ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 7979 Commerce Road West Bloomfield, MI 48324 Phone: (248) 363-0741; Email: <u>info@stmarkwb.org</u> Website: www.stmarkwb.org



I 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."

John 16:33

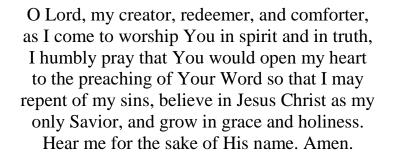
The Sixth Sunday of Easter (Rogate)

25 May A**№**D 2025 Divine Service, Setting I

+ Welcome in the name of Jesus! +

Today we observe the Sixth Sunday of Easter. On this day, we remember how our Lord, having risen from the dead, now summons us to pray. Although we live in a hostile world, we know that Christ has overcome the world, and that He desires all to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. Therefore, we pray with confidence, remembering that our Father loves us and that He rejoices to give us the good things for which we ask.

If you are a <u>VISITOR</u> here, we'd like to offer you our warmest welcome! We pray that your experience among us is blessed, and that you depart filled with God's peace and life.



Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

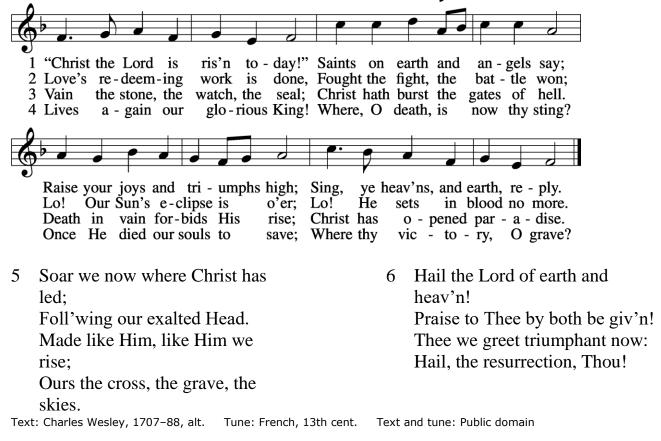
- \blacksquare In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.
- \blacksquare If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- **C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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 Hymn of Invocation: 469 Christ The Lord Is Risen Today



Service of the Word

Introit (spoken responsively)

Psalm 66:1–2a, 17, 19–20; antiphon: Isaiah 48:20b

- [With a voice of singing,] declare this with a shout of joy to the end of the earth. Alleluia. The LORD has redeemed his servant Jacob! Alleluia.
- Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name.
- C I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue.
 P But truly God has listened;
 - he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
- C Blessèd be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!
- All: 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.

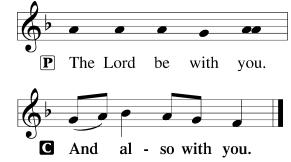
[With a voice of singing,] declare this with a shout of joy to the end of the earth. Alleluia. The LORD has redeemed his servant Jacob! Alleluia.







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.



Sit **Old Testament Reading**

Numbers 21:4–9

⁴From Mount Hor [the people of Israel] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Verse (spoken responsively)

Liturgical Text; John 16:28 During the Sundays of Easter, the Gradual is omitted and the Verse is expanded.

Alleluia. Christ, who has redeemed us with his blood, is risen and has appeared unto us. Alleluia.

C I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father. Alleluia.

Epistle

James 1:22-27

22But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

26If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. 27Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

P This is the Word of the Lord.





Holy Gospel

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



²³[Jesus said:] "In 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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

Hymn of the Day: 724 If God Himself Be for Me



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; (sts. 1, 3–5): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1907, Pittsburgh, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt. Tune: Vierundzwanzig geistliche Lieder, 1609, Augsburg Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man: and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

- P Heavenly Father, You have redeemed Your servant Jacob and gathered Your Church. Help us declare, proclaim and utter this great salvation in speech and song to the very ends of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.

Almighty God, You threaten to punish all those who break Your commandments. To the grumbling and unfaithful people of Israel, You sent poisonous serpents. They tested Christ and were destroyed. Instruct us by these examples, that we may not follow them in their desire for evil, but live God-pleasing lives as the end of the ages approaches. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Blessed Lord, by Your Holy Spirit inspire Your people in their homes, occupations and lives to follow Your Word, that we would show our holy religion sincerely in all that we do. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, receive our supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings for all civil authorities and servants in high positions. Give them the saving knowledge of Christ Jesus, our Mediator, whose death is the ransom for all. Bless also their exercise of power for the common good, that we may lead peaceful and quiet lives, godly and dignified in every way. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Lord of hosts, for our learning You have written of Israel, of their impatient complaint against You and of their punishment. Instruct our hearts to trust You through all our trials. Bless [______and] all who struggle among us, and fix their eyes on Christ, their savior. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, like the children of Israel, we are strangers and pilgrims in this wilderness of the world. Remind us that our citizenship is in heaven and that we desire a better, heavenly country. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

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.

Sit

Offering

During the Offering, we ask that you please sign a black attendance book located in your pew.

Stand



Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to 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,

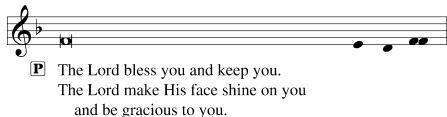
Collect

A Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Benediction



The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.



Numbers 6:24–26

Closing Hymn: 724 If God Himself Be For Me 6 Who clings with res - o - lu - tion To Him whom Sa - tan hates 7 From hid - den, Yet this is Ι me not am not a fraid; hun - ger, No pain 8 No dan - ger, thirst, or - ty, or pov - er glad - ness, No throne, no pomp, no 9 No an - gel and no show. 10 My heart with iov is spring - ing; I am no long - er sad. Must tion; For the look for per - se - cu him bur - den waits Ι leave my cares, as bid den, To whom my vows were paid. ger Shall ev - er No earth-ly ty - rant's an van - quish me. No love, no hate, no sad ness, No pain, no depth of woe. ing; Your sun - shine makes me My soul is filled with sing glad. Of mock - 'ry, shame, and loss - es Heaped on his blame-less head; Though life from me be tak - en And ev - 'ry - thing Ι own, Though earth should break a - sun - der, My for - tress You shall be; sub - tle thing or No schem - ing, no con - triv - ance, No great The sun that cheers my spir - it Is Je - sus Christ, my King; thou - sand plagues and cross - es Will his dai - ly bread. be A Ι You un-shak - en And cleave You a - lone. trust in to sword or thun - der Shall No fire sev -You from me. or er from Your guid - ance Nor from Shall draw me You sep - a - rate. The heav'n Ι shall in - her - it Makes me re - joice and sing.

sts. 6-10

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; (st. 10): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1907, Pittsburgh, alt.; (sts. 6–9): tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.

Tune: Vierundzwanzig geistliche Lieder, 1609, Augsburg Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 5/25 The Sixth Sunday of Easter Rev. Dr. Frank Pies, Presiding Pastor
 • Divine Service 9:30 a.m. Without Holy Communion
 - Adult Bible Study 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Mon. 5/26 Memorial Day Office is Closed
- Tues. 5/27 Lilli out of the Office

Thurs. 5/29 Quilting Bee 10:00 a.m.

Sun. 6/01 The Seven Sunday of Easter Rev. Rod Zwonitzer, Presiding Pastor

- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m. With Holy Communion
- Voter's Meeting 11: 00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>ADULT BIBLE STUDY</u> will be held at 10:45 am in the fellowship hall which is located in the lower level. Members and non - members are invited to attend.

<u>VOTER'S MEETING</u> is being called on June 1st at 10:45 am. On the Agenda, besides regular business, there will be voting to finalize our candidate congregation. Also, there will be vote to Empower the Council/Ad Hoc Committee with a Blanket authority to complete all steps necessary (Ie: Obtaining legal representation for transfers of deeds, etc.; if needed, hiring real estate agent; signing documents, etc.) to complete the Merger. Please mark your calendars and please attend this very important meeting.

<u>QUILTING BEE</u> is currently meeting on Thursday mornings at 10 am. Anyone interested in joining and have questions please reach out to Leslie Oehring. She will be able to answer any questions you may have; or just show up.

LUTHERAN SPECIAL EDUCATION MINISTRIES is looking for a part-time resource room teacher position at Our Savior Lutheran School in Hartland, MI to start this fall. Applicants must Michigan License and hold current Teaching have special education a a certification/endorsement. Interested applicants looking for more information or wishing to submit a resume are asked to contact Richard Schumacher at (734) 748-5253 or email him at rschumacher@luthsped.org.

YOU ARE INVITED! To Attend **the Ascension Worship Service** of the Kensington Circuit of the Michigan District of the LCMS. It is being hosted at: Christ Lutheran Church, 620 General Motors Rd., Milford, MI 48381, on **May 29th at 7 pm**. Free will offering is planned to be collected to benefit the Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society, which preaches to those who are deaf.

ATTENTION ALL SINGERS! The Christ Lutheran Church Choir would like to invite any interested singers to join us for a circuit choir which will sing at the circuit Ascension Day service on Thursday, May 29th at 7 pm at Christ Lutheran church. There will be two rehearsals: Both Wednesdays, 05/21 & 05/28 @ 7:00 pm at Christ Lutheran in Milford. We will warmup on the 29th at 630 pm. We hope you will join us! For questions, please contact Tim Prueter @ 248.505.4507.



MOST MINISTRIES IS LOOKING FOR A PART- TIME COMMUNICATION

SPECIALIST. This person will work collaboratively to design and deliver messages effectively to convey MOST Ministries to external audiences through social media, newsletters, website and written communications. Visit our website at mostministries.org to see the full job description. Submit resume and cover letter to Kelly Bone at kbone@mostministries.org.

TOILETRY/HYGIENE DONATIONS FOR THE OPEN DOOR OUTREACH CENTER -

We continue to receive hygiene & toiletry products year around for the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford. The Open Door is a non-profit organization that assists needy families in the Lakes Area. They are ALWAYS in need of toiletry and hygiene items, so **if you can provide any of these throughout the year, it would be appreciated.**

<u>WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT</u> used postage stamps for Wycliffe Bible Translation Ministries, and used eyeglasses for MOST Ministries in the two plastic bins on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. Wycliffe sells the stamps to stamp collectors and then uses the proceeds to fund Bible translation projects throughout the world. MOST Ministries repairs/refurbishes used eyeglasses and distributes them via eyeglass clinics to the needy around the world. If you donate postage stamps, please be sure to leave ¹/₄" of the envelope paper around the stamp so that the stamp isn't damaged. Thank you.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship

Stewardship Thoughts - May 2025

Stewardship in the Body of Christ

Baseball season is upon us. The southern images of spring training give way to the pageantry of Opening Day. On that day, the hopes and dreams of every major league team, player and fan focus on doing whatever it takes to get to the Fall Classic, the World Series. Baseball is a secular way that so many of us confess that hope "springs" eternal.

With all of this in mind, baseball can also teach us a new perspective about stewardship. Think about the game itself. Baseball is a team sport. The home team faces off against the visitors. Yet while it is a team game, there are repetitive, individual confrontations that take place within the game. The baseball game cannot start without the individual pitcher against the hitter. Once the batted ball is in play, the battle is between the ability of the fielder against the speed of the baserunner. Once there is a runner on base, an attempt to steal a base pits the runner against the catcher. A base hit into the outfield pits the outfielder against a runner trying to score.

Baseball is a team game with many smaller units at play. Without all those smaller units working together and achieving their tasks, the team will lose.

Romans 12 puts our stewardship of the Gospel in a similar setting. The church is certainly described as a team, if you will.

Verse 3: "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned." This is where the Body of Christ is really seen as a team. No one member of the baseball team can win the game by themselves. In the same way, no one part of the Body of Christ can accomplish stewardship of the Gospel alone. The pastor cannot. The congregational chair cannot. The lead soprano in the choir cannot. But each of these individuals have been added to the local congregation to be built into a team that can win the victory with Jesus.

Verses 4–5: "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." In baseball, the pitcher pitches. The catcher catches. The hitter hits. When a pitcher attempts to hit, the result is usually not very pretty. Catchers often do not excel at running the bases. The hitter usually does not do well when they are sent to the mound to pitch. Every member of the Body of Christ has a unique set of abilities and functions. Not everyone preaches. Not everyone leads. Not everyone sings well. Yet when the congregation assembles together as a team, it can succeed in ways unattainable by the individual.

Verses 6–8: "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness." Each member of the team has a role to play. Abilities and opportunities are entrusted to the individual members of the Body of Christ to be used for the ultimate purpose of stewarding the Gospel for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor. The one preaching is no more or less important than the others. The one serving or the one teaching, the leader or the merciful one — all are equally important in the faithful stewardship of all that the Lord has entrusted to the Body of Christ. All this stewardship is for the sake of the other!

A baseball team can have five All-Star pitchers but cannot win if the hitters do not hit. The best lineup in the league will struggle if the pitchers cannot get anyone on the other team out. Pitchers need the defense behind them to play well. Coaches need to lead well. When they all work together, you have a winning baseball team. When the Body of Christ has all its members faithfully stewarding the unique individual talents that have been entrusted to them, the victory goes to Jesus! This is the goal of faithful stewardship! It is all about Jesus!

X

SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister Altar Guild Elder on Duty Greeter(s) Offering Counters Organists Usher Pastor Frank Pies TBD None Mary Ann Lockwood TBD Rob Wheeler Matt Maier

X

SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS NEXT WEEK

Presiding Minister Altar Guild Elder on Duty Greeter(s) Offering Counters Organists Usher Pastor Rod Zwonitzer Karen Kaufman Darryl Swainson Cathy Fitzgerald TBD Rob Wheeler Tom Kaufman