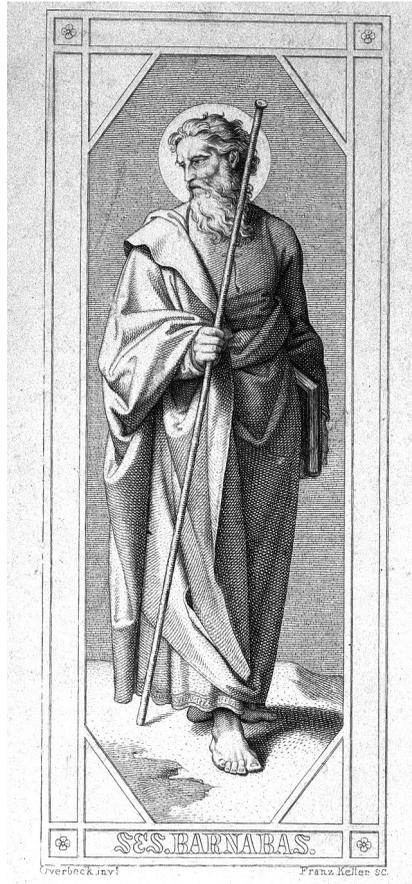


THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5th, 2024



MARTIN LUTHER
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
St. Louis, MO
Pastor Seth Georgson
314-914-6457

THE COMMON SERVICE

Hymn ----- Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

CW 156

1. Awake, my heart, with gladness! See what today is done;
Now, after gloom and sadness, Comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid Where our bed must be made
When to the realms of light Our spirit wings its flight.
2. The foe in triumph shouted When Christ lay in the tomb.
But lo, he now is routed; His boast is turned to gloom.
For Christ again is free; In glorious victory
He who is strong to save Has triumphed o'er the grave.
3. This is a sight that gladdens— What peace it does impart!
Now nothing ever saddens The joy within my heart.
No gloom shall ever shake, No foe shall ever take
The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.
4. Now I will cling forever To Christ, my Savior true;
My Lord will leave me never, Whate'er he passes through.
He rends death's iron chain; He breaks through sin and pain.
He shatters hell's dark thrall; I follow him through all.
5. He brings me to the portal That leads to bliss untold,
Whereon this rhyme immortal Is found in script of gold:
"Who there my cross has shared Finds here a crown prepared;
Who there with me has died Shall here be glorified."

Stand.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Glory be to God

Gloria in Excelsis



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of



God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;

you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

M: Let us pray.

Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you. Inspire us to think those things that are true and long for those things that are good, that we may always make our petitions according to your gracious will; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

Be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson ----- **Acts 11:19–26**

Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that took place at the time of Stephen

traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. But

there were some men from Cyprus and Cyrene who came to Antioch and also began to speak to the Greeks, preaching the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord's hand was with them, and a large number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

A report about this reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to go on to Antioch. When he arrived and saw God's grace, he was glad and encouraged them all to re-

main true to the Lord with devoted hearts. He was a good man who was full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a large number of people were added to the Lord.

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul. When he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year they met with the church and taught a large number of people. It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians.

Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 98

CW p.103

Refrain

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

Sing to the LORD a new song,*
for he has done marvelous things.

The LORD has made his salvation known*
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness
to the house of Israel;*
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

Refrain

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,*
burst into jubilant song with music;
make music to the LORD with the harp,*
with the harp and the sound of singing.

Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.*
He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Second Lesson ----- 1 John 4:1-11

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit who does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming and is already in the world. You are from God, dear children, and you have overcome the false prophets, because the one in you is greater than the one in the world. They are from the world. That is why they speak from a worldly perspective and the world listens to them. We are from God. The one who knows God listens to us,

but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. That is how we can distinguish between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. The one who does not love has not known God, because God is love. This is how God's love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him. This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another.

Verse of the Day

John 14:23

Tune: CW 149



C: If you love me as you ought, Then o-bey what I have taught.



I and my own Fa-ther true Come to make our home with you.

Stand.

Gospel ----- John 15:9–17

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

“As the Father has loved me, so also I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you hold on to my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have held on to my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that my joy would continue to be in you and that your joy would be complete.

“This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this: that someone lays down his life for his friends.

You are my friends if you continue to do the things I instruct you. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will endure, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. These things I am instructing you, so that you love one another.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and be-

came fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day ----- Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

CW 377:1-5

1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, With exultation springing,
And, with united heart and voice And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done, How his right arm the vict'ry won.
How dearly it has cost him!
2. Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay; Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day; In sin my mother bore me.
Yet deep and deeper still I fell; Life had become a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.
3. My own good works availed me naught, No merit they attaining;
My will against God's judgment fought, No hope for me remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair Left naught but death to be my share
And hell to be my sentence.

4. But God beheld my wretched state Before the world's foundation,
And, mindful of his mercies great, He planned my soul's salvation.
A Father's heart he turned to me, Sought my redemption fervently;
He gave his dearest treasure.
5. He spoke to his beloved Son: "Tis time to have compassion.
Then go, bright Jewel of my crown, And bring mankind salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free; Slay bitter death for them that they
May live with you forever."

Sermon ----- John 15:9-17

You Are Jesus' Friend

Stand.

Hymn of the Day ----- Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

CW 377:6-10

6. The Son obeyed his Father's will, Was born of virgin mother,
And, God's good pleasure to fulfill, He came to be my brother.
No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore; A servant's form like mine he bore
To lead the devil captive.
7. To me he spoke, "Hold fast to me-I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I myself will be; For you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, your friend divine, And evermore you shall be mine;
The foe shall not divide us.
8. "The foe shall shed my precious blood, Me of my life bereaving.
All this I suffer for your good; Be steadfast and believing.
Life shall from death the vict'ry win; My innocence shall bear your sin,
And you are blest forever.
9. "Now to my Father I depart, The Holy Spirit sending
And, heav'nly wisdom to impart, My help to you extending.
He will a source of comfort be, Teach you to know and follow me,

And in all truth will guide you.

10. “What I on earth have lived and taught Be all your life and teaching;
So shall my kingdom’s work be wrought And honored in your preaching.
Take care that no one’s man-made laws
Should e’er destroy the gospel’s cause.
This final word I leave you.”

Be seated.

Offering

Stand.

Prayer of the Church

The minister offers the petitions and the congregation responds with “hear our prayer.”

Online giving option:
mluther.org/give



Offerings support the spread
of the Gospel here and around the world.

M: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

M: Heavenly Father, You invite us freely to come and hear Your Word. Bless and increase our faith, that we may rightly fear You and learn what You have done for our souls. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Lord of all, You make known the good news of peace through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Bless and direct the work of our missionaries, that in every nation there would be people who fear God, do what is right and, believing in Jesus, receive forgiveness of sins through His name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Father of love, out of great love for You and for sinners, our Lord Jesus laid down His life for the world. Increase in us true love for one another, that like our Lord, we may also lay down our lives for our friends. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

- M: Almighty Father, You rule this world by Your established authorities in ways that we do not always understand; yet in the name of Jesus, we may ask You anything freely as friends and sons. Bless our nation's leaders, and cause them to serve wisely for our good. Give earthly peace and justice that is in accord with Your commandments and the order You have revealed. Bring an end to injustice, violence and disdain for Your truth, and let us receive all good with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Lord God, the Giver of all that is good, grant Your healing and support to all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity [*especially* _____]. Give them also the gift of Your grace to accept and bear their crosses with faith in You, that finally they would be prepared to depart this life and receive the gift of eternal life in Your kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Merciful God, at the death of Your Son, You gave the testimony of Your Spirit in the water and blood that poured from His wounded side. Grant that, having received this testimony in the water of Baptism, we may also receive it in the body and blood of Jesus in the Holy Supper and so overcome the world by our faith in Him. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n 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, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases marked with a fermata. The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the notes.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

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

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.

During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymn:

Hymns ----- Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

CW 312

1. Lord Jesus Christ, you have prepared This feast for our salvation;
It is your body and your blood, And at your invitation
As weary souls, with sin oppressed, We come to you for needed rest,
For comfort, and for pardon.
2. Although you did to heav'n ascend, Where angel hosts are dwelling,
And in your presence they behold Your glory, all excelling,
And though your people shall not see Your glory and your majesty
Till dawns the judgment morning,
3. Yet, Savior, you are not confined To any habitation,
But you are present ev'rywhere And with your congregation.
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Unmoved by any daring hand
Or subtle craft and cunning.
4. We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your precious Word believing
That your true body and your blood Our lips are here receiving.
This Word remains forever true, And there is naught you cannot do,
For you, Lord, are almighty.
5. Though reason cannot understand, Yet faith this truth embraces:
Your body, Lord, is ev'rywhere At once in many places.
I leave to you how this can be; Your Word alone suffices me;
I trust its truth unfailing.

6. Lord, I believe what you have said; Help me when doubts assail me.
Remember that I am but dust, And let my faith not fail me.
Your supper in this vale of tears Refreshes me and stills my fears
And is my priceless treasure.
7. Grant that we worthily receive Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
And, truly grieving for our sins, May prove by our behavior
That we are thankful for your grace And day by day may run our race,
In holiness increasing.
8. For your consoling supper, Lord, Be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place The world against it rages.
Grant that this sacrament may be A blessed comfort unto me
When living and when dying.

After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:

Song of Simeon

Nunc Dimittis

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: **And his mercy endures for - ev - er.**

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: **A - men.**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



C: **A - men. A - men. A - men.**

Be seated.

Hymn ----- What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CW 411

1. **What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!**

2. **Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged-Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness-Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

3. **Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge-Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; You will find a solace there.**

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