



8 & 10:45 AM

May 10, 2026

6th Sunday of Easter

**Christ is Risen!**



**CONNECT CARDS**

Guests and members, please:

- ♦ fill out a Connect card, or
- ♦ scan the QR code to connect with us online

Cards are in the pew racks in front of you. These methods include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors.

We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with YOU!

**Serving Today...**

Message:  
Pastor Ben Oesch

Liturgist:  
8:00 Pastor Stoltenow

Worship Assistant:  
10:45 David Renner

Organist:  
Gail Black



**✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠**

**RINGING OF THE BELL** *Please quiet voices as we prepare to worship.*

**PRELUDE**

**INVOCATION**

*Divine Service, Setting 4 ~ LSB p. 203; Matthew 28:19b*

Pastor (P): We call on the name of the Triune God—the name into which we have been baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen!

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS**

*Psalm 124:8; 130:3-4; Luke 18:13; John 20:19-23*

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

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

P: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess 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, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen!**

**SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you!

C: **And also with you!**

P: We pray: O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen!**

*Please be seated.*

**HYMN OF PRAISE # 457 “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”**

*Please use the hymnal for the lyrics and tune. We stand for the final stanza. The delta symbol Δ indicates a stanza that praises the Triune God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.*

**GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT**

*Please fill out the white Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code. You may also add prayer requests to your information. Thank you!*



**CHILDREN’S CHAT** *Sina Williams*

*Children’s Bulletins are available on the Usher Stands as you enter the Sanctuary.*

**OFFERING** *For giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give*

**PRAYER**

**FIRST READING** Acts 17:16-31

Now while Paul was waiting for Silas and Timothy 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 babblers 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.

During the **Easter Season**, the first Scripture Lesson is from New Testament History - the book of Acts - instead of an Old Testament passage. These readings from the Acts of the Apostles emphasize that the Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is the best witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the work of God in Christ in the world.

Jesus said to His disciples and He says to us: *You will be My witnesses...to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8*



Throughout our lives, we look for a helper. Maybe that's a parent who can hold our hand to cross the street, a spouse who can open the pickle jar, or an expert who delivers wisdom we don't have. Our Lord Jesus Christ sends us a helper, the promised Holy Spirit. The Spirit opens our heart to faith and then fills it with heavenly wisdom. Present in our Baptism and present today in worship, the Spirit keeps our hand firmly in our Savior's, so that linked by love, we can walk confidently in His promises.

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, in the hope that they might 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."

### RESPONSE

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

### 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.

### RESPONSE

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

*Please stand for the Alleluia and Verse and the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

### ALLELUIA AND VERSE

*John 20:31*

A: Alleluia! These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

C: **Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

### THE HOLY GOSPEL 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 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."

### RESPONSE

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

*Please be seated.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY # 479** "Christ Is Risen, Christ Is Living" *alternate tune: "What a Friend"*

Christ is risen, Christ is living, dry your tears, be unafraid!  
Death and darkness could not hold Him, nor the tomb in which He lay.  
Do not look among the dead for One who lives forevermore;  
Tell the world that Christ is risen, make it known He goes before.

If the Lord had never risen, we'd have nothing to believe.  
But His promise can be trusted: "You will live, because I live."  
As we share the death of Adam, so in Christ we live again;  
Death has lost its sting and terror, Christ the Lord has come to reign.

Death has lost its old dominion, let the world rejoice and shout!  
Christ, the firstborn of the living, gives us life and leads us out.  
Let us thank our God, who causes hope to spring up from the ground;  
Christ is risen, Christ is giving life eternal, life profound.

**MESSAGE "Christ: The Beginning and End of Apologetics"** text: 1 Peter 3:13-22

*Because Jesus is risen, we have a living hope that frees us to have God conversations with confidence and gentleness.*

*Please stand as we recite the Creed, stating our faith and encouraging one another in that faith.*

**STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE NICENE CREED**

**ALL:** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen!

*Please be seated.*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

*In May, we pray with open hearts for the armed forces, their families, and military chaplains.*

**PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION**

One should examine himself before he eats the bread and drinks the cup; one who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1Corinthians 11:2-29

Since those who take Christ's body and blood without understanding His true presence do so to their harm, and since the sacrament of Holy Communion is a faith statement confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or hold a confession differing from that of this church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and wish to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with a pastor.

**HOLY COMMUNION ~ PROPER PREFACE FOR EASTER SEASON**

*2 Tim. 4:22; Col. 3:1; Psalm 136*

**P:** The Lord be with you!

**C:** **And also with you!**

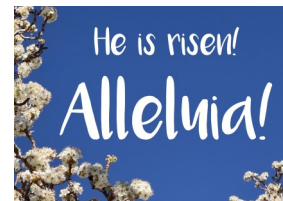
**P:** Lift up your hearts!

**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 truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Passover Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore, with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



A **Creed** is a statement of faith. The **Nicene Creed** is historically connected with the celebration of the Lord's Supper, because it stresses more fully the Biblical teaching that Jesus Christ is true God, which is intimately connected with Christ's true body and blood being present in Holy Communion. It dates back to the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.

**Sanctus** is Latin and means "holy is." The Sanctus is a hymn of praise to the Trinity; very often we see words repeated three times to emphasize this. The Sanctus is one of the highest points and has some of the grandest music in the Divine Service, because we are joining our voices not only with our own church family but with all Christians all over the world, with the saints in heaven—the great cloud of witnesses who have died in Jesus and are now in heaven, and with all the angel hosts.

**Agnus Dei** means "Lamb of God." Ancient believers ate the sacrificial lamb at the Passover. We partake of Christ, who was sacrificed for us to make full atonement for all our sins. Christ is our Good Shepherd, the Lamb of God, and the Priest who offers the sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. Truly, Jesus is Our All!

In this Divine Service, by faith the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds to receive His graces. We now leave this house of worship to share the love of Jesus and **HIS**tory!

Lord, lay some soul  
upon my heart  
and love that soul  
through me;  
and may I gladly  
do my part  
to win that soul  
for Thee. Amen!

### SANCTUS ~ HOLY [IS THE LORD]

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9; Revelation 4:8

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo - ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

**ALL:** 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!

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19,20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

### PAX DOMINI ~ PEACE OF THE LORD

John 20:19

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always!  
**C:** And also with you!

### AGNUS DEI ~ LAMB OF GOD

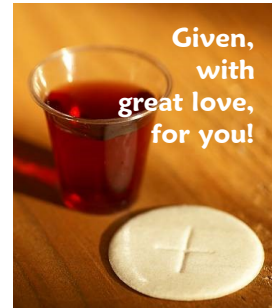
John 1:29

**P:** O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us, and give us Your peace.  
**C:** Amen.

*Please be seated.*

### DISTRIBUTION

- ◆ You will be ushered forward for Communion.
- ◆ When receiving the bread, please extend your hand palm up.
- ◆ If you are not communing but wish to come up and receive a blessing, you may keep your hands folded.
- ◆ Wine without alcohol is in the center of each tray
- ◆ Gluten-free wafers are in the center of the wafer trays.



### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

# 637 "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord" # 540 "Christ, the Word of God Incarnate"

*Please stand.*

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**P:** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen!

### BENEDICTION ~ GOD'S GOOD-CREATING WORD OF BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

**P:** 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.

**C:** Amen!

*Please be seated.*

**HYMN** # 829 "Christ the Eternal Lord" *Please use the hymnal for the text and lyrics.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POSTLUDE

✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠

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