

The End Is Like the Beginning

Seventh Sunday of Easter

June 2, 2019

6000 Duluth Street | 763-546-3131 | www.kingofgracelutheran.com | Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Pastors: Erwin Ekhoﬀ, Aaron Ferkenstad, & Ben Wiechmann | Principal: Allen Labitzky

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, there are activity bags for children, and the service is streamed live in the Fireside Room down the hall.

Service of the Word

The Seventh Sunday of Easter is the only Sunday in between our Lord's ascension into heaven and his promised gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which is the beginning of his new creation. He will return soon to complete that creation. In the meanwhile, he prays for us and strengthens us while we carry out his commission to make disciples.

OPENING PRAYER

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in your presence to hear your holy Word. We pray you to open our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

HYMN

O Word of God Incarnate | #171

CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto you that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. And by your Holy Spirit, increase in us a true knowledge of you, and of your will, and true obedience to your Word; to the end—that by your grace—we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

P: Lift up your hearts unto God! Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on his name he gives the power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all. Amen.

HYMN

Glory to God in the Highest

All glo - ry be to God on high, Who hath our race be -
friend-ed! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is
end - ed; God show - eth his good will to men, And
peace shall dwell on earth a-gain; O thank him for his good - ness!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray for the unity of the Holy Spirit: Holy Father, your Son prayed for his disciples that they would be one, as you and he are one. Keep your whole church harmoniously together in faith and love, united by the one Spirit. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HISTORY READING

Acts 1:12–26

Between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, the disciples prepared for leadership of God's new people by choosing a twelfth apostle to replace Judas Iscariot.

¹²Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus — ¹⁷he was one of our number and shared in this ministry."

¹⁸(With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. ¹⁹Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language *Akeldama*, that is, Field of Blood.)

²⁰"For," said Peter, "it is written in the Book of Psalms:

'May his place be deserted; let there be no-one to dwell in it,'

and,

'May another take his place of leadership.'

²¹Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

²³So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." ²⁶Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

GOSPEL READING

John 17:20–26

Jesus prays for us. He prays for unity that will increase the effectiveness of our witness to the world, and for our safety until we are with him in the new creation.

²⁰"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

C: 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 is seated at the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall 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 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken | #214

SERMON

The End Is Like the Beginning | Revelation 22:1-6

The last chapter of the Bible offers a vision of the new creation to be revealed when Jesus returns a second time. The end will be like the beginning, only better.

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

⁶The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place."

OFFERING AND PRAYERS

Service of the Sacrament

P: Dear friends in Christ! In order that we may receive this holy Sacrament worthily, it is good that we consider what we believe. From the words of Christ: "This is my body, which is given for you; this is my blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins," we believe that Jesus Christ is himself present with his body and blood, as the words declare. From Christ's words "For the remission of sins," we believe that Jesus Christ gives us his body and blood to assure us of the forgiveness of all of our sins. And finally, we do as Christ commands when he says, "Take, eat; drink of it, all of you," and "Do this in remembrance of me."

We also unite in giving thanks to Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for so great a gift, and then love one another with a pure heart, and thus with the whole Christian Church have comfort and joy in Christ our Lord. To this end, may God the Father grant us his grace; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

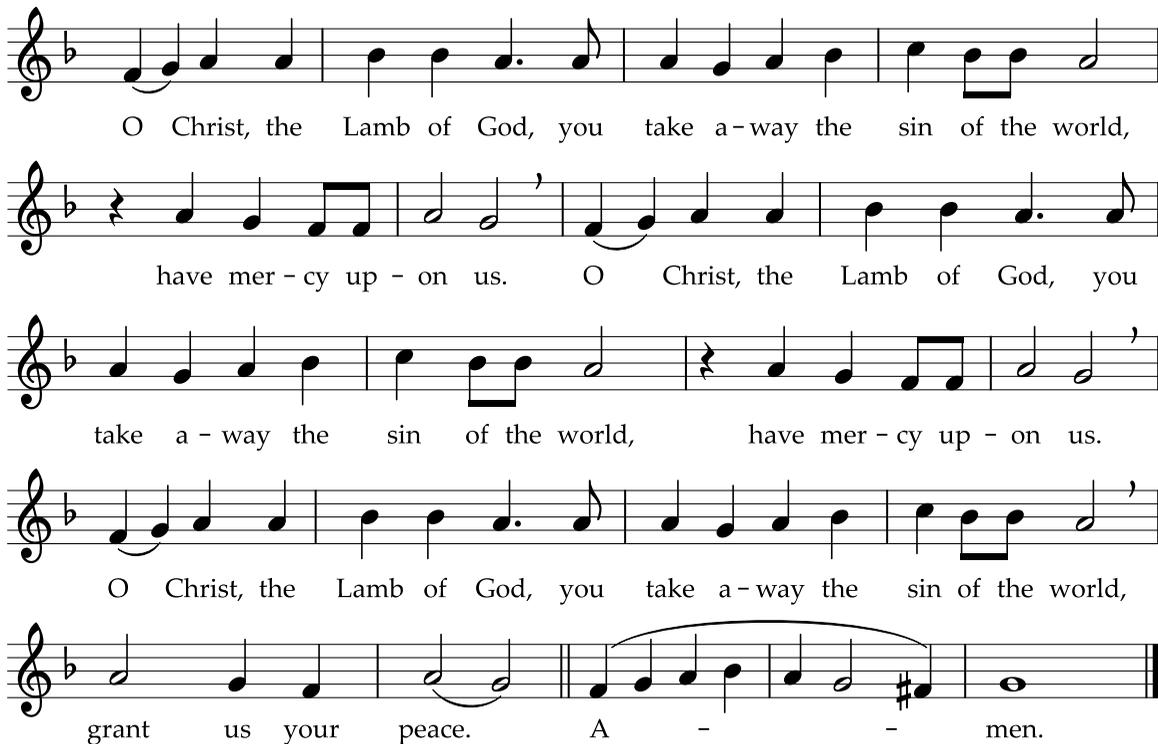
CONSECRATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND RECEPTION

Personal prayers for before and after Holy Communion can be found on page 40 in the front portion of the hymnary.

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Lamb of God



O Christ, the Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world,
have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.
O Christ, the Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world,
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray | #311

If God Had Not Been on Our Side | #396

O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee | #325

PRAYER

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you, Lord God Almighty, that you have refreshed us with these your life-giving gifts; and we ask you of your mercy, to strengthen us through them in faith toward you, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

A benediction (Latin: "to speak well") is a short invocation for divine help, blessing and guidance at the end of the worship service. When our Lord's earthly ministry was ended and his bodily presence was about to be withdrawn, "he led his disciples out to the vicinity of Bethany, and he lifted up his hands and blessed them" and then ascended into heaven.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.



C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

CLOSING PRAYER

P: O Lord, we give you our heartfelt thanks that you have taught us what you would have us believe and do. Help us, O God, by your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep your Word in pure hearts, that we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send all requests for bulletin announcements to bulletin@kog-els.org.

COMMUNION RAILS

There are no communion rails today because of a wedding this afternoon.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Come to church next Saturday morning, June 8 to help with some outdoor spring clean-up projects. There is something for every age. Work will begin at 8:00 am and conclude with lunch on the grill. Contact Ned Silber with any questions, (715) 214-4103.

WEST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

King of Grace's high school is offering several athletic camps in June. There are women's self-defense classes for 5th grade through adult and boy's and girl's basketball camps for 3rd through 7th grades. Find more information at www.wlhs.net.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Contact Wanda Warnke with prayer requests at (612) 529-1497.

Attendance Last Week: 247 worshiped on Sunday and 6 worshiped on Monday.

Calendar

Today	1:00 pm	Wise Penny volunteers
	3:00 pm	Heidi Nielsen wedding
Monday	6:30 pm	Communion Service
Tuesday	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study
Saturday	8:00 am	Spring Grounds Clean-Up
	8:30 am	Men's Bible Study
Sunday	8:15 am	Worship Service
	10:00 am	Worship Service
		King's Kids @ St. Paul Saints game

Preacher Rev. Aaron Ferkenstad | **Liturgist** Rev. Ben Wiechmann
Organist Karen Merseth

Counters Today John & Cindy Costell, Leah Wandersee
Counters Next Sunday Tim Bechtold and Kim Studanski
Usher Captains Today John Vomhof, John Woodington
Usher Captains Next Sunday Tom Studanski, Curtis Merchant
Video Team Today Gerry Reason
Video Team Next Sunday Kirk Guillaume
June Altar Guild Linda Browning, Arlene Fuller

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are given by the Nielsen family in honor of Heidi's wedding.

Offerings Last Week:

Average Needed Per Sunday: \$16,154
Received Last Week: \$8,594

Average Needed Year to Date: \$775,392
Received Year to Date: \$825,031