

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

May 9-10, 2026

4:00 p.m. Saturday and 8:00 a.m. Sunday



THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / MOTHER'S DAY

IS GOD'S LOVE FOR US "IFFY?"

AS WE GATHER

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. Today we also thank God for His love as expressed through our dear mothers.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude "Built on the Rock" David Cherwien

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn "Built on the Rock" *LSB 645*
Verses 1-3, 5

Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 124:8; John 14:18; Hebrews 13:6*

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

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

Pastor: Jesus said, "I will not leave you as orphans;

People: **I will come to you."**

Pastor: So we can confidently say,

People: **"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *John 14:19*

Pastor: We confess: Father, we have neglected You and Your commandments.

People: **Forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: Jesus, we have doubted Your Word and failed to display Your love to others.

People: **Forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: Spirit, we have trusted our own sinful hearts rather than seeking Your truth.

People: **Forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: O Triune God, look on us in mercy and make Your dwelling within us.

People: **Restore us as Your rescued people to seek Your holy will. Amen.**

Pastor: To save you from sin, the Father gave you His very own Son. On His cross, Jesus paid your debt and rose to declare, "because I live, you also will live." By the Spirit's power, we trust in the pardon won for us by Christ, our Lord. In the stead and by the command of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE "Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him"

LSB 797
Verses 1-2, 5



1 Praise the Al - might - y, my soul, a - dore Him!
2 Trust not in rul - ers; they are but mor - tal;
Yes, I will laud Him un - til death; With songs and
Earth - born they are and soon de - cay. Vain are their
an - thems I come be - fore Him As long as
coun - sels at life's last por - tal, When the dark
He al - lows me breath. From Him my life and
grave en - gulfs its prey. Since mor - tals can no
all things came; Bless, O my soul, His ho - ly name.
help af - ford, Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 Praise, all you people, the name so holy
Of Him who does such wondrous things!
All that has being, to praise Him solely,
With happy heart its amen sings.
Children of God, with angel host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Alleluia, alleluia!



✂ WORD ✂

First Reading: Acts 17:16-31

(Paul preaches Jesus and the resurrection, pointing Athenians to the “unknown God” who has been raised from the dead.)

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 babbler 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.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



TO AN UNKNOWN GOD

Epistle: 1 Peter 3:13-22

(Saved by Baptism, believers are prepared to give a reason for their hope in Christ the Lord.)

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.

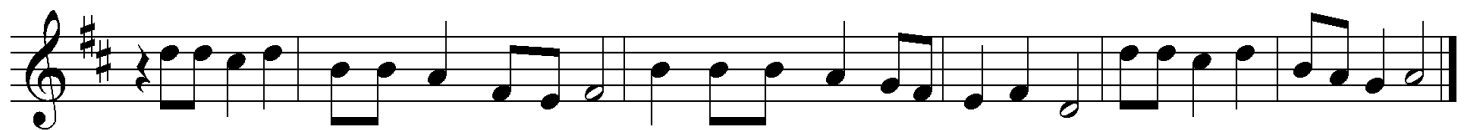
For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for Verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE *John 6:68*



Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

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



1 Peter 3:21, NRSV

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 160

Proper Preface

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we would give thanks to You, O Triune God, making our supplication in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior, who in keeping the Father's will, won salvation by His death and resurrection, and in giving His Holy Spirit, grants life to all who believe. Held in our baptismal covenant, we rejoice with all the saints in every time and place, eagerly anticipating the consummation of Christ's redeeming work, as You gather us with angels and archangels, to laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 161

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

People: 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 (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 163

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Special Organ Music (8:00) "Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him" Benjamin Culli

Hymn "In Holy Conversation" *LSB 772*

Hymn "Come Down, O Love Divine" *LSB 501*

General Communion Blessing

Benediction (Divine Service, Setting One)

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.

People: Amen

Congregational Concerns

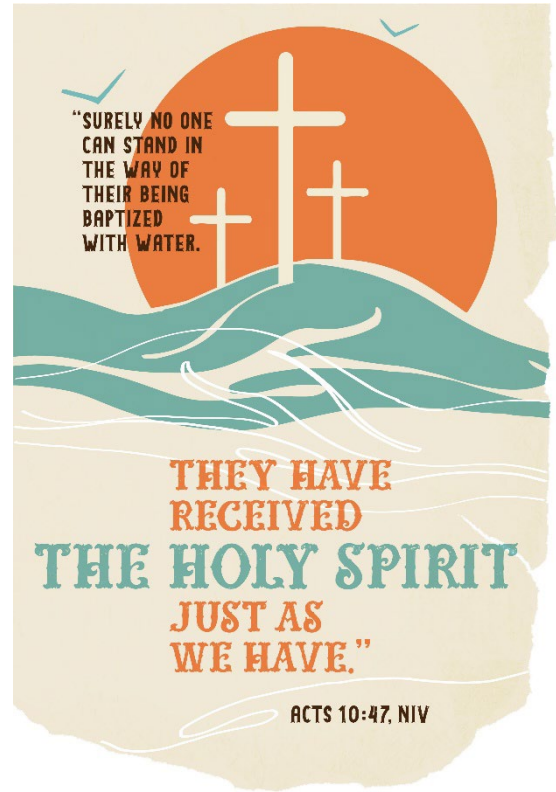
Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.
Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“All Christians Who Have Been Baptized”
Benjamin Culli



SERVING IN WORSHIP

OFFICIANT / PREACHER

Pastor John Larson

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST

Michael Zehnder

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER

Ann Kirkpatrick

ELDERS

4:00 pm Jeff Dunker; 8:00 am Arvin Michel; 10:30 am David Pearman

ACOLYTE

8:00 am Collette Dallet; 10:30 am Brynn Aldrich

LECTORS

4:00 pm Mike Price; 8:00 am Margo Pasha; 10:30 am Jude Donovan

COMMUNION SERVERS

4:00 pm Mike Price; 10:30 am Jude Donovan

ALTAR GUILD

Tanya Schmitt, Laura Banko



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