



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*

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025

Prayer upon entering: Almighty God, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. As we follow where he leads, feed us with Word and sacrament, and use us to rescue the lost and heal the injured; 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.

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: *God of comfort and compassion, through Jesus, your Son, you lead us to the water of life and the table of your bounty. Open our hearts to receive the tender love of our Good Shepherd, and by it strengthen us to care for one another. Amen*

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

First Lesson

Acts 9:36-43

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalms 23

The Lord's My Shepherd

LBW 451

Second Lesson

Revelation 7:9-17

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem O Christ, My Shepherd, Comfort Me

Paul W. Hofreiter

O Christ, my Shepherd, comfort me.
O grant me grace that I may see,
Not with these earthly eyes untrue
But through the eyes of faith in You.

O Shepherd, when I go astray,
I pray You help me find the way
Back to Your flock which is my home
And lead me so I will not roam.

You are the Door, my entrance in,
And there find rescue from my sin.
O keep me close to You, O Lord,
And keep me faithful to Your Word.

Though death will come to me one day,
With confidence and trust, I pray
That You will guide and shepherd me
To Heaven where all Your flock shall be.

Verse (please stand):

John 6:68 (p. 83)

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

Alleluia.

1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With milk and hon - ey blest—
 2 With-in those walls of Zi - on Sounds forth the joy - ful song,
 3 A - round the throne of Da - vid, The saints, from care re - leased,
 4 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The home of God's e - lect!

The prom - ise of sal - va - tion, The place of peace and rest—
 As saints join with the an - gels And all the mar - tyr throng.
 Raise loud their songs of tri - umph To cel - e - brate the feast.
 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try That faith - ful hearts ex - pect!

We know not, oh, we know not What joys a - wait us there:
 The Prince is ev - er with them; The day - light is se - rene;
 They sing to Christ their lead - er, Who con - quered in the fight,
 In mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us To that e - ter - nal rest

The ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, The bliss be - yond com - pare!
 The cit - y of the bless - ed Shines bright with glo - rious sheen.
 Who won for them for - ev - er Their gleam - ing robes of white.
 With You and God the Fa - ther And Spir - it, ev - er blest.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10th chapter.

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

Gospel Lesson

John 10:22-30

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please sit.

Children's Sermon

Sermon Lamb, Lord, and Shepherd

Hymn of the Day

Jerusalem the Golden

LSB 672

(opposite page)

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 Have No Fear, Little Flock LBW 476

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 O Living Bread from Heaven arr. Donald Busarow
Announcements

P: Christ is risen!

C: *He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

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Thank you to Lorna-Jane Bremer for enriching our worship with her voice and flute this morning!

Thank you to today's Temple Servants

Acolyte	Don Meyer
Reader	Miranda Hempel
Ushers	Hans and Veronika Henkes
Fellowship Host	Laura Bennett
Chancel	Pastor Erhardt
Offering Counter	Jeff Frole
Livestream	Mark von Bargaen

Next Sunday

Acts 11:1-18 • Psalm 148 • Revelation 21:1-6 • John 13:31-35

Opening Hymn: Oh, What Their Joy (LBW 337)

Hymn of the Day: To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray (LBW 317)

Communion Hymns: Come, Let Us Eat (LBW 214)

One Bread, One Body (WOV 710)

This coming week

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

Thank you to all who donated and packed items for the baby care packages we gave to the ChoiceOne pregnancy resource center in Lawrenceville in time for Mother's Day!

Messiah has two telephones and an answering machine to give away.

If you're interested, tell Pastor.

The June-September Temple Servant schedule will be created and published this month. If you are on the current Temple Servant schedule, thank you for your faithful service to our congregation! If you're not on the current schedule, consider volunteering. We welcome new volunteers and volunteers for new roles! Volunteering as a Temple Servant is a low-stress, concrete way to serve the congregation. This works best when we have plenty of volunteers. No experience is necessary and we will train you. **At the moment, additional volunteers for chancel setup (preparing the altar, vestments, banner, and Communion elements before worship and cleaning up afterward) and/or backup livestream operators would be especially helpful.**

Pastor Erhardt leads a monthly community book discussion:

May 15: *The Barbarian Conversion*, by Richard Fletcher (Ch. 1-8)

June 12: *The Barbarian Conversion*, by Richard Fletcher (Ch. 9-15)

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.

If you'd like to be part of the grounds improvement committee formed at the May 4 voters meeting, contact Paul Majsztrik. The work of the committee will include improving Messiah's visibility and curb appeal, and prioritizing maintenance projects.

Available on the back pew:

- (1) **New:** May/June edition of the *Messiah Messenger*
- (2) February-May 2025 Temple Servant schedule
- (3) Portals of Prayer devotion booklets for April-June 2025

Prayer Corner

We remember in our prayers:

- Peter Hempel (brother of Miranda Hempel, recovering from surgery), Sergio Notario (father of Vanessa Valkonen, recovering from treatment for kidney disease), Micha Livne (friend of the Gishlicks who is ill), Julia Majsztrik (with thanksgiving for healing from heart surgery and praying for continued good health), 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
- On this Mother's Day, we thank God for our mothers, who have given us many gifts and an example of generous, sacrificial love.

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.

First Lesson: Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Second Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat, for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Gospel Lesson: John 10:22-30

At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me, but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.”

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