, Susan, Virginia, Dennis, Rosalie, Dorothy, Ruth, Warren, Dorothy, Sarah, Joe. Bless and be with them in their affliction.

People: **Grant them healing, hope and deliverance to Your good and gracious will.**

Pastor: Lord of the church, we pray for all who receive the Lord's Supper today, that they may rightly repent of all sins and rejoice in Your grace and goodness.

People: **Bless those who eat and drink the Savior's body and blood to remember Jesus' great sacrifice, to proclaim His death, and to receive in faith the pledge of future glory.**

Pastor: Father in heaven, we give You thanks and praise for all who departed this life in saving faith,

People: **and we ask that ultimately we might be given our portion with them in the life of the world to come.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

5:00 & 8:00 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

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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.

(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 #700 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n to earth come down!

Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;

Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev’ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev’ry troubled breast;

Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;

End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;

Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,

Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;

Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee,

Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav’n we take our place

Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul” LW #508

Jesus, lover of my soul, Let me to Thy mercy fly

While the nearer waters roll, While the tempest still is high.

Hide me, O my Savior, hide Till the storm of life is past;

Safe into the haven guide. Oh, receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none; Hangs my helpless soul on Thee.

Leave, ah, leave me not alone, Still support and comfort me!

All my trust on Thee is stayed, All my help from Thee I bring;

Cover my defenseless head With the shadow of Thy wing.

Wilt Thou not regard my call, Wilt Thou not accept my prayer?

Lo, I sink, I faint, I fall; Lo, on Thee I cast my care;

Reach me out Thy gracious hand! While I of Thy strength receive,

Hoping against hope I stand, Dying, and behold, I live!

Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in Thee I find.

Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, Heal the sick, and lead the blind.

Just and holy is Thy name; I am all unrighteousness,

False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found, Grace to cover all my sin.

Let the healing streams abound; Make and keep me pure within.

Thou of life the fountain art, Freely let me take of Thee;

Spring Thou up within my heart, Rise to all eternity.

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“I Love to Tell the Story”

CW #562

I love to tell the story Of unseen things above,

Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, Because I know it’s true;

It satisfies my longings As nothing else would do.

*Refrain: I love to tell the story; ’Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.*

I love to tell the story, For those who know it best

Seem hungering and thirsting To hear it like the rest.

And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,

’Twill be the old, old story That I have loved so long. *Refrain*

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COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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.

CLOSING HYMN **“God of Our Fathers”** *LW #501*

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies;
Our grateful songs before your throne arise.

Your love divine has led us in the past; In this free land by you our lot is cast;
Oh, be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.

From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence
Make your strong arm our ever sure defense.
Your true religion in our hearts increase;
Your bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh your people on their toilsome way; Lead us from night to neverending day;
Fill all our lives with heav’n born love and grace
Until at last we meet before your face.

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Preacher	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Lectors	Debbie Ulbing, Jodi Drew, Pam Akey
Acolytes	Abbey Hoffman, Sydney Kadolph, Emma Kallas
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller