



May 25, 2025

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

- ♪ Jesus Christ is ris’n today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
- ♪ Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! Unto Christ, our heav’nly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
- ♪ But the pains which He endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He’s king, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
- ♪ Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heav’nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 457—Text: tr. Lyra Davidica, 1708, London, alt.; (sts. 1–3):
Latin, 14th cent.; (st. 4): Charles Wesley, 1707–88; Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Confession and Absolution

Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.

He showed me the holy city Jerusalem.

The city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it,

For the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

Revelation 21:9–10, 23

Ask, and you will receive,

That your joy may be full.

John 16:24

Let us ask God for forgiveness and guidance.

At times, O Lord, it feels like You have left us and gone into heaven, leaving us to fend for ourselves. We confess that we fail to remember Your word of promise about Your presence with us and Your love for us. We fear what might happen, and we regularly face our own desires and temptations. We forget that You “have overcome the world.” Forgive us and renew in us strong faith in Your presence and protection.

God has not left us alone. Christ is with us, and He has broken every barrier between us and the promised Jerusalem awaiting us. 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.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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. Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“The Strife Is O’er”

~Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

♪ The strife is o’er, the battle done; Now is the victor’s triumph won;
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

♪ The pow’rs of death have done their worst, But Christ their legions hath dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

♪ The three sad days have quickly sped, He rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

♪ He broke the age-bound chains of hell; The bars from heav’ns high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia!

♪ Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee, From death’s dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia!

~Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 464 -Text: Symphonia Sirenum Selectarum 1695; tr. Francis Pott 1832-1909;
Tune: Giovanni P. da Palestrina c.1525-94; Public domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

First Reading *Please Be Seated*

Acts 16:9–15

⁹And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹¹So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. ¹³And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Revelation 21:9–14, 21–27

⁹Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹²It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— ¹³on the east three gates, on the

north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb....

²¹And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

²²And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Jerusalem the Golden”

- ♪ Jerusalem the golden, With milk and honey blest— The promise of salvation,
The place of peace and rest— We know not, oh, we know not
What joys await us there: The radiancy of glory, The bliss beyond compare!
- ♪ Within those walls of Zion Sounds forth the joyful song, As saints join with the angels
And all the martyr throng. The Prince is ever with them;
The daylight is serene; The city of the blessed Shines bright with glorious sheen.
- ♪ Around the throne of David, The saints, from care released, Raise loud their songs of triumph
To celebrate the feast. They sing to Christ their leader,
Who conquered in the fight, Who won for them forever Their gleaming robes of white.

Please Stand

- ♪ O sweet and blessed country, The home of God's elect! O sweet and blessed country
That faithful hearts expect! In mercy, Jesus, bring us
To that eternal rest With You and God the Father And Spirit, ever blest.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 672—Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; Text: Public domain

Holy Gospel

John 16:23–33

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²³In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

²⁵“I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

²⁹His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” ³¹Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? ³²Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not

alone, for the Father is with me. ³³I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

Handbell Choir

“America the Beautiful”

The Hymn

“Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won”

- ♪ Jesus lives! The vict’ry’s won! Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done! From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence; This shall be my confidence.
- ♪ Jesus lives! To Him the throne High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone, Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence! This shall be my confidence.
- ♪ Jesus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide, Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense; This shall be my confidence.
- ♪ Jesus lives! I know full well Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow’rs of hell Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense; This shall be my confidence.
- ♪ Jesus lives! And now is death But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense: Jesus is my confidence!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 490—Text: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, 1715–69;
tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt.; Text: Public domain

Proclamation of the Word

“The Three Fathers”

John 16:23–33

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Christ is risen,

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

Music: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," Hymn 469

- ♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heav'n and earth adored.
Sing hosanna, to the Lord. Blest is He who comes to us!

Words of Our Lord

Lord's Prayer

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Agnus Dei

Music: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," Hymn 469

- ♪ Jesus, Lamb of God, our Lord, Jesus, Lamb of God, our God.
Jesus, Lamb of God, we pray: Lord, have mercy, grant us peace!

Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

- ♪ I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head.
- ♪ He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.
- ♪ He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
- ♪ He lives to grant me rich supply; He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's complaint.
- ♪ He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.
- ♪ He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.
- ♪ He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.
- ♪ He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 461—Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr.; Text: Public domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

And His mercy endures forever.

Psalms 106:1

We give thanks to You, almighty God, for sending Your Son, our Lord, to be both a sacrifice for our sin and a model of the godly life. By His body and blood, strengthen our faith to stand steadfast as inheritors of Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Benediction

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.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

- ♪ 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!
- ♪ 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.
- ♪ 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 thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He’ll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 770—Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86; Text: Public domain

Postlude