**Sixth Sunday of Easter**



**May 17, 2020**

**Messiah Lutheran Church**

**Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**

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**WELCOME TO MESSIAH ONLINE!**

Welcome to on-line worship.  God has reminded us that the Church is not a building, but a people.  It is more often scattered than it is gathered, yet we are always one in Christ Jesus.  Due to the recent COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, we have moved all services to the online digital platform.  Please practice physical distancing, but continue to call, connect, and check-in with each other! Together we can slow the spread of COVID-19 and still be encouraged; our community needs the hope we have in Christ.  God walks with us. He will overcome! You can listen to the most current service as well as any previously recorded services. The sermon is available in text, audio, and video. Follow the appropriate links on our homepage and choose  the date. Holy Communion will be scheduled at your convenience. Feel free to call the office at any time for assistance as calls will be forwarded to the secretary. Stay safe and care for each other. May God surround you with His richest blessings.

**Preparing for Service**

***The Lord Jesus Comforts Us with the Preaching of His Resurrection***

*“The God who … gives to all mankind life and breath and everything”* (Acts 17:24–25) wants all people to seek Him that they might *“feel their way toward him and find him”* (Acts 17:27). But in our sinful ignorance, we humans turn instead to idols *“formed by the art and imagination of man”* (Acts 17:29). Therefore, God appointed the Man of Righteousness, Jesus Christ, and *“has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead”* (Acts 17:31). Because He lives, we also live (John 14:19) in His forgiveness, and thus we love Him and keep His commandments (John 14:15). While the risen Lord prepares us for His ascension, He will not leave us *“as orphans”* (John 14:18), but He gives *“another Helper,”* the Holy Spirit, to be with us forever (John 14:16) through the preaching of *“Jesus and the resurrection”* (Acts 17:18). Because He *“suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous”* (1 Peter 3:18), we *“honor Christ the Lord as holy”* and are always *“prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks”* for the reason for our hope (1 Peter 3:15). Our Baptism *“now saves”* us *“as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”* (1 Peter 3:21).

Divine Service, Setting I

# Opening Hymn **God Himself Is Present 907**

1 God Himself is present:  
 Let us now adore Him  
 And with awe appear before Him.  
God is in His temple;  
 All within keep silence;  
 Humbly kneel in deepest rev’rence.  
He alone  
On His throne  
 Is our God and Savior;  
 Praise His name forever!

2 God Himself is present:  
 Hear the harps resounding;  
 See the hosts the throne surrounding.  
“Holy, holy, holy!”  
 Hear the hymn ascending,  
 Songs of saints and angels blending.  
Bow Your ear  
To us here:  
 Hear, O Christ, the praises  
 That Your Church now raises.

3 Fount of ev’ry blessing,  
 Purify my spirit,  
 Trusting only in Your merit.  
Like the holy angels,  
 Worshiping before You,  
 May I ceaselessly adore You.  
Let Your will  
Ever still  
 Rule Your Church terrestrial  
 As the hosts celestial.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION pg. 151

**Invocation**

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**Exhortation**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**Confession of Sins**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **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.**

**Absolution**

P 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.**

**Service of the Word**

**KYRIE pg. 186**

**C** **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**SALUTATION & COLLECT pg. 156**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P 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.**

# **FIRST READING Acts 17:16-31 (ESV)**

**16**Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. **17**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. **18**Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. **19**And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? **20**For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” **21**Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

**22**So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. **23**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. **24**The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, **25**nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. **26**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, **27**that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, **28**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.’

**29**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. **30**The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, **31**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.

# **SECOND READING 1 Peter 3:13-22  (ESV)**

**13**Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? **14**But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, **15**but in your hearts honor 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,

**16**having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. **17**For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

**18**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, **19**in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, **20**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. **21**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, **22**who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

**GOSPEL READINGS John 21:15-17 (ESV)**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twenty-first chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

**15**When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” **16**He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” **17**He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**NICENE CREED pg. 159**

**C 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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY You Are the Way; through You Alone 526

1 You are the way; through You alone  
 Can we the Father find;  
In You, O Christ, has God revealed  
 His heart and will and mind.

2 You are the truth; Your Word alone  
 True wisdom can impart;  
You only can inform the mind  
 And purify the heart.

3 You are the life; the empty tomb  
 Proclaims Your conqu’ring arm,  
And those who put their trust in You  
 Not death nor hell shall harm.

4 You are the way, the truth, the life;  
 Grant us that way to know,  
That truth to keep, that life to win  
 Whose joys eternal flow.

SERMON *“Reconciliation”*

**OFFERING**

OFFERTORY HYMN Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way 857

1 Lord, help us walk Your servant way  
 Wherever love may lead  
And, bending low, forgetting self,  
 Each serve the other’s need.

2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord,  
 But pow’r You laid aside.  
You lived Your years in servanthood;  
 In lowliness You died.

3 No golden scepter but a towel  
 You place within the hands  
Of those who seek to follow You  
 And live by Your commands.

4 You bid us bend our human pride  
 Nor count ourselves above  
The lowest place, the meanest task  
 That waits the gift of love.

5 Lord, help us walk Your servant way  
 Wherever love may lead  
And, bending low, forgetting self,  
 Each serve the other’s need.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH pg. 159

**Service of the Sacrament**

**PREFACE pg. 160**

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.**

P 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 pg. 161**

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING pg. 161**

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.**

**LORD’S PRAYER** **pg. 162**

***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 pg. 162**

**P 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 T 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 T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”**

**PAX DOMINI pg. 163**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI pg. 163**

**C** **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, grant us peace.**

DISTRIBUTION O Lord, We Praise Thee 617

1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,  
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.  
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish  
Our weak souls that they may flourish:  
O Lord, have mercy!  
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,  
That our sins and sorrows did carry,  
And Thy blood for us plead  
In all trial, fear, and need:  
 O Lord, have mercy!

2 Thy holy body into death was given,  
Life to win for us in heaven.  
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;  
May this feast thereof remind us!  
 O Lord, have mercy!  
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee  
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.  
All our debt Thou hast paid;  
Peace with God once more is made:  
 O Lord, have mercy!

3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor  
That we follow Christ our Savior  
And live together here in love and union  
Nor despise this blest Communion!  
 O Lord, have mercy!  
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;  
Grant that heav’nly-minded He make us;  
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see  
Days of peace and unity:  
 O Lord, have mercy!

THANK THE LORD pg. 164

**C** **Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**POST COMMUNION COLLECT pg. 166**

P Let us pray.

P Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord’s resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus us Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**BENEDICTION pg. 166**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

CLOSING HYMN Go, My Children, with My Blessing 922

1 Go, My children, with My blessing,  
 Never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you;  
 You are My own.  
 In My love’s baptismal river  
 I have made you Mine forever.  
Go, My children, with My blessing—  
 You are My own.

2 Go, My children, sins forgiven,  
 At peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you,  
 What I can cure.  
 Here you heard My dear Son’s story;  
 Here you touched Him, saw His glory.  
Go, My children, sins forgiven,  
 At peace and pure.

3 Go, My children, fed and nourished,  
 Closer to Me;  
Grow in love and love by serving,  
 Joyful and free.  
 Here My Spirit’s power filled you;  
 Here His tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, My children, fed and nourished,  
 Joyful and free.

5 In this union I have joined you  
 Husband and wife,  
Now, My children, live together  
 As heirs of life:  
 Each the other’s gladness sharing,  
 Each the other’s burdens bearing,  
Now, My children, live together  
 As heirs of life.

4 I the Lord will bless and keep you  
 And give you peace;  
I the Lord will smile upon you  
 And give you peace:  
 I the Lord will be your Father,  
 Savior, Comforter, and Brother.  
Go, My children; I will keep you  
 And give you peace.

SILENT PRAYER/DISMISSAL