



*Drawing by Jon Hlafter*

## The Lutheran Church of the Messiah

📍 407 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08540  
☎ (609) 924-3642  
✉ [lcmprinceton@gmail.com](mailto:lcmprinceton@gmail.com)  
🌐 [www.princetonlutheranchurch.org](http://www.princetonlutheranchurch.org)  
♦ [www.facebook.com/MessiahChurchPrinceton](https://www.facebook.com/MessiahChurchPrinceton)

Martin K. Erhardt, *Pastor*  
Janice Hofreiter, *Organist*  
Paul C. Hofreiter, *Choir Director*  
John Mark Goerss, D. Min., *Pastor Emeritus*

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026

**Prayer upon entering:** O God, from whom all good things come: Lead us by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit to love you and to keep your commandments; 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. 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). Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request from the 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.

*Prelude*      Come Down, O Love Divine (Down Ampney)

Ralph Vaughan Williams  
arr. Thomas Pavlechko

## *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*      My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker      LBW 519

*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: *Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen*

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

## *First Lesson*

*Acts 17:22–31*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

*Refrain:* Cry out to God in joy, all the earth. Give glory to the Lord.

Come and see the works of our Maker; how amazing his deeds on the earth!  
He turned the sea into dry land, over dry land they passed through the sea.

*Refrain*

Let us bless the Lord, our God. Let the voice of God's praise resound;  
the God who breathes in our being, who directed the steps of our way. *Refrain*

Come and hear, you who fear the Lord, as I tell how he rescued my soul!  
I cried to God and was answered; God's praise is ever on my lips. *Refrain*

*Second Lesson*

*1 Peter 3:13–22*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

*C: Thanks be to God.*

*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 14th chapter.

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

*Gospel Lesson*

*John 14:15–21*

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

*Children's Sermon*  
*Sermon*

The Spirit of Truth

*Hymn of the Day*

Built on a Rock

LBW 365

*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.  
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.*

(continued on the next page)

*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*      Come Down, O Love Divine      LBW 508

*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 Canticle*      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* Built On A Rock (Kirken den er et) Ludwig M Lindeman  
arr. Emily M. Porter

*Announcements*

P: Christ is risen! C: *He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

Portions of our liturgy today are reprinted from the Lutheran Book of Worship, copyright 1978. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress, license #15443-L. The Prayer of the Day is adapted from *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*, ©2002 Consultation on Common Texts. The prelude ©2009 Augsburg Fortress, the choir anthem ©2006 World Library Publications, and the postlude © 2007 Augsburg Fortress are reprinted and/or broadcast with permission under OneLicense.net #A-720141.

This coming week

Tue	7:15 PM	Executive Board
Wed	7:30 PM	Choir
Thu	7:30 PM	Community Book Group Discussion (p. 14)
Sat	9:00 AM	Men's Forum
Sun	9:00 AM	Adult Forum
Sun	10:30 AM	Service of Word and Sacrament
Sun	after worship	Voters Meeting

Next Sunday (Ascension)

Acts 1:1-11 • Psalm 68:1-10 • Eph. 1:15-23 • Luke 24:44-53

Opening Hymn: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing! (LBW 157)

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

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

Closing Hymn: Jesus Lives! Thy Terrors Now

Financial Stewardship Report (excludes restricted funds)

Contributions last week (5/3/2026): \$9,994

Average weekly expenses: \$3,934

2026 Year to Date, as of 4/30/2026:

Contributions: \$ 54,666.03

Operating Expenses: \$ 83,328.86

Difference: \$(28,662.83)

**Adult Forum** meets Sundays at 9am in the parish building library.

Current Topic: *Hymns for Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity*

**Xuxu Song and Hyunsung Yun invite the people of Messiah to their wedding** at Messiah on Saturday, May 30, at 2:30pm. Refreshments in the fellowship hall to follow. If you plan to attend, RSVP to Xuxu at her email address in the church directory by May 15.

**Messiah's May Voters Meeting** will be after worship on Sunday, May 17.

**Pastor Erhardt leads a monthly community book discussion:**

May 14: *Red Sky at Morning*, by Richard Bradford

June 25: *Colonialism: A Moral Reckoning*, by Nigel Biggar

Discussions begin at 7:30 PM via Zoom. Please obtain and read the book before each discussion, and email Pastor Erhardt for a Zoom invitation.

### **Available on the back pew:**

- (1) May/June 2026 edition of the *Messiah Messenger*
- (2) Portals of Prayer devotion booklets (April-June)
- (3) February – May 2026 Temple Servant schedule

### **Prayer Corner**

We remember in our prayers:

- On this Mother's Day, we thank God for our mothers, who have given us many gifts and an example of generous, sacrificial love.
- The family of Abraham Abed (classmate of Veronika Henkes and Elizabeth Majsztrik, mourning his death in a bike/car collision on April 26), the Wendel family (grieving Ed's recent death), the family of Don Meyer (grieving the recent death of his mother), Lynne Olszewski (sister of Patty Hlafter, recently diagnosed with macular degeneration), Lou and Mary Romolo (following Mary's move into hospice care), Sharon Wilchar (friend of Patricia Wolf who is very ill), Karin Bergesen (in rehab, recovering from a bone broken by a fall), Joan Colliflower (recovering from knee surgery), Fred Dignon (Greg's father, recovering from surgery after a stroke and fall), Peter Hempel (brother of Miranda Hempel, recovering from surgery), Micha Livne (friend of the Gishlicks who is ill), 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), and Jenny Mills – for comfort, strength, and healing

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](mailto:lcmprinceton@gmail.com) to let Pastor Erhardt know.



# PROF INSIGHTS

FACULTY-LED WORKSHOP SERIES

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

## The Apostolic Fathers

June 1-3 at St. Peter Lutheran Church  
Hopewell Township, NJ

Our presenter is Rev. Dr. Joel Elowsky, Professor of Historical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

This event is designed for pastors, other church workers and interested laypeople.



### Workshop Description

A study of the primary literature of the Apostolic Fathers with application to the life of the church today. Study will be primarily focused on the texts themselves with attention also given to issues of authorship, dating, the integrity of the text and the occasion for the writing, as well to major theological, ecclesiological and social issues that the writings address such as martyrdom, church order, orthodoxy and heresy, early Christian ritual, etc.

**COST UPDATE:** The fee for this workshop is \$160. Registration is now open at [www.csl.edu/workshop-series](http://www.csl.edu/workshop-series), and should be made no later than 14 days before the beginning of each workshop.

To register contact Concordia Seminary Continuing Education at 314-505-7286 or [ce@csl.edu](mailto:ce@csl.edu)  
For local information about this event contact Pastor Jon Dunbar at [pastor@stpeternj.org](mailto:pastor@stpeternj.org)

**First Lesson: Acts 17:22-31**

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. 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. 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, 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. From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 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.’ “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. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 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.”

## **Second Lesson: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? 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, 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, yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. 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, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 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 lives, were saved through water. 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, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## **Gospel Lesson: John 14:15-21**

[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 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. “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 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.”