

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 2024

PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC

WELCOME and GREETING

THOUGHT and PRAYER AS WE ARE GATHERED

Jesus is the good shepherd who not only lays down his life for the sheep but also searches, seeks, and saves. In Jesus, we learn that God is not only merciful, but that God is constantly seeking mercy. Wherever we journey in life, God's mercy pursues us.

Lord, we know the truth. We wouldn't be here today in our church, praising you, listening to your word read and preached, joining our voices in song with our Christian friends, seeking your will for our lives, if you had not pursued us and put us here.

Thank goodness, you didn't wait for us to come to our senses and come to you. You chose us, came to us, found us where we were hiding, opened any doors we had closed, and discovered us. *You found a way to find us.*

And even though we are here, Lord Jesus, keep reaching out to us. Keep coming to us so that we might better come to you. Say those words to us we could never say to ourselves. Speak, Lord, we're listening. Even when we're not listening very well, speak to us. Pursue us, merciful Lord. Amen.

please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice"* [LSB 556, v. 1]

1. With exultation springing,
And with united heart and voice
And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
How His right arm the vict'ry won.
What price our ransom cost Him!

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Pastor: *In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

People: **Amen.** **Matthew 28:19; 18:20**

Pastor: *Our help is in the name of the LORD.*

People: **Who made heaven and earth.** **Psalm 124:8**

Pastor: *If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?*

People: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Psalm 130:3-4

EXHORTATION LSB p. 203

Pastor: *Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, remembering the Life and salvation that comes to us by His atoning sacrifice on the cross, let us begin in consideration of our unworthiness confessing before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the*

infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father who pursues us, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice”* [LSB 556, v.2-3]

2. Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;
Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day;
In sin my mother bore me.
But daily deeper still I fell;
My life became a living hell.
So firmly sin possessed me.

3. My own good works all came to naught,
No grace or merit gaining;
Free will against God's judgment fought,
Dead to all good remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair
Left only death to be my share;
The pangs of hell I suffered.

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS LSB p. 203

Pastor: *Let us pray,
Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to
everlasting life.*

People: **Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your
children and gathered us into Your one, holy and Apostolic Church, in
which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life
through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously
receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: *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.*

People: **Amen. please be seated**

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice”* [LSB 556, v.4-5]

4. But God had seen my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And mindful of His mercies great,
He planned for my salvation.
He turned to me a father's heart;
He did not choose the easy part
But gave His dearest treasure.

5. God said to His beloved Son:
"It's time to have compassion.
Then go, bright jewel of My crown,
And bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free;
Slay bitter death for them that they
May live with You forever."



A CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 98 with explanations: Make a joyful noise to the LORD.

Pastor: *Sing to the LORD a new song,*

People: **A song of marvelous things!**

Pastor: *A new song!*

People: **Of God's deliverance for His people.**

Pastor: *His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.*

People: **Salvation we receive in bread and wine—
His body and blood.**

Pastor: *The LORD has made His salvation known
and revealed His righteousness to the nations.*

People: **To all the inhabitants of the world...**

Pastor: *He has remembered His love
and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;*

People: **His beloved chosen...**

Pastor: *And all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

People: **We know it; we believe it; we confess it by faith.**

Pastor: *So shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,*

People: **All the inhabitants of the world...**

Pastor: *Burst into jubilant song with music;*

People: **instruments and voices resound with praise.**

Pastor: *Make music to the LORD with the harp,*

People: **with stringed instruments and melody...praise the Lord.**

Pastor: *with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn*

People: **make loud joyful noise before the King, our King, the Lord!**

Pastor: *Shout for joy before the LORD.*

People: **Let all creation resound in praise.**

Pastor: *The sea and everything in it!*

People: **The world and everything in it!**

Pastor: *And all who live in it.*

People: **Everyone— everything— everywhere!**

Pastor: *Let the rivers clap their hands.*
People: **Let the mountains clap their hands!**
 Pastor: *Sing together for joy;*
People: **Everyone— everything— everywhere!**
 Pastor: *He will judge the world in righteousness*
People: **His righteousness alone, not ours!**
 Pastor: *He will judge the peoples with equity.*
People: **Equity for all— by His grace, mercy, and forgiveness.**
 Pastor: *Sing to the LORD a new song, Amen!*
People: **A song of marvelous things! Amen!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Isn't He"

Peace Church Choir

✠THE WORD✠

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON *Acts 10:34-48*

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. *You know* the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. *You know* what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

"We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen— by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. *He commanded us to preach* to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Reader: *This is the Word of the LORD.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE LESSON *1 John 5:1-8*

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is

4. Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior, Paid all I owed.

Refrain

5. Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal;
Now I will praise You All my life long.

Refrain

SERMON

Pursued by Mercy
Psalm 23

Pastor William Metz

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice" [LSB 556, v.6-7]

6. The Son obeyed His Father's will,
Was born of virgin mother;
And God's good pleasure to fulfill,
He came to be my brother.
His royal pow'r disguised He bore;
A servant's form, like mine, He wore
To lead the devil captive.

7. To me He said: "Stay close to Me,
I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I Myself will be;
For you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, and you are Mine,
And where I am you may remain;
The foe shall not divide us."

△ CONFESSIO OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed please stand

With Luther's explanation to the Third Article from the Small Catechism

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty.**

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

Pastor: *What does this mean?*

People: **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength
believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has
called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and
kept me in the true faith.**

**In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the
whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the
one true faith.**

**In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and
the sins of all believers.**

**On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life
to me and all believers in Christ.
This is most certainly true.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: *Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.*

Pastor: *Lord in your mercy...*

ALL: **... hear our prayer.**

Pastor: *Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

ALL: **Amen.**

△ LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

please be seated

BLESSING *from Psalm 98*

Pastor: *The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.*

*He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;*

*All the ends of the earth
have seen the salvation of our God.*

Pastor: **Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
Burst into jubilant song with music;
Make music to the LORD with the harp,
With the harp and the sound of singing,
With trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: *The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.*

ALL: **Amen!**

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice"* [LSB 556, v.8-10]

8. "Though he* will shed My precious blood,
Me of My life bereaving,
All this I suffer for your good;
Be steadfast and believing.
Life will from death the vict'ry win;
My innocence shall bear your sin.
And you are blest forever.
* the devil, the evil foe

9. "Now to My Father I depart,
From earth to heav'n ascending,
And, heav'n'ly wisdom to impart,
The Holy Spirit sending;
In trouble He will comfort you
And teach you always to be true
And into truth shall guide you.

10 "What I on earth have done and taught
Guide all your life and teaching;
So shall the kingdom's work be wrought
And honored in your preaching.
But watch lest foes with base alloy*
The heav'nly treasure should destroy;
This final word I leave you."
*contaminants, impurities

△ SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POST-WORSHIP MUSIC