



**COMMUNITY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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Sunday, May 21, 2017  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Holy Communion

#### **WELCOME**

We welcome you to our worship service this morning. We pray that you will leave refreshed by the hearing of God's Word and the fellowship of this community.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

*Jesus does not leave his followers orphaned. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.*

#### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

#### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (ELW p. 97)**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Just as God's work of creation never ends,  
so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day.  
Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.  
We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life:  
for water to bathe in, water to drink,

for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder,  
for water that gives life to our planet.

**We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.**

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place:  
for water from our tap, for rain [and snow],  
for [*local water sources may be named*].

**We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.**

We give you thanks for your salvation through water:  
for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters,  
for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom,  
for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought,  
for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land,  
for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

**We give you thanks for your salvation through water.**

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized,  
and for all who gather here;  
for godparents and baptismal sponsors,  
for children and grandchildren,  
for our brothers and sisters in Christ  
whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

**We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.**

We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit:  
for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters,  
for our new birth into a life of freedom and service,  
for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

**We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG:** *Come, Thou Almighty King* (ELW 408)

## **GREETING**

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The grace of our 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**

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### **FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31**

A reading from Acts.

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.*

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20**

<sup>8</sup>Bless our God, you peoples;

let the sound of praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup>**Our God has kept us among the living  
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

<sup>11</sup>**You brought us into the net;  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

<sup>12</sup>You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.  
<sup>13</sup>**I will enter your house with burnt offerings  
and will pay you my vows—**  
<sup>14</sup>those that I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.  
<sup>15</sup>**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;  
I will give you oxen and goats.**  
<sup>16</sup>Come and listen, all you who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has done for me.  
<sup>17</sup>**I called out to God with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**  
<sup>18</sup>If I had cherished evil in my heart,  
the Lord would not have heard me;  
<sup>19</sup>**but in truth God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**  
<sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

A reading from 1 Peter.

*Christians have a zeal for doing what is right in God's eyes no matter what the circumstances because in baptism we are saved and made alive. Thus our Christian beliefs and behavior are to be a matter of public record just as our baptism is.*

<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, 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, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to John.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* (ELW 596)

## APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Draw your whole church together as one. Bring an end to division. Send your Spirit into your people and rouse us to greater love and mission. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the earth. For scientists, photographers, and explorers. For scholars, poets, musicians, artists, and all who lead us to greater knowledge and appreciation of beauty. For lakes and rivers, watersheds and wetlands, ponds and oceans. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations. Give wisdom to those who govern. Strengthen all who work for peace. Protect those who have been displaced or have left their homes in search of safety and freedom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in need. For those who suffer abuse or neglect. For those who suffer post-traumatic stress. For those who struggle with addiction. For those who grieve and all who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this assembly. Bless those preparing for baptism and affirmation of baptism. Strengthen our ministries of evangelism, outreach, and pastoral care. Deepen our faith and knowledge of you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died (*especially Helena, the mother of Constantine*). Inspire us by their witness to your love. Bring us into your eternal presence to live with you forever. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

**OFFERING SONG:** *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

# Create in Me a Clean Heart

*Offering Song*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the upper staff.

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second system of music continues the melody from the first system. It features similar rhythmic patterns and chordal accompaniment. The lyrics are placed below the upper staff.

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third system of music continues the melody. The lyrics are placed below the upper staff.

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

The fourth system of music continues the melody. The lyrics are placed below the upper staff.

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The fifth and final system of music concludes the piece. The lyrics are placed below the upper staff.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

*After the table is set, the assisting minister may lead one of the following or a similar prayer.*

Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,  
as you were made known to the disciples.  
Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives,  
that we may be your risen body in the world.  
**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.  
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff the second line, the third staff the third line, and the fourth staff the final line. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for a church service.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy,

and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died, Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

Our congregation participates in and partakes of the Lord's Supper during our worship service each week. All who have been baptized and profess a faith in Jesus Christ as risen Lord are welcome to commune with us, regardless of denomination, age, or church background. Children who may be too young to receive communion are invited to receive a blessing from the pastor. Grape juice is available in the center of our serving trays for those who prefer it.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.*

We who are many are one body, for we partake of the one bread. Come.  
Be filled with light and life.

*The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.*

## COMMUNION

Gluten free bread is being used for communion.

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and each person may respond*

**Amen.**

**COMMUNION SONG** *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

**Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.  
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen**

**SENDING SONG:** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* (ELW 547)

**DISMISSAL**

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