



Lutheran Church of the Covenant
Maple Heights, OH

Sixth Sunday of Easter

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant welcomes you to worship!
Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life together!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary.
We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!

Portions marked with * are when we invite you to stand as you are able to do so. There will not be a separate time for an offering, so a basket is placed in the back for those who wish to support our local ministry as well as the wider church.

A children’s table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you’ll find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in worship.

Our Worship Leaders & Staff

Presiding Minister	Rev. Andrea McDonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Lector	Harry Werner
Reader	Barb Gaglione
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vince Besednjak





All Gathered Together
Pentecost Sunday, June 8th

10:00 Am Joint Worship @ Covenant-- **Wear Red!**

11:00 AM Potluck and Service project

Bring a dish that reflects your family heritage, or an international favorite! Dishes can be brought to the Fellowship Hall before worship.

Our churches will be making care packages to deliver to our neighbors in Maple Heights and Bedford, including the Fire and Police Departments and area businesses that serve the community. We will assemble the packages before we eat that day and then deliver them to the community.

WE NEED donations of items for the care packages (or monetary donations to purchase items). Think small and easy individual treats: candy, snacks, mints, granola bars, chips, candy, etc. Items can be brought to church until June 8th and placed in the labeled box in the sanctuary (Covenant) or narthex (Master).

WE ALSO NEED people to deliver the packages to our neighbors. They can be delivered any time during the week. Deliverers will receive information and directions. A signup sheet is out at both churches, or you can let Pastor Andrea know.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:00 a.m. May 25, 2025

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

***Confession & Forgiveness**

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!

On this Memorial Day weekend, let us offer our confession to all our neighbors, and the God of all creation.

O God of peace, you knew us from before we were formed in our mother's womb. **Forgive us when we only have good intentions and do not commit ourselves to concrete action for peace and justice. Grant that our actions and our words may always promote peace.**

O God of justice, you judge our human race with mercy. **Forgive us when we allow your image in us to be marred as we remain passive in face of violence and exclusion. Grant that our actions and our words may always promote peace.**

O God of love, you have created humankind to be one great family. **Forgive our inability to be reconciled with others, both our dear ones and our enemies. Grant that our actions and our words may always promote peace.**

O God of grace, you have given us the gift of speech to be an instrument for change. **Forgive us for the times when we have spoken too hastily without thinking of the consequences, or have remained silent out of fear or indifference. Grant that our actions and our words may always promote peace.**

O God of life, you have placed us on this earth to tend and watch over it. **Forgive us when we have failed to care for your world, the home of our ancestors and of our descendants. Help us to promote life and seek peace. Grant that our actions and our words may always promote peace.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive, risen together with Christ. By grace we have been saved and our sins ? forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. **Amen.**

***Gathering Song: O God Of Every Nation ELW# 713**
(next page)

***Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Live in love and serve the Lord, for God is ever present.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:

Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Joan Clarke, Bruce Constant, Chuck Dickey, Olive Evanofski, Bill Flick, Barbara Fossa, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Linda Johnson, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Barbara Mingee, Phyllis Nemeth, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Jean Rusher, Barb Toth, Maud Wright, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

Last Week

General Fund receipts for week ending 5/18/2025:\$867.00

Sending Hymn: We Are Marching In The Light of God ELW #866

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the

nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

*Additional stanzas ad lib.:
We are dancing ...
We are praying ...
We are singing ...*

1 O God of ev - 'ry na - tion, of ev - 'ry race and land,
2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
3 Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that all may find re - lease
4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;
from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
when hope and cour - age fal - ter, Lord, let your voice be heard;
till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and love shall reign,

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
de - liv - er ev - 'ry na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

***Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the com-
munion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

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.

*Post-Communion Prayer

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

*Blessing

Let us go with Jesus, the light who guides us on our way. May our hope be that the Sun of Justice will rise one morning on all human-kind.

May the God of Peace, our constant companion, lead us along paths of solidarity and hope, and bless us with the joy of being united in God's love. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

***Invitation to Communion**

Communion Hymn

***Hymn of Praise**

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

*Prayer of the Day

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Moment

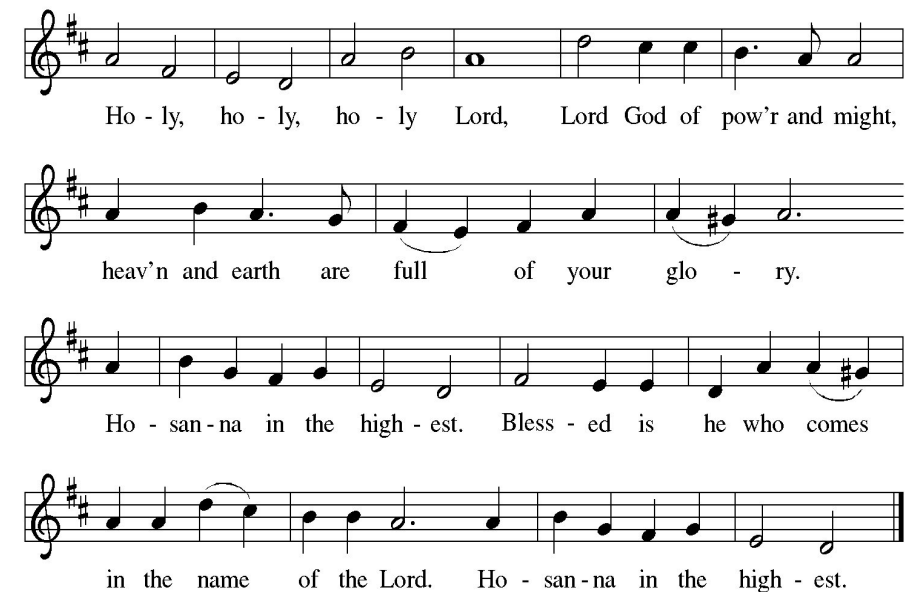
First Reading: Acts 16:9-15

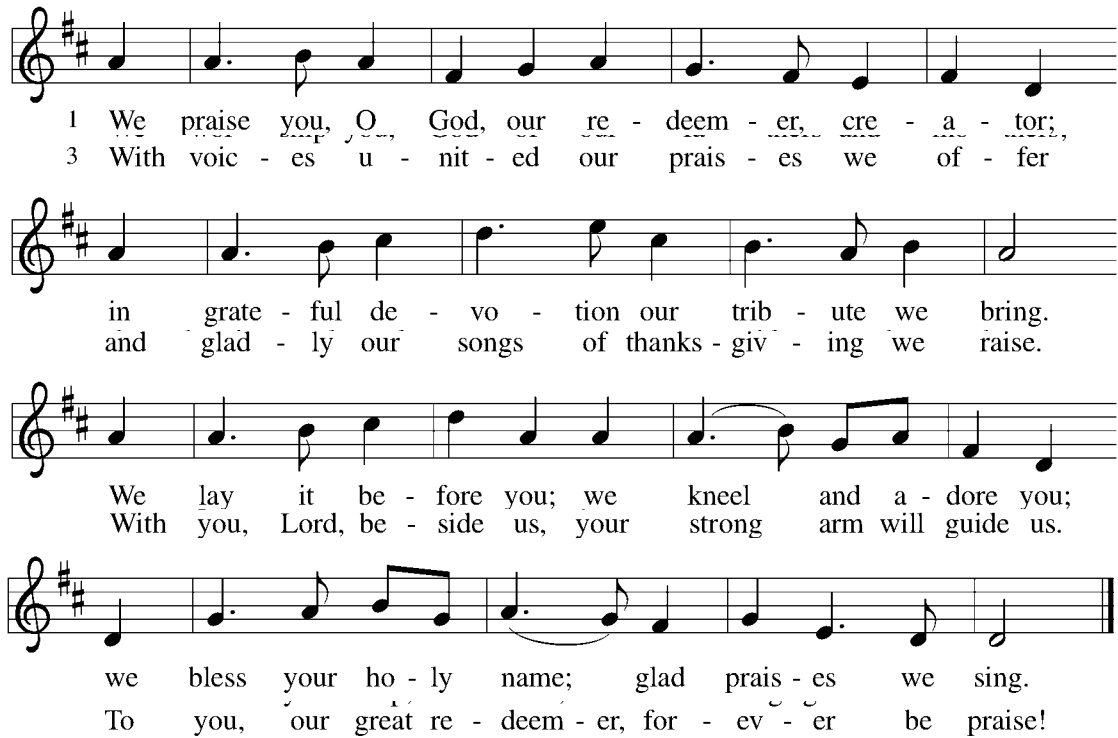
⁹ During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹ We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³ On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Holy God, we praise you for your love: bringing order out of chaos, breathing life into dust, leading captives into freedom, consuming false idols with holy fire, calling wandering children home, giving bread to the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, raising the dead to life. Therefore we join our voices with saints and angels and all the faithful of every time and place, singing,

Sanctus





1 We praise you, O, God, our re-deem-er, cre-a-tor;
3 With voices u-nit-ed our prais-es we of-fer

in grate-ful de-vo-tion our trib-ute we bring.
and glad-ly our songs of thanks-giv-ing we raise.

We lay it be-fore you; we kneel and a-dore you;
With you, Lord, be-side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho-ly name; glad prais-es we sing.
To you, our great re-deem-er, for-ev-er be praise!

*Offering Prayer

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as 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 up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 67

- ¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.
- ² **Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**
- ³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na-
tions on earth.**
- ⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**
- ⁷ May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Reading: Revelation 21:10, 22–22:5

¹⁰ And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.


²² I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ People will bring into it

the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.^{22:}


¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴ they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

Soothe loved ones who mourn and strengthen support systems for veterans and their families. Help us, who today remember the cost of war, to work for a better tomorrow. Bring peace among nations, that war and conflict around the world might cease. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for all your saints raised to new life in Christ. Gather us, with them, into the peace only you can give. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Music Interlude

The Offertory Hymn: *We Praise You O God* ELW #870

(next page)

Prayers of the People

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Unite your people with communities of faith throughout the world. Further cooperation between people of different faith traditions and bless our non-Christian neighbors, that we learn and grow in deeper relationship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bless the earth with fresh water, clean air, and rich soil. Nurture growing crops and encourage communities developing sustainable farming practices. Help us to live in balance and harmony with all your good creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reconcile nations and communities suffering from violence and conflict. Protect refugees, asylum-seekers, and all who flee their homes seeking safety and security. Make all nations safe for both migrants and residents. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sustain all who are in need, especially individuals and families struggling with trauma or addiction. Support caregivers, especially nurses, doctors, counselors, and social workers. Come alongside all who are ill or struggling. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

This Memorial Day weekend, we remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives have been taken away in wars and conflicts, past and present. We pray for the wounded and the disturbed, the grieving and the homeless, and for all who suffer due to war and conflict. We pray for women, children, and men whose lives are disfigured by war and violence, and for peacemakers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and safe.

*Gospel: John 5:1-9

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

¹ After this there was a Jewish festival, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

² Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. ³ In these lay many ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed people. ⁵ One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" ⁷ The ill man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way someone else steps down ahead of me." ⁸ Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." ⁹ At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a Sabbath.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *Just As I Am, Without One Plea

ELW#792



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

***Apostles 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.