



*Honor Christ as Lord*

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023

# 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 for small children.

## *Service of Preparation*

### PRESERVICE MUSIC

*Use this time in quiet preparation for worship by looking ahead at today's Bible readings and hymn texts, and in prayer.*

### OPENING PRAYER

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in your presence to hear your holy Word. Please open our hearts by your Holy Spirit. Through the preaching of your Word teach us to repent of our sins, to believe in Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

### HYMN

*Come, My Soul, With All Thy Care* | #381

### CONFESSION OF SIN


P: Let us bow our hearts before the Lord and confess our sins: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you both that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and also that we have each sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge toward your infinite mercy, pleading for your grace on the basis of the work 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.

HYMN


*Kyrie*



O God the Fa - ther in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.



O God the Son, Re - deem - er of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O God the Ho - ly Ghost, true Com - fort - er, have mer - cy up - on us.

ABSOLUTION

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

## ANTHEM

*Pilgrim's Hymn*

*Even before we call on your name  
To ask you, O God,  
When we seek for the words to glorify you,  
You hear our prayer;  
Unceasing love, O unceasing love,  
Surpassing all we know.*

*Glory to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Spirit.*

*Even with darkness sealing us in,  
We breathe your name,  
And through all the days that follow so fast,  
We trust in you;  
Endless your grace, O endless your grace,  
Beyond all mortal dream.  
Both now and forever,  
And unto ages and ages,  
Amen.*

## *Service of the Word*

*God's desire in the beginning in the garden was for his glorious presence to be with a people in a place. Last week's readings dealt with preparing the place. The readings for the Sixth Sunday of Easter tell about preparing the people.*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray that we love and obey Jesus: Jesus, our loving friend and Savior, you have promised to give us your Spirit to be with us forever. Stay within our hearts, so that we love what you command and desire what you promise. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### FIRST READING

1 Peter 3:13–22

*The gift of the Holy Spirit through baptism is God's down payment that he will finish the job of perfectly cleaning our consciences.*

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." <sup>15</sup> 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, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against

your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. <sup>17</sup>For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— <sup>20</sup>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, <sup>21</sup>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, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

## HYMN

*Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying* | #191

## GOSPEL

John 14:15–21

*The entire Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—live in believers to empower them for lives of love.*

“If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup>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.”

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## HYMN

*Built on the Rock* | #211, vv. 1–4

*Even the Greek poets recognized that human beings are not orphans but are rather God's offspring whose lives are empowered by living in him.*

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. <sup>23</sup>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.

<sup>24</sup>“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. <sup>25</sup>And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>“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. <sup>30</sup>In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup>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.”

## HYMN

*Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice* | #378, vv. 1, 7–10

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

**C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## OFFERING

*Ubi Caritas*

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exsultemus, et in ipso jucundemur.  
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.*

Where charity and love are, God is there.  
Love of Christ has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice in him and be glad.  
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.  
And from a sincere heart let us love one another.

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## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### 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.**

## HYMN

*Children of the Heav'nly Father | #174*

## PRAYER

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you, Almighty God, that you have built your church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief Cornerstone. Grant that we may be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

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 want us to believe and to do. Help us, O God, by your Holy Spirit, on the basis of Jesus' work, to keep your Word in pure hearts, so that by that means we may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

**Preacher**..... Pastor Bernt Tweit | **Liturgist**..... Vicar Max Kerr  
**Organist (Sunday)**..... Karen Merseth | **Pianist (Monday)**..... Lynn Handberg  
**Chimes** ..... Allen Labitzky  
**Thomforde Quartet**..... Peggy, Andrea, Paul, and Matthew



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