+ Holy Cross Lutheran Church +

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Pastor Mark Huston 903-603-5071

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Divine Service, Setting Two

As We Gather

It is almost the end of the Easter Season, and we would like it to continue. The non-festival half of the Church Year doesn't seem as, well, festive. But listen to the Readings! There are people, like Paul in the Reading from Acts, who need support today. And Lydia is an example of a new Christian, ready to help. The vision in Revelation showed John's readers the perfect city, ready to welcome all whose names are in the Book of Life (that's us)! We can hardly wait to get there.

May 25, 2025

In the meantime, there's no time to lose. "Ask," Jesus tells us in the Gospel, "and you will receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24). You see, even now He is with us. What would you like to ask Him?

844 Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace



Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- **P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Introit

Service of the Word

Psalm 55:4, 16–18; antiphon: v. 22

Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sus- tain you;*

- P Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sus- | tain you;*
 he will never permit the righteous to | be moved.
- My heart is in anguish with- | in me;* the terrors of death have fallen up- | on me.
- But I | call to God,* and the LORD will | save me.
- Evening and morning and at noon I utter my com- | plaint and moan,* and he | hears my voice.
- P He redeems my soul in safety from the battle | that I wage,* for many are arrayed a- | gainst me.
- Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sus- | tain you;* he will never permit the righteous to | be moved.

Kyrie LSB 168

- **P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- 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.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.





Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

Sit

First Reading Acts 16:9–15

The First Reading is from Acts, chapter 16.

⁹A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹¹So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. ¹³And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle *Revelation* 21:9–14, 21–27

R The Epistle is from Revelation, chapter 21.

⁹Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹²It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— ¹³on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. . . .

²¹And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

²²And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

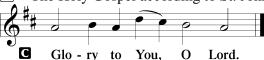
Stand

Alleluia and Verse LSB 173



Holy Gospel John 16:23–33

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter.



[P] ²³[Jesus said:] "In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

²⁵"I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

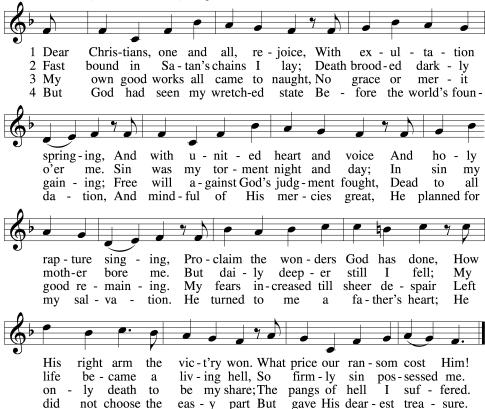
²⁹His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." ³¹Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³²Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

556 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice



- 5 God said to His belovèd 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."
- 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.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt. Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, 1524, Wittenberg Text and tune: Public domain

- 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.
- "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."

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man: and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, our heavenly Father, You never refuse the cries of Your children. In the name of our Lord Jesus, we ask for help and protection and for the good of our families, our neighbors and rulers, our brothers and sisters in Christ, our pastors, and our overseers. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C hear our prayer.
- Lord, as Paul preached the Word to the Macedonians, so You desire all people to hear the Gospel. We pray for the saving peace of Christ among the nations, both here and throughout the world. Call and equip pastors, missionaries and church workers to serve Your Church in Christ's name. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Heavenly Father, direct and enrich the efforts of the faithful women of Your Church. Make them eager and wise in good works, serving the ministry of the Church as faithful Lydia served the mission of St. Paul. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- Almighty God, give wisdom to our leaders and government, that they may lead with integrity and according to Your perfect will. Protect police officers, emergency personnel, disaster-relief workers and the members of our armed forces as they serve in our defense and for the well-being of all. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- Merciful Lord, You hear our prayers for the sake of Your dear Son, Jesus. In His name, we cast our burdens upon You [especially those of ______]. Sustain us in the midst of terror and trial, and hear us as we cry out to You. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Lord, You graciously provide us with the gift of Christ's true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Grant us repentance and faith as we commune this day, that we may receive for our good His precious gifts. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Into Your hands, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Sit



Welcome to our Visitors

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

For further study. see Matthew 5:23f.: 10:32f.: 18:15–35: 26:26–29: and 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.

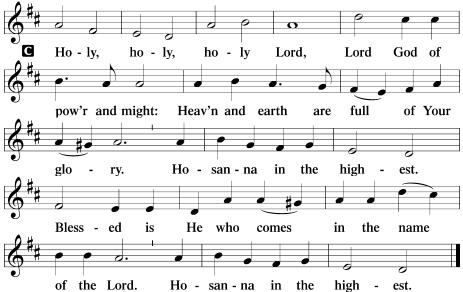
Service of the Sacrament

Preface LSB 177

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. 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 LSB 178



Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. 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.

C Amen.

LSB 179

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

The Words of Our Lord

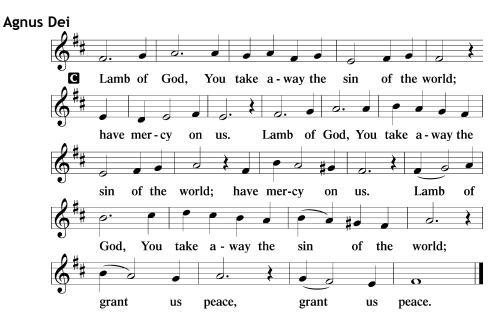
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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."

LSB 180

Pax Domini LSB 180

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



Sit

Distribution

769 Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ



766 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above



- 5 Give us this day our daily bread,
 And let us all be clothed and fed.
 Save us from hardship, war, and strife;
 In plague and famine, spare our life,
 That we in honest peace may live,
 To care and greed no entrance give.
- 6 Forgive our sins, Lord, we implore,
 That they may trouble us no more;
 We, too, will gladly those forgive
 Who hurt us by the way they live.
 Help us in our community
 To serve each other willingly.
- 7 Lead not into temptation, Lord, Where our grim foe and all his horde Would vex our souls on ev'ry hand. Help us resist, help us to stand Firm in the faith, a mighty host, Through comfort of the Holy Ghost.

8 From evil, Lord, deliver us; The times and days are perilous. Redeem us from eternal death, And, when we yield our dying breath, Console us, grant us calm release, And take our souls to You in peace.

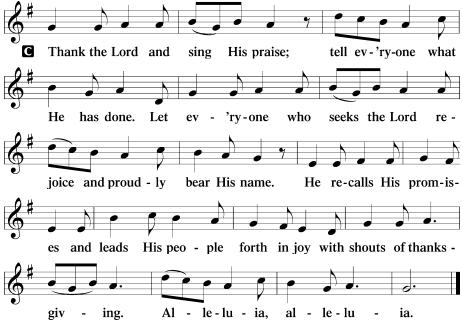
Amen, that is, so shall it be. Make strong our faith in You, that we May doubt not but with trust believe That what we ask we shall receive. Thus in Your name and at Your Word We say, "Amen, O hear us, Lord!"

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1, 6, 8–9): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (sts. 2–5, 7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, alt. Tune: attr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Text (sts. 1, 6, 8–9): Public domain Text (sts. 2–5, 7): © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219

Tune: Public domain

Stand

Thank the Lord LSB 181



Post-Communion Collect

Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen. \mathbf{C}

Benediction LSB 183

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.

 \mathbf{C} Amen.

490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won



Announcements

Adult Sunday School is at 9am on Sunday mornings studying Deuteronomy.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory.

The Ladies Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 10am studying Job.

Church Council next meeting is Jun 8 at 8am.

Semiannual Voters Assembly next meets Jun 8 after service.

The next Men's Breakfast and Bible Study is Sat. June 14 at 9am.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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