



## **Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church**

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

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# **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

## **May 17th, 2020**



## **HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED AT OUR SERVICE**

Oneness at communion presupposes oneness in doctrine. For this reason we practice close communion, and ask guests desiring to commune to speak with the pastor before the service. To those communicants with dietary needs we offer gluten free wafers.

### **AS WE GATHER**

What makes our Easter celebration so amazing is that here it is that same Lord Jesus whom we witnessed dying on a bloody cross who now risen from the dead appears and speaks to us. Today He promises to send to us “another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth” (John 14:16–17). By means of the Spirit we are equipped not only to testify and witness to the saving faith but also, should it be God’s will, to suffer for that testimony. We hear the inspired words of Peter speak about suffering “for righteousness’ sake” living in the very resurrection hope of Christ. Peter wants to convince us that it is precisely in our suffering that Christ meets us and acts for us. For He knows suffering intimately but also possesses the triumph over it. He points us to our Baptism, where Christ’s victory becomes our victory. His resurrection life gives us new life, which for now is but the beginning to be stretched out into life eternal.

### **DIVINE SERVICE FOUR**

#### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Elder of the Day

#### **OPENING HYMN**

*“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”*

LSB 487

#### **INVOCATION**

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

People: **Amen.**

#### **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

LSB page 203

#### **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

*“Glory to God in the Highest”*

LSB page 204

#### **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

#### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

**All: God our Father, You protect Your children from all that would harm our salvation. Give us the courage of faith and love toward You, that we have boldness to live for You and confess Your holy name before all; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## ✠ READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE ✠

### FIRST READING

*Acts 17:16–31*

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. 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. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbling wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 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. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 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, 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, 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.’ 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. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, 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.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM ~ *Read Responsively*

*Psalm 66:8-20*

Leader: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard, who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

People: **For You, O God, have tested us; You have tried us as silver is tried. You brought us into the net; You laid a crushing burden on our backs; You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet You have brought us out to a place of abundance.**

Leader: I will come into Your house with burnt offerings; I will perform my vows to You,  
**People: that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.**  
Leader: I will offer to You burnt offerings of fattened animals, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.  
**People: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what He has done for my soul. I cried to Him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue.**  
Leader: If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened;  
**People: He has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me!**  
**All: Glory be to the Father and to the ☩ Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### **EPISTLE READING**

*1 Peter 3:13–22*

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 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, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. 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, in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, 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. 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, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **ALLELUIA & VERSE**

LSB page 205

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL READING**

*John 14:15–21*

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **CREED**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      *“I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives”*

LSB 468

**SERMON**                      *“You Aren’t an Orphan!”*

*John 14:15-21*

### **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. Lord God, we give You thanks and praise for the new life and salvation with which You have brought beauty into our lives and our world again through the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **We pray that You open the ears of all who hear Your Word, that this salvation come to many in true repentance and faith, the gift of Your own Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: Send Your Spirit mightily especially upon those called to preach, proclaim, and teach Your life-giving Word.

People: **Guide all pastors, teachers, and servants of the Church to be faithful in word and deed.**

Pastor: To all who bear the authority of government in our land,

People: **give Your blessing, that tranquility and peace rule our days.**

Pastor: When suffering for Your truth comes our way, remind us of the certain victory that is ours by our Baptism into Christ.

People: **Give us the vision of Your mercy and grace, that we endure any opposition to the true faith.**

Pastor: Visit with Your peace and healing all who suffer illness, injury, or any painful difficulty, [*especially . . .*]. Let not their hearts be troubled or weighed down with any fear, but lift their eyes to Your sure and certain promises of eternal life and joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: (*Special petitions that end in, “Lord, in Your mercy”*).

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: With reverence and affection, we remember before You, O everlasting God, all our departed family and friends who have followed Christ and now are with Him in glory.

**People: By Your grace, keep us faithful and steadfast, that we see the joys of Your heavenly kingdom.**

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

**People: Amen.**

## OFFERING

### ‡ SUNDAY SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ‡

PREFACE	LSB page 208
SANCTUS	LSB page 208
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING	LSB page 209
LORD’S PRAYER	
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD & PAX DOMINI	LSB page 209
AGNUS DEI	LSB page 210
DISTRIBUTION/INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC	
NUNC DIMITIS	LSB page 211
POST COMMUNION COLLECT	LSB page 212
BENEDICTION	LSB page 212
CLOSING HYMN	<i>“The Day of Resurrection”</i> LSB 478

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## **OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

### **9:00AM WORSHIP**

**Bill Erck**

Elder

**Sarah Peterson**

Organist

**Mike Beyer**

Congregational Chairman

**Rick Melius**

Head Elder