

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Called by Christ to be a sanctuary that welcomes and serves all.

23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335

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248-474-0584

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

May 10, 2026

10:00 am

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mark Fisher

Director of Music: Sean Michael Jackman DMA, Ed.D

Director of Mission Advancement: Ashleigh Altemann

Office Manager: Marie Cook

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

BELL CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship

PRELUDE: Human Heart Jeff Karoub

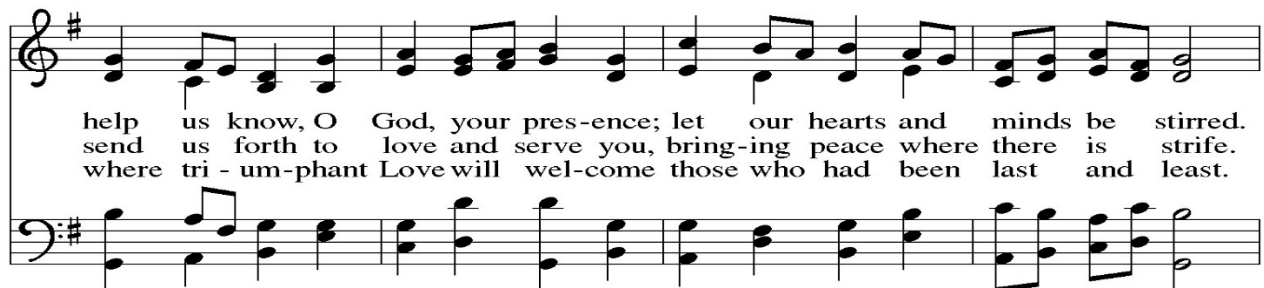
WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

please stand as you are able

GATHERING HYMN: As We Gather at Your Table ELW 522



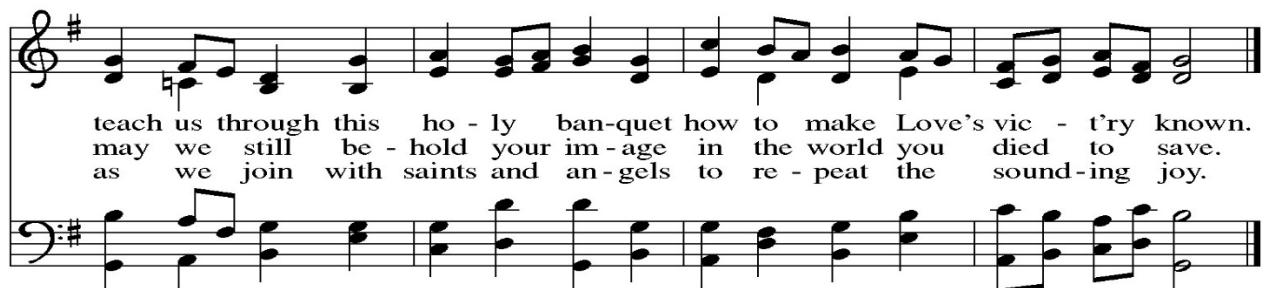
1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an-gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: This is the Feast

setting 3

Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
 who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
 strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray..... Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Ashleigh Altemann

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

A: ²² Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we, too, are his offspring.'

²⁹ "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20

A: Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

C: **Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

A: For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

C: **You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

A: You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

C: **I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—**

A: those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

C: **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**

A: Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

C: **I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

A: If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

C: **but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

A: Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

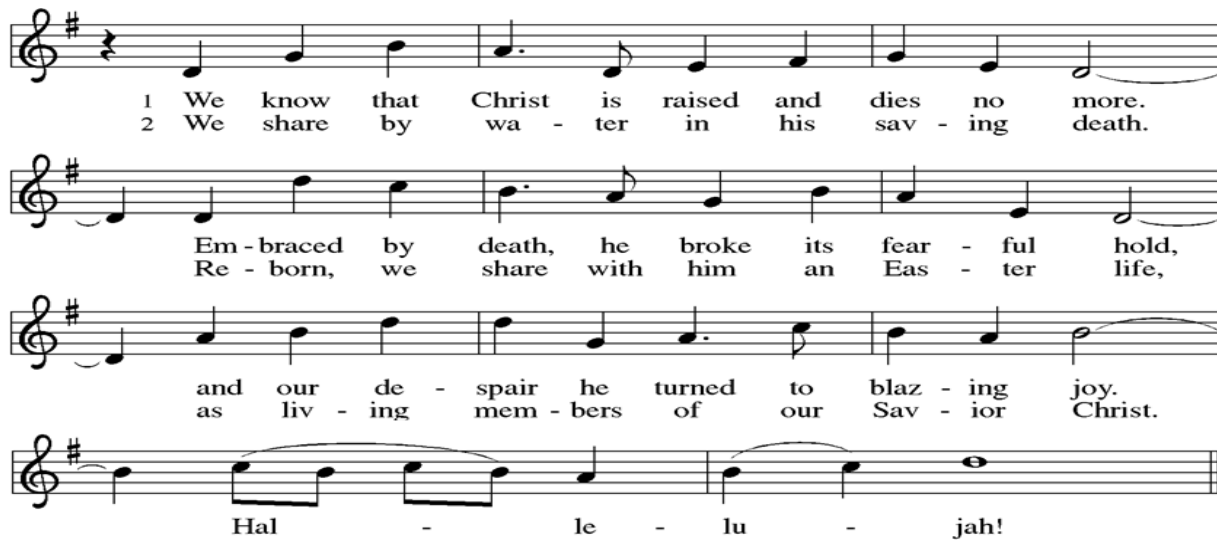
The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

A: ¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, 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, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

A: The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: We Know That Christ Is Raised ELW 449 vs. 1,2



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa-ter in his sav-ing death.
Em-braced by death, he broke its fear-ful hold,
Re-born, we share with him an Eas-ter life,
and our de-spair he turned to blaz-ing joy.
as liv-ing mem-bers of our Sav-ior Christ.
Hal-le-lu-jah!

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

P: The holy gospel according to John, the 14th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever. [Jesus said to the disciples:]

P: ¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON: "Obedience"

Pastor Mark Fisher

HYMN OF THE DAY: Loving Spirit WOV 683



1 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—
 2 Like a moth - er you en - fold me, hold my life with - in your own,
 3 Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me the dis - cern - ing eye,
 4 Friend and lov - er, in your close - ness I am known and held and blessed:
 5 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—



you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.
 feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.
 hoist me up up - on your shoul - der, let me see the world from high.
 in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.
 you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931
 Music: BETH, Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

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Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION OF FAITH: A New Creed

We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
 who has come in Jesus,
 the Word made flesh,
 to reconcile and make new,
 who works in us and others
 by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God’s presence,
 to live with respect in Creation,
 to love and serve others,
 to seek justice and resist evil,
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
 our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
 God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM: Great Day! The Lord is Risen (from A Journey to Hope) J. Martin
PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISE ACCLAMATIONS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

A: God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's righteousness throughout the world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, or ill (especially). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You are love and you desire that we love one another. As a mother hen cares for her chicks, bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and inspire us to care for one another. Merciful God,
receive our prayer. **C: receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

OFFERING MUSIC: Chasing Jeff Karoub

OFFERING PRAYER: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

**Pastor/Presider extends invitation to online participants to partake of communion
 The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. Amen**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION MUSIC: Thing That Feeds My Soul Jeff Karoub

please stand as you are able

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

CLOSING PRAYER

A: Let us pray..... Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

RINGING OF THE BELL

BLESSING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: May God bless us with discomfort, at easy answers and half-truths,
so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation
of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with tears, to shed for those who suffer from
pain, rejection, starvation, and war.

So that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with enough hope to believe that through Christ,
we can make a difference in this world.

Amen

SENDING HYMN: That Easter Day with Joy was Bright ELW 384 V1 V2 and V4

DISMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: Good Things A-Comin' Jeff Karoub

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
 2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
 3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
 4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to

sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
 con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
 this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
 you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther

eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
 ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
 strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
 e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

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