

# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 14, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

## AS WE GATHER

We live in a world where we increasingly hear strange ideas. The people we work, play, and live near increasingly consider the truths that our God created this world and redeemed us to be strange. Jesus, Peter, and Paul lived in a world that had some striking similarities to our own. As we live out our Baptism, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to love Jesus and keep His commands. We are urged 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). As we do so, it is easy to fall into the angry, divisive, argumentative patterns that we hear in the political realm. Yet, we are called to share our hope with gentleness and respect, so that we keep a clear conscience and suffer for doing good rather than evil.

## PRESERVICE “Be Not Afraid” -Paul and Betsy

### HYMN “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice” sts. 1–4: *LSB* 556

1 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 vict’ry won.

What price our ransom cost Him!

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

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## INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES *John 14:19b; Acts 17:28; Romans 6:3–4*

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Jesus said, “Because I live, you also will live.”

**People: In Him we live and move and have our being.**

Pastor: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

**People: We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father, seeking His forgiveness through our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

**People: Heavenly Father, creator of all that was, is, and will ever be, we confess to You that we have fallen short of the calling that we have received from You, as Your dearly loved children. We have struggled to share the reason for the hope we have in You. We have not always responded to others with gentleness and respect. We have failed to live and share the love we have first received from You. Forgive our sins for Jesus’ sake, and lead us to live lives that reflect the wonderful calling and identity we have received from You.**

Pastor: Our God hears our prayers and forgives our sins because of Jesus’ perfect life, death, and resurrection. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **People: Amen.**

## INTROIT *Psalms 119:89–93; antiphon: v. 105*

**People: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

Pastor: Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

**People: Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You have established the earth, and it stands fast.**

Pastor: By Your appointment they stand this day, for all things are Your servants.

**People: If Your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.**

Pastor: I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life.

**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.**

**Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

## KYRIE *LSB p. 168*

Leader: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** “This Is the Feast” *LSB p. 171*

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

**People: 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.**

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, You are the Creator of all things in heaven and on earth, and You have claimed and cleansed us to be Your people through the waters of Baptism. By Your Spirit, give us hearts and minds to hear Your Word. Give us eyes and ears to see and listen to our world as You view and hear it. Give us words and actions to share the hope we have in You; through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord, who lives eternally with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**FIRST READING** *Acts 17:16–31* (Paul witnesses about the one true God.) While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babblers wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *Psalms 66:8–20*

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

**People: For You, O God, have tested us; You have tried us as silver is tried.**

Pastor: You brought us into the net; You laid a crushing burden on our backs; You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet You have brought us out to a place of abundance.

**People: I will come into Your house with burnt offerings; I will perform my vows to You, that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.**

Pastor: I will offer to You burnt offerings of fattened animals, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

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

Pastor: I cried to Him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue.

**People: If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.**

Pastor: But truly God has listened; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.

**People: Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me!**

**EPISTLE** *1 Peter 3:13–22* (Be prepared to share your faith with gentleness and respect.) Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 14:15–21* (Jesus is with us, now and forever.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice” sts. 5–7: *LSB* 556

5 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 You forever.”

6 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.

7 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.  
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**SERMON** “An Inspiring View” 1 Peter 3:13–22

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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.

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.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**OFFERING** “That’s What Faith Must Be” -Michael Card

*We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you leave the sanctuary.*

**PREFACE** 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, our God, who created all nations out of one man and have freely offered Your saving grace through Your Son, Jesus, the Second Adam, whom You raised from the dead. Guide us by Your Spirit, who works Your saving work in Baptism, to embrace and accept the words that Jesus speaks as He gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. By Your grace, remind us that we are Your offspring, created and saved by You. Lead us to remember Your boundless love, which is poured out for us again today in the bread and wine that is also Jesus' body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Empower us, in this Sacrament, to live out our baptismal identity as Your children who are known, noticed, and loved by You. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## **SANCTUS**

Holy holy holy Lord  
God of power and might  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who comes  
In the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest  
Hosanna in the highest

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Blessed are You, Creator of heaven and earth, for You have not only created all people but also freely offered Your gift of salvation to all who receive Your love and mercy offered through Jesus' death and resurrection. As Your offspring, we celebrate the gift of salvation that we have through Jesus' redeeming work, as He sacrificed His body and His blood on the cross for us. Bring us together, as those named by You in Baptism, and forgive, renew, and strengthen us by Your Word and Spirit. Lead us to faithfully eat and drink His body and blood as He commands us to do as we celebrate this feast of forgiveness. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD** *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST** *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**PAX DOMINI**

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

**People: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI**

Lamb of God you take away  
All the sin of the world  
Oh Lamb of God have mercy on us  
And grant to us your peace

*You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

"Children of the Heavenly Father" *LSB 725*

1 Children of the heav'nly Father  
Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
Such a refuge e'er was given.

2 God His own doth tend and nourish;  
In His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares them;  
In His mighty arms He bears them.

3 Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

4 Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.  
Text: Public domain

“Built on the Rock” *LSB* 645

1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand  
Even when steeples are falling.  
Crumbled have spires in ev’ry land;  
Bells still are chiming and calling,  
Calling the young and old to rest,  
But above all the souls distressed,  
Longing for rest everlasting.

2 Surely in temples made with hands  
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;  
High above earth His temple stands,  
All earthly temples excelling.  
Yet He who dwells in heav’n above  
Chooses to live with us in love,  
Making our bodies His temple.

3 We are God’s house of living stones,  
Built for His own habitation.  
He through baptismal grace us owns  
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.  
Were we but two His name to tell,  
Yet He would deign with us to dwell  
With all His grace and His favor.

4 Here stands the font before our eyes,  
Telling how God has received us.  
The altar recalls Christ’s sacrifice  
And what His Supper here gives us.  
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim  
Christ yesterday, today, the same,  
And evermore, our Redeemer.

5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,  
That, when the church bells are ringing,  
Many in saving faith may come  
Where Christ His message is bringing:  
“I know My own; My own know Me.  
You, not the world, My face shall see.  
My peace I leave with you. Amen.” Text: Public domain

### **BLESSING**

Pastor: May our Lord’s body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

**People: Amen.**

### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We thank You, our Creator, for providing for all the needs of our bodies and souls. We especially thank You for refreshing us through the gift of Your grace that You give us in this Meal and in our baptism. Strengthen us as Your offspring and lead us to love others like You have loved us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**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.**

**HYMN** “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice” sts. 8–10: *LSB 556*

8 “Though he will shed My precious blood,

Me of My life bereaving,

All this I suffer for your good;

Be steadfast and believing.

Life will from death the vict’ry win;

My innocence shall bear your sin,

And you are blest forever.

9 “Now to My Father I depart,

From earth to heav’n ascending,

And, heav’nly wisdom to impart,

The Holy Spirit sending;

In trouble He will comfort you

And teach you always to be true

And into truth shall guide you.

10 “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.”

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**POSTLUDE** “Shout to the North” -Paul and Betsy

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GENEROSITY THOUGHTS:** *John 14:15* – “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” Jesus is clear: our obedience to His Word comes from our love for Him. But where does that love come from? Jesus tells us that as well: “Her sins, which are many, are forgiven — for she loved much” (Luke 7:47). Christ shows us His love and gives us the forgiveness of our sins, which causes love to well up in us and thereby keep the commandments of Jesus. For after all, the summary of the Law is “love.”

**THANK YOU!** Practical Services wants to send a huge shout out of THANKS to all who worked so hard participating in the Sunday, May 7 Spring Cleaning day. We are not going to call out names of people, due to the risk of leaving someone out, but we are so grateful for **everyone** who grabbed a card with a task on it, picked up the supplies needed to complete that task and within an hour our church had the deep clean done that we do not pay our excellent janitor service to complete on a weekly basis. Also thanks to the Sunday School

staff for keeping the kids longer so we could get more tasks done. Thank all of you again for all your hard work. As said before many hands make light work!

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all who volunteered their time and efforts last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday to make Lenore Hartmann's memorial service and luncheon a meaningful and blessed time for her family and friends. I so enjoyed being with you all as we planned and worked together. We had fun, right? -Pam

**UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION:** With our new photo directory coming up soon, it's time to update your contact information. If you have a new address, phone number, or email, please let Maria know.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** We will be voting on boards and officers for 2023-2024 on Sunday, May 21 after the worship service.

**VOLUNTEER INTEREST - DOWN FOR THE CHALLENGE:** There is still time to indicate your interest. We are looking at reserving spots to assist with the Salvation Army's Down for the Challenge fundraiser at the end of July. If you are interested in helping out handing out water bottles, prepping people who are going to rappel down the Omni Viking Lakes Hotel, or helping with a variety of activities, please sign up in the narthex today. The event will be held Saturday, July 29th and volunteering will be in the afternoon from 12-4. Please connect with Dawn K, Marilyn P or Pam U if you have any questions.

**HEAR "THE LUTHERAN HOUR"** on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week's broadcast: "Responses to Suffering" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Why does God allow suffering? The answer cannot be that God is indifferent or detached from our pain. (1 Peter 4:12)

**ASCENSION SERVICE:** We are excited to invite everyone to a circuit-wide worship service in observance of the Festival of the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ! The service will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17 (Ascension Eve) at Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Avenue in St. Paul. Rev. Steven Bielenberg (Pastor of King of Kings, Roseville) will be preaching. Rev. Dr. Joshua C. Miller (Pastor of Jehovah Lutheran) will preside at Holy Communion. Other pastors from the St. Paul Metro Circuit of LCMS congregations will lead other portions of the service. Jehovah Lutheran's Music Director, Mrs. Elizabeth Wegner is inviting those interested to form a choir. We also invite you to stay after the service for coffee and dessert!

### **Emmaus Photo Directory**

*Photography is this week!!*

*Check out the bulletin insert for tips on getting ready for your professional photography session.*

Emmaus is having a new photo directory made for our 75th anniversary! To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to <https://ucdir.com/schedule/login.php>

Enter **mn332** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Note: church code and password are case sensitive. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time.

**The online scheduling option is not available on the weekends because we will be doing paper sign-ups at church. If you would like to sign up today, please visit the sign-up table in the narthex.**

## **Do Even More as a Community**

Agate Services is invested in the work to end homelessness and relieve hunger. They never have enough snack packs, even though the largest donation of snack packs was 800! Do Good Roseville wants to beat that. Their goal is to collect enough donations to make 1000 (!) snack packs by the end of May. In order to do this, they need donations of the following:

- Beef jerky
- Pudding cups
- Small cracker packs
- Granola bars
- Fruit snacks
- Bottled water
- Trail mix
- Small cookie packs

Donations are being collected by Jeena at Namaste Brows and Boutique, 1718B Lexington Ave N. They are open Monday through Saturday from 10 to 6, and Sunday from noon to 5. Drop off donations anytime they are open!