

West Prairie Lutheran Church

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Sixth Sunday in Easter

May 14, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

(*Stand as you are able)

Prelude

Enter joyously to worship the Lord!

P: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

C: He has risen indeed, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*OPENING HYMN "Come, Thou Almighty King" #522

*Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed are those who call on the strong name of the risen Lord! As we gather in the victorious name of Christ, let us open our hearts to him and confess the ways in which we have failed to follow His will, and the ways in which we simply neglected our calling as his disciples.

(Silence for self-reflection and examination.)

P: Lord of heaven and earth, of the living and of the dead,

C: We come before you confessing our sins, asking for your gracious mercy. By our human nature we are sinful and unclean; we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. By your loving kindness, we implore you to grant us forgiveness and restore us to your salvation, that we might live holy lives here and now, and be with you in the final resurrection. Amen.

P: Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, God declares to all who believe and confess their sins, that we are forgiven and restored to a right relationship through Jesus Christ. We have been redeemed and renewed by Christ, our Passover Lamb. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit, let us walk in newness of life, following our Lord Jesus in holy obedience.

C: Amen.

*Greeting

P: Christ is Risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who went to the cross for our sake; the love of the Father who put an end to the power of death through the resurrection of Christ; and the promised Holy Spirit who gathers us together; be with you all.

C: And also with you.

HYMN "Holy God, We Praise Your Name" # 535

*Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in the sacrament of Baptism, you bless us with the presence of your Son as our advocate, dwelling in us as the Spirit of truth. Grant that we may treasure this gift above all else, following Christ in obedience and humility; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 17:16-31

PSALMS Psalm 66:8-20

SECOND READING 1 Peter 3:13-22

HYMN "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" #486

*Gospel Acclamation "Alleluia" p. 83

"Glory to you, O Lord" p. 83

*HOLY GOSPEL John 14:15-21

"Praise to you, O Christ" p. 83

PULPIT HYMN "Holy, Holy, Holy" #165

Children's Message

Sermon Pastor Tony Scalisi

HYMN OF THE DAY "Children of the Heavenly Father" #474

*Confession of Faith Apostles' Creed p. 84

¹⁵ "If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.



The first lesson is from the 17th Chapter of Acts

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰ You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." ²¹ (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.) ²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. ²⁴ "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

²⁹ "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Let us pray Psalm 66 (responsively)

⁸ Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard;

⁹ **He has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.**

¹⁰ For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver.

¹¹ **You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs.**

¹² You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.

¹³ **I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to you—**

¹⁴ Vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble.

¹⁵ **I will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams; I will offer bulls and goats.**

¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.

¹⁷ **I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue.**

¹⁸ If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

¹⁹ **But God has surely listened and has heard my prayer.**

²⁰ Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

Amen

The second lesson is found in the 3rd Chapter of 1 Peter

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities, and powers in submission to him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Announcements & Activities

West Prairie prayer list:

Phyllis Disque, Irene Eide, Joyce Greer, Brittney Hawke, Ryan Mullins (in the military), Allen Peterson, Jean Peterson, LeAnn Peterson, Roger Peterson, our sister church in the LCMC, St Paul Lutheran Church, Hull, IA, and Immanuel Lutheran, Swea City, IA.

Please let me or Pastor Tony know of any prayer requests you may have. We will gladly list them. Cindy at csarver52@gmail.com or 319-931-3570.



Happy Mother's Day

to the women who have shared their love and care.
May God bless those living and departed.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 28th after service (9:45 am)

to discuss and vote on the use of monitors in the sanctuary.

Thank You to everyone that donated school supplies and money to the Lutheran World Relief School Kit project. A special thank you to the Sunday School students for their assembly work. We completed 51 kits!

Visitation and Memorial Service for *Jim Mitthun* will be at the First Baptist Church in Forest City Visitation: Friday, May 19th from 4–6 pm.
Memorial Service: Saturday, May 20th at 10 am, lunch following.

This Week's Activities

Thurs., May 18, 2023		The Ascension of Our Lord
Sun., May 21, 2023	8:30 am	Worship with communion fellowship following.
		Presentation of Graduation Quilts
	9:45 am	Adult Sunday School

May / June Volunteers

Fellowship: May 21— Julie and Jan Reimann (Graduation Weekend)
May 28 — (Congregational Mtg.)
June 4 —

Lector: *May:* Lisa Durby *June:* Bristol Swanson

Usher(s):

Altar Flowers: *May:* Lisa Durby

Communion Prep & Clean-up: *May:* Lisa Durby

Happy Birthday to Roger Peterson 5/14

Note: Bulletin Information can be sent to Cindy by email: csarver52@gmail.com or phone-319-931-3570. Entry deadline, Wednesdays at 5:00 pm.