

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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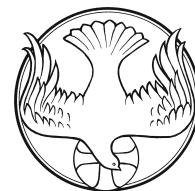
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The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

Color of the Day: White - the festival color of the Church. It is reserved for celebrations that reflect themes of purity, light, innocence, holiness, and redemption, including special events in Jesus' life as His Birth, Baptism, Transfiguration, and Resurrection.



Opening Hymn

#475 - Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of song to
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry That love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, And sing to - day with



of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
strew His way; Let all the world re - joice and say:
can - not die, And sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord The life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

(Stand)

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Kneel/Stand)

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(Stand)

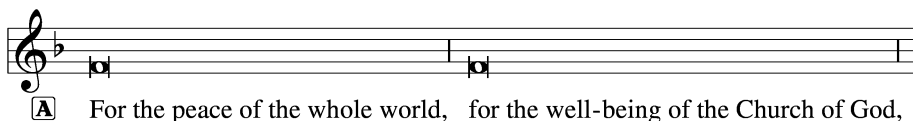
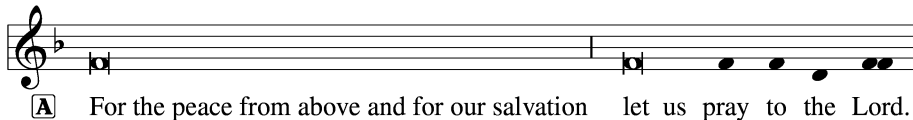
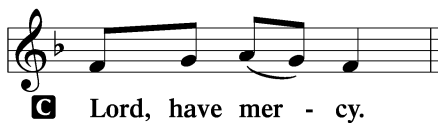
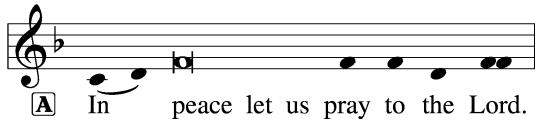
+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT


Psalm 119:89–93; antiphon: v. 105

Your word is a lamp | to my feet*
and a light | to my path.
Forever, O | LORD, your word*
is firmly fixed | in the heavens.
Your faithfulness endures to all gener- | ations,*
you have established the earth, and it | stands fast.
By your appointment they | stand this day,*
for all things are your | servants.
If your law had not been | my delight,*
I would have perished in my af- | fliction.
I will never forget your | precepts,*
for by them you have giv- | en me life.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Your word is a lamp | to my feet*
and a light | to my path.

KYRIE





Lord, have mer - cy.


A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise

let us pray to the Lord.




 [A] Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.


A - men.

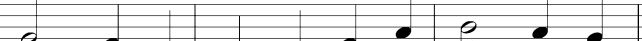
THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain

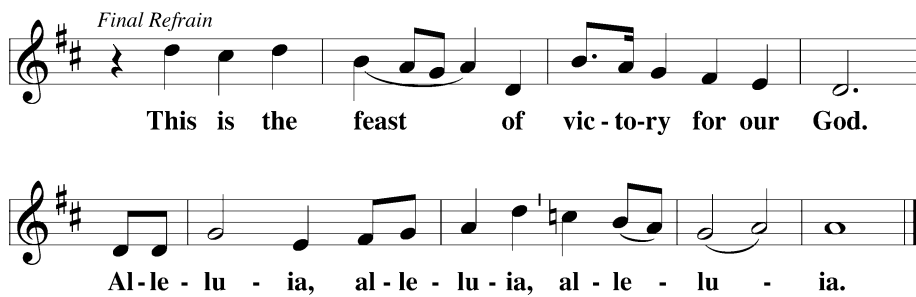
C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

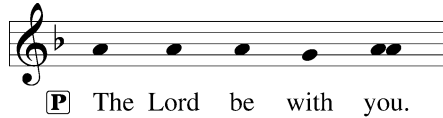
1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb — who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.
 O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



FIRST READING

Acts 17:16–31

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So 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. ¹⁸Some 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. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?” ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. ²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For 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. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And 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, ²⁷that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for “‘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.’” ²⁹Being 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. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because 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.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands,*
he has put all things un- | der his feet.

EPISTLE

1 Peter 3:13–22

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard 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; ¹⁶yet 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. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

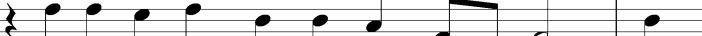
¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, 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, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

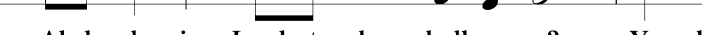
A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE


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.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:15–21

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁵[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(Sit)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Hymn of the Day

#490 - Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long - er can ap -
 2 Je - sus lives! To Him the throne High a - bove all things is
 3 Je - sus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Je - sus
 4 Je - sus lives! I know full well Noth - ing me from Him shall
 5 Je - sus lives! And now is death But the gate of life im -



pall me; Je - sus lives! Death's reign is done!
 giv - en. I shall go where He is gone,
 liv - ing, Pure in heart and act a - bide,
 sev - er. Nei - ther death nor pow'rs of hell
 mor - tal; This shall calm my trem - bling breath



From the grave will Christ re - call me. Bright - er
 Live and reign with Him in heav - en. God is
 Praise to Him and glo - ry giv - ing. All I
 Part me now from Christ for - ev - er. God will
 When I pass its gloom - y por - tal. Faith shall



scenes will then com-mence; This shall be my con - fi - dence.
 faith - ful; doubt-ings, hence! This shall be my con - fi - dence.
 need God will dis - pense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.
 be my sure de - fense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.
 cry, as fails each sense: Je - sus is my con - fi - dence!

SERMON

The Gift of the Spirit of Truth

John 14:15-21

Introduction

Last week Jesus told _____.

Your Mother Said

In our text Jesus says, _____.

Not just what we think, but _____.

Not just what we think and say, but _____.

Your Parents Said

Did you parents ever tell you _____.

Jesus' words remind us _____.

What Jesus said reflected _____.

What Jesus did reflected _____.

To the Sinners

To the sinners I say _____.

We are _____.

Repent of not _____.

As you hear those words to repent _____.

To the Faithful

Keep the faith, but _____.

This morning our Lord urges us to _____.

Our three texts for today show _____.

So, I leave you with Jesus' words _____.

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

_____.

_____.

Miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine (teachings), check out Pastor's blog at:

<http://rabswritings.blogspot.com/>