



Drawing by Jon Hlafter

The Lutheran Church of the Messiah

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Martin K. Erhardt, *Pastor*

Janice Hofreiter, *Organist*

Paul C. Hofreiter, *Choir Director*

John Mark Goerss, D. Min., *Pastor Emeritus*

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

Prayer upon entering: O God, from whom all good things come: Lead us by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit to think those things which are right, and by your goodness help us to do them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Guests, welcome! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Erhardt, sign our guest book next to the main doors, and let us know how we can serve you. Bibles are available on a shelf in the back of the nave. Kneelers and large-print bulletins are available from the ushers upon request. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join us here at Messiah.

Worship begins with the prelude and continues through the postlude. Once the prelude begins, please refrain from conversation. We use two hymnals: the green *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW) and the blue paperback *With One Voice* (wov). Hymn numbers below 600 are generally in LBW; above 600, in wov. The pastor's parts (spoken and sung) are designated "P:." Parts spoken or sung by the congregation are italicized, prefaced by "C:." The liturgy text and music are in the LBW on the pages noted in this service folder.

Holy Communion: Lutheran Christians celebrate a divine service of Word and sacrament in which God comes to us both in his proclaimed Word and in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We invite to commune at the Lord's table all baptized Christians who with contrite hearts trust God's word of forgiveness for their sins, acknowledge the presence of Jesus Christ both in the communion elements and in this gathered body of believers, and seek, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to follow Jesus and walk in newness of life. If this doesn't describe you, we invite you to come to the altar rail to receive a blessing instead of the communion elements. Indicate this by folding your arms across your chest at the rail. All are invited to bring their children forward for a blessing.

Individual cups are available in addition to the chalice (the common cup). The tray with individual cups includes wine on the outer edge and non-alcoholic grape juice in the center. Gluten-free wafers are also available upon request from the bread server at the communion rail. All are invited to bring their children forward for a blessing.

Families with young children: Welcome! We have children's activity backpacks in the back of the church for use during the service, as well as an unstaffed nursery on the stage downstairs. Feel free to ask an usher for help locating them. The stairs are at the back of the sanctuary.

Confession and Forgiveness

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.

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

P: Let us, therefore, confess our sins to God.

Please kneel or sit for silent reflection and confession.

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. 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

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen*

Order of Holy Communion

Setting II (LBW p. 78)

Opening Hymn

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

LBW 257

Apostolic Greeting

2 Corinthians 13:14

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: *And also with you.*

Kyrie

pp. 78-79

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.*

P: 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*

Hymn of Praise

pp. 81–82

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

C: *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.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: *Faithful God, make our hearts bold with love for one another. Pour out your Spirit upon us and renew our faith, that we may sing with joy the song of your marvelous victory. Amen*

Please be seated for the scripture readings printed on the last two pages of this service folder.

First Lesson

Acts 10:44-48

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 98

p. 262

Second Lesson

1 John 5:1-6

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem

Thy Matchless Love

Music : Alfred V. Fedak

Text: John Brownlie

Let thy blood in mercy poured, let thy gracious body broken,
be to me, O gracious Lord of thy boundless love the token.
Thou didst thyself for me, now I give myself to thee.

Thou didst die that I might live; blessed Lord, thou cam'st to save me;
all that love of God could give Jesus by his sorrows gave me.
Thou didst give thyself for me, now I give myself to thee.

By the thorns that crowned thy brow, by the spear wound and the nailing,
by the pain and death I now claim, O Christ, thy love unfailing.
Thou didst give thyself for me, now I give myself to thee.

Wilt thou own the gift I bring? All my penitence I give thee;
thou art my exalted King, of thy matchless love forgive me.
Thou didst give thyself to me, now I give myself to thee.

Verse (please stand):

John 6:68 (p. 83)

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

C (sung): Glory to you, O Lord.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C (*sung*): Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon Even on the Gentiles?!

Hymn of the Day Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service LBW 423

Creed (Nicene) Spoken in unison

C: *We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, light from light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.*

(continued on the next page)

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen*

The Prayers of the People

P: Rejoicing in our Lord's victory over death and the grave, let us call upon
God our Father, for his help and deliverance.

After each prayer or petition,

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

P: All this we ask, Father, in the name of Jesus our risen Savior, who has
conquered death and the grave. Because He lives, we also shall live. Fill us
with your Holy Spirit to spread this good news abroad as ambassadors of
your present and coming kingdom.

C: *Amen*

The Sharing of the Peace

p. 86

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

C: *And also with you.*

Please exchange a greeting of peace with your neighbors, then be seated.

Gathering of Offerings

pp. 86–87

As the offerings are brought forward, please stand and sing:

C: *Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.*

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

P: Let us pray.

Merciful Father,

C: *we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

The Great Thanksgiving

p. 88

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 indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his 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:

Sanctus

p. 89

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might: Heaven 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

pp. 89–91

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

C: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

P: Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

C (sung, p.91): Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to say:

C: *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*

Agnus Dei: Lamb of God

p. 92

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.

Once the pastor says, "Welcome to the table of the Lord," please sit.

Because Communion is important, please read and follow our Communion policy, printed on p. 2 of this service folder. Feel free to bring your hymnal and continue to sing. If you are not communing, you are invited to come forward to receive a blessing, but feel no pressure to do so. If you do come forward for a blessing (only), indicate this by folding your arms across your chest when you kneel at the altar rail. When the pastor dismisses you, please return to your seat by the center aisle. If you would like Communion brought to your seat, please raise your hand to alert the pastor.

Communion Hymn

For Perfect Love So Freely Spent

LBW 216

O Bread of Life from Heaven

LBW 222

After all have returned to their places, the pastor says: (please stand)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
in his grace.

C: *Amen*

Post-Communion Cantic

pp. 92–93

C: *Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let everyone who seeks 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 Prayer

p. 94

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: *Amen*

Benediction

p. 94

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: *Amen*

Postlude

By Grace I'm Saved

Setting: Paul W. Hofreiter

Announcements

P: Christ is risen!

All: *He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

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Thank you to today's Temple Servants

Acolyte	Charles Loughery
Reader	Charles Loughery
Ushers	Don Meyer and Hans Henkes
Fellowship Host	Carolyn Gishlick
Chancel	Pastor Erhardt
Offering Counter	Jeff Frole
Livestream	Mark von Bargaen

This coming week

Wed	7:30 PM	Choir
Thu	Ascension Day	
Sun	9:00 AM	Christian Education
Sun	10:30 AM	Service of Word and Sacrament
Sun	12:15 PM	Voters Meeting

Next Sunday (Ascension)

Acts 1:1-11 • Psalm 47 • Ephesians 1:15-23 • Luke 24:44-53

Opening Hymn: My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker (LBW 519)

Hymn of the Day: Up through Endless Ranks of Angels (LBW 159)

Communion Hymn: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (LBW 158)

Adult Forum meets at 9am each Sunday in the parish building library.

Please join us! Current series: *In the Wilderness: Numbers 9-29*

Voters Meeting: Sunday, May 12, at 12:15 PM

Messiah members, please plan to attend this important meeting, at which we will elect church officers to serve in the following positions in the coming year: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and on the Board of Trustees and the Board of Social Ministry.

Libby and Joseph Luigs welcomed Monica Elsa Luigs on April 3 at 12:33pm.

If you'd like to make them a meal, a friend of theirs at Princeton Seminary has made a meal schedule for them at this link: mealtrain.com/7zdrzn. If you'd prefer to sign up on paper, there's a sign-up sheet on the back pew.

Available on the back pew:

- (1) May/June 2024 edition of the *Messiah Messenger*
- (2) Meal sign-up sheet for the Luigs family
- (3) Portals of Prayer devotion booklets (April-June)
- (4) February - May 2024 Temple Servant schedule

Prayer Corner

We remember in our prayers:

- The Stroebel family (grieving the recent death of Lewis's grandmother), Sheldon Mazelis (son-in-law of Joan Colliflower, for healing of a leg wound that will allow his back surgery to happen), Frank Castler (husband of a friend of Joan Colliflower, for successful surgery and patience in recuperation), Riley Mihulka, (born March 20 to Pastor Erhardt's cousin Abbie and her husband Sam – for healing through and from heart surgeries for Riley, and for calm nerves for his parents), Janice Hofreiter (for relief from migraine headaches and healing), Karin Bergesen (for relief from back pain and recovery following a recent fall and rehabilitation), Micha Livne (friend of the Gishlicks who is ill), Julia Majsztrik (for continued recovery from surgery and healthy growth, Carole Bleicher (friend of Carolyn Gishlick) and her sons-in-law Bob Atwood (diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer) and Mike Macceroni (preparing for heart surgery), Ted Alslev (son of Elda Alslev, to overcome his addiction to smoking), Mary Pickens (friend of Jon and Pat Hlafter, undergoing an experimental medical treatment), Sue Parisi (friend of Pat Hlafter, being treated for breast cancer), Peter Schulze (son of Lydia and Carl Schulze, friends of Miranda Hempel, Brad Bergmann, and Jenny Mills – for comfort, strength, and healing
- The people of Haiti, Ukraine, Israel, and the Gaza Strip

Prayer requests are generally printed in the Prayer Corner and included in the Sunday intercessory prayers for 4 weeks. If you would like us to keep someone there longer, we are happy to do that. Please call the church office or email lcmprinceton@gmail.com to let Pastor Erhardt know.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 5, 2024

Year B, Revised Common Lectionary

First Lesson: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Second Lesson: 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it who conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Gospel Lesson: John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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