

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026

9:00 am -- Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Chesterton, IN

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## ✠ GATHERING ✠

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

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

**Amen.**

In the beginning, God's Spirit moved across the waters — and life came.

**You called light out of darkness, order out of chaos, and life from nothing.**

**Thanks be to God.**

Through flood and sea, God carried his people safely to the other side.

**You rescued Noah through the waters and led your people through the sea on dry ground. Thanks be to God.**

Into the Jordan, Jesus went — and came up claimed, beloved, and sent.

**You opened the heavens and named him your Son. And in those same waters, you claim us too. Thanks be to God.**

And in our own baptism, we were joined to that same story.

**We were buried with Christ and raised with Christ. We belong to you — named, forgiven, and loved. Thanks be to God.**

The Spirit who raised Jesus is alive in us now, keeping the story going.

**You did not leave us alone. Your Spirit teaches us, reminds us, and lives in us. The story is still going, and we are part of it.**

Praise to you — ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### \*GATHERING HYMN

“As the Deer”

W&P #9



As the deer pant-eth for the wa-ter, so my soul long-eth af - ter  
You're my friend and You are my brother, e-ven though\_\_ You are a  
I want You morethan gold or sil-ver, on-ly You\_\_ can sa - tis -



Thee. You a - lone are my heart's de - si - re and I  
King. I love You morethan an - y - o - ther, so much  
fy. You a - lone are the real joy - gi - ver and the

long to wor - ship Thee. You a - lone are my  
 more than an - y - thing.  
 ap - ple of my eye.

strength, my shield; To You a - lone may my spir - it yield.

You a - lone army heart's de - si - re and I long to wor - ship Thee.

**\*GREETING**

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

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray,  
 Living God, your Spirit didn't disappear when Easter morning was over — you sent your Spirit to teach us, remind us, and keep Jesus present and alive in us every day. Pour that same Spirit out on us today, so we aren't just people who know the Easter story, but people who are actually living it out together right here. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who is alive and with us still. **Amen.**

**✠ WORD ✠**

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

**FIRST READING**

Ezekiel 34:1-7

<sup>1</sup>The LORD's word came to me: <sup>2</sup>Human one, prophesy against Israel's shepherds. Prophesy and say to them, The LORD God proclaims to the shepherds: Doom to Israel's shepherds who tended themselves! Shouldn't shepherds tend the flock? <sup>3</sup>You drink the milk, you wear the wool, and you slaughter the fat animals, but you don't tend the flock. <sup>4</sup>You don't strengthen the weak, heal the sick, bind up the injured, bring back the strays, or seek out the lost; but instead you use force to rule

them with injustice. <sup>5</sup>Without a shepherd, my flock was scattered; and when it was scattered, it became food for all the wild animals. <sup>6</sup>My flock strayed on all the mountains and on every high hill throughout all the earth. My flock was scattered, and there was no one to look for them or find them. <sup>7</sup>So now shepherds, hear the LORD's word!

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 115:1-11, 18b

<sup>1</sup>Not to us, LORD, not to us—  
no, but to your own name give glory  
because of your loyal love and  
faithfulness!

<sup>2</sup>**Why do the nations say,  
“Where’s their God now?”**

<sup>3</sup>Our God is in heaven—  
he can do whatever he wants!

<sup>4</sup>**Their idols are just silver and gold—  
things made by human hands.**

<sup>5</sup>They have mouths, but they can’t  
speak.  
They have eyes, but they can’t see.

<sup>6</sup>**They have ears, but they can’t hear.  
They have noses, but they can’t  
smell.**

<sup>7</sup>They have hands, but they can’t feel.  
They have feet, but they can’t walk.  
They can’t even make a noise in their  
throats!

<sup>8</sup>**Let the people who made these  
idols  
and all who trust in them  
become just like them!**

<sup>9</sup>But you, Israel, trust in the LORD!  
God is their help and shield.

<sup>10</sup>**Trust in the LORD, house of Aaron!  
God is their help and shield.**

<sup>11</sup>You who honor the LORD, trust in  
the LORD!  
God is their help and shield.

## SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are zealous  
for good? <sup>14</sup>But happy are you, even if  
you suffer because of righteousness!  
Don’t be terrified or upset by  
them. <sup>15</sup>Instead, regard Christ the Lord  
as holy in your hearts. Whenever  
anyone asks you to speak of your hope,  
be ready to defend it. <sup>16</sup>Yet do this with  
respectful humility, maintaining a good  
conscience. Act in this way so that those  
who malign your good lifestyle in Christ  
may be ashamed when they slander  
you. <sup>17</sup>It is better to suffer for doing good  
(if this could possibly be God’s will) than  
for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup>Christ himself suffered on account of  
sins, once for all, the righteous one on  
behalf of the unrighteous. He did this in  
order to bring you into the presence of  
God. Christ was put to death as a

human, but made alive by the  
Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And it was by the Spirit that he  
went to preach to the spirits in  
prison. <sup>20</sup>In the past, these spirits were  
disobedient—when God patiently waited  
during the time of Noah. Noah built an  
ark in which a few (that is, eight) lives  
were rescued through water. <sup>21</sup>Baptism  
is like that. It saves you now—not  
because it removes dirt from your body  
but because it is the mark of a good  
conscience toward God. Your salvation  
comes through the resurrection of Jesus  
Christ, <sup>22</sup>who is at God’s right side. Now  
that he has gone into heaven, he rules  
over all angels, authorities, and powers.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

A - le - lu - ia, A - le - lu - ia

3 Lord to whom shall we go

5 You have the words of e - ter - nal life

7 A - le - lu - ia

## \*HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

The Holy Gospel According to St. John, the 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>I will ask the Father, and he will send another Companion, who will be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This Companion is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world can’t receive because it neither sees him nor recognizes him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be with you. <sup>18</sup>“I won’t leave you as orphans. I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me.

Because I live, you will live too. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup>Whoever has my commandments and keeps them loves me. Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY

“Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)”

A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like

me. I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind, but now I

see. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,— and grace my fears re-  
 Lord has prom-ised good to me,— His word my hope se-  
 earth shall soon— dis-solve like snow, the sun for bear to

lieved. How pre-cious did— that grace ap-pear the hour I first— be-  
 cures. He— will my— shield and por-tion be,— as long as life— en-  
 shine. But God who called me here be-low, will be for ev— er

lieved. My chains are gone, I've been set free. my God, my Sav-our has ran some d-  
 dures.  
 mine.

me. And like a— flood His mercy rains, un-ending love,— a-mazing grace.

1., 2. | 3.

The  
 The

**\* APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us bring our prayers to the God who is not finished yet — the One whose Spirit keeps the story alive in us.

Brief Silence for Reflection

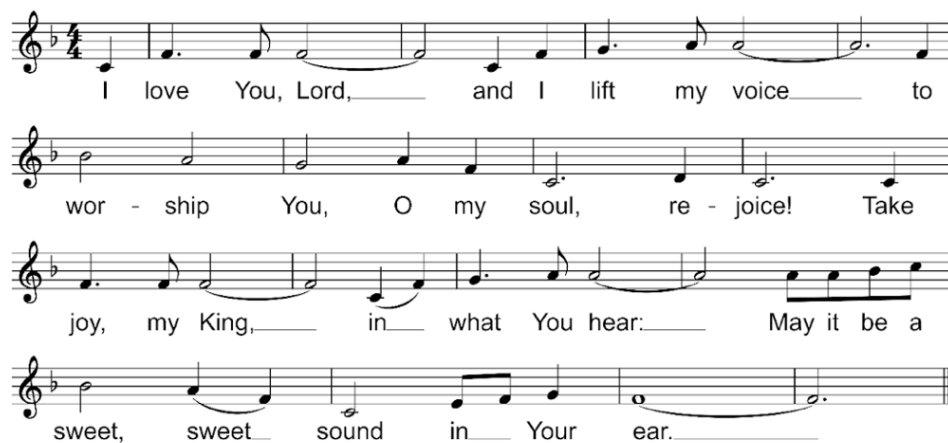
Lord, breathe your Spirit into your church around the world — into every congregation that is trying to keep the Easter story alive and real.

Keep us at Bethlehem curious about who we are becoming together, not just who we have been.

This week we hold especially in prayer Don, Mary, Joseph, Melissa, Elizabeth, and Emily.

Surround them with your presence, and bind us together as the community you are writing us to be.

### *Refrain*



I love You, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and I lift my voice \_\_\_\_\_ to  
wor - ship You, O my soul, re - joice! Take  
joy, my King, \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ what You hear: \_\_\_\_\_ May it be a  
sweet, sweet \_\_\_\_\_ sound in \_\_\_\_\_ Your ear. \_\_\_\_\_

Breathe your Spirit of truth and peace into the rooms where decisions are made — give our leaders the wisdom to see one another's humanity and the courage to act on it.

Where there is war, bring your peace.

And on this Mother's Day, draw close to everyone for whom this day carries weight — those who are mothers, those who have lost mothers, those who longed to be mothers, and those who have loved others with that same fierce and tender care.

Let them feel the presence of the Advocate, the One who comes alongside and does not leave.

### *Refrain*

We remember those who have died in the faith — their chapter is complete, and we give thanks for every page of it.

Hold them in the resurrection life you have promised.

Be near to those who are grieving — for whom loss is still a raw and present ache.

Remind us that showing up for one another in grief is one of the ways we keep the Easter story alive.

### *Refrain*

Receive our prayers, O God, and let your Spirit accomplish in us more than we can ask or imagine. **Amen.**

## ✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### OFFERING & SETTING OF THE TABLE

#### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray,

Everything we bring today — our money, our time, our energy, the very breath in our lungs — it all comes back to the One who gave it to us first. So let's offer it back together, and ask God to use it for something bigger than ourselves. **Use what we bring, Lord — not just to keep the lights on, but to keep the story alive. Let these gifts carry your Spirit into this neighborhood, this city, and this world, so the next chapter of Easter gets written right here. Amen.**

#### \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

#### \*PREFACE

It is right and good that we give you thanks and praise, O God, especially in this season of Easter — when death gave way to life and the tomb could not hold the story down. You promised your disciples that you would not leave them alone — that your Spirit, the Advocate, would come to teach them, remind them, and make your resurrection real in them day by day. Like Mary, who carried your Word before the world could understand it — your Spirit still carries your living presence into each new generation of your people, so the story never grows cold. And so, with every voice that has ever praised you — with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven — we lift our voices and sing:

#### \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho-ly ho-ly ho - ly Lord \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>3</sup> Lord God of pow'r and might.

Hea-ven and earth are full \_\_\_\_\_

full of your glo - ry \_\_\_\_\_

Ho - sa - nah in the high - est\_\_

Ho - sa - nah in the high - est\_\_

Bles-sed is\_\_ he who comes\_\_

in the\_\_ name\_\_ of the Lord

Ho - sa - nah in the high\_\_ est\_\_

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

On the night he was betrayed  
 our Lord Jesus took bread and gave  
 thanks;  
 broke it  
 and gave it to his disciples saying:  
 Take and eat;  
 this is my body given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper, he took the cup,  
 gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my  
 blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the  
 forgiveness of sin.  
 As often as you drink of it,  
 do this for the remembrance of me.

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**


As we longingly await Jesus' return, we pray:


**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.**

**\*LAMB OF GOD**

Lamb of God you take a -  
 way the sin of the world, Have

6  
  
 mer - cy, mer - cy on us. Lamb of


10  
  
 God, you take a - way the sin of the world,

13  
  
 Oh grant us peace, Lamb of God.


**COMMUNION HYMN I**

**“In the Singing”**

ELW #466




1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,  
 2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,




in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,  
 in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,

*Refrain*



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

**COMMUNION HYMN II**

**“I Received the Living God”**

ELW #477

*Refrain*



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



1 Je-sus said: I am the bread, knead-ed long to give you life;  
 2 Je-sus said: I am the way, and my Fa-ther longs for you;  
 3 Je-sus said: I am the truth; come and fol-low close to me.  
 4 Je-sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



you who will par-take of me need not ev-er fear to die.  
 so I come to bring you home to be one with us a-new.  
 You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.  
 but re-ceive this liv-ing bread, and my Spir-it you shall know.

**\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

People of God, you are now in the Kingdom of God, and may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray,  
 God, thank you for this table. Thank you that you don't just tell us the story — you feed us with it. You put Jesus himself into our hands and onto our lips, and you send us back out into our week different than when we came in. Let what we received here stay with us — in our kitchens, our offices, our conversations, our hard moments. Remind us, again and again, that we are characters in a story that is still being written. In Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

**✠ SENDING ✠**

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

**\*BENEDICTION**

May the God who raised Jesus from the dead fill you with the Spirit of truth — the One who teaches you, reminds you, and will not let the Easter story go quiet in you — so that wherever you go this week, the story keeps moving forward through you. **Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

“There is a Redeemer”



1. There is a Re-deem-er, Je-sus, God's own Son;\_\_\_\_  
 2. Je-sus, my Re-deem-er, name a-bove all names;\_\_\_\_  
 3. When I stand in glo-ry, I will see His face;\_\_\_\_



Pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si-ah, Ho\_\_\_\_ly One.  
 Pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si-ah, Hope for\_\_\_\_sin-ners slain.  
 There I'll serve my King for-ev-er in\_\_\_\_that\_\_\_\_ho-ly place.

Refrain

Thank You, oh, my Fa - ther, for giv-ing us Your Son, And  
leav - ing Your Spir - it till the work on eath is done.

## \*DISMISSAL

The Spirit of the living God goes with you — you are the next chapter. Go and live it.  
**Changing lives through Christ with love and acts of service.**

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