**Worship Plan for Sunday, May 5, 2024**

Sixth Sunday of Easter

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four

**GATHERING**

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

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who forgives all our sin,

whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Water is poured to remind us of our baptism.*

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG*In Christ There Is No East or West* (ELW 650)**  
  
1 In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one community of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.  
  
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.  
  
3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be.  
All children of the living God  
are surely kin to me.  
  
4 In Christ now meet both east and west,  
in him meet south and north;  
all Christly souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.

**GREETING (ELW p. 147)**

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.**

**KYRIE (ELW p. 147)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above,

and for our salvation,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,

for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,

and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 149)**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,**

**whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**Power and riches and wisdom and strength,**

**and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God**

**and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing and honor and glory and might**

**be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God,**

**for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 150)**

Let us pray.

**O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**WORD**

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

**CHILDREN'S FOCUS DURING WORSHIP**

**FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48**

A reading from Acts.

44While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 45The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” 48So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 98**

1Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things,  
  whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.  
 2**O Lord, you have made known your victory,**  
  **you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**  
 3You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
  all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.  
 4**Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;**  
  **lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**  
 5Sing to the Lord with the harp,  
  with the harp and the voice of song.  
 6**With trumpets and the sound of the horn**  
  **shout with joy before the king, the Lord.**  
 7Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
  the world and those who dwell therein.  
 8**Let the rivers clap their hands,**  
  **and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth.**  
 9The Lord will judge the world with righteousness  
  and the peoples with equity.

**SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6**

A reading from 1 John.

1Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. 2By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, 4for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. 5Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?  
  
 6This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL: John 15:9-17**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 9“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. 11I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.  
 12“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY*Beautiful Savior* (ELW 838)**  
  
1 Beautiful Savior,  
King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee,  
truly I'd serve thee,  
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
  
2 Fair are the meadows,  
fair are the woodlands,  
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer,  
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.  
  
3 Fair is the sunshine,  
fair is the moonlight,  
bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels in the sky.  
  
4 Beautiful Savior,  
Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor,  
praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine!

**CREED (ELW p. 104)**

**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 became truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. We pray especially for Ann & Rod; Gary & Kay; Deb; Dan, Lauren, Michael & Mary; Brad, Jessica, Cole & Mason; Pastor Jeff & Jennae; Katharine; Michael & Susan; Nancy; Shirley; Michael; Katharine & Bob; Jasmine; Mike; Marie & Ray; Pastor Dale & Kathy, Phyllis, Kaitlin, Mark, Evelyn, Caroline & Cliff….and all others we now lift up in prayer. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us, especially Frank Carter. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Resurrection spells new things! Help us plant seeds with our children for a foundation of faith in Jesus, giving them a wholeness of spirit. Help them grow to love and adore you and faithfully witness to your saving grace, O Lord. Today we especially pray for: Laura; Henry & Vivian; Alanna; Andrew; Adam; Jordan & Sean; Milena; Avalynn; and Evie & Nora.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 152)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING *Be Not Afraid* (ELW 388) (sung twice)**

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!  
Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)**

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 our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE (ELW p. 153)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,

the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;

who in dying has destroyed death,

and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**Lord God of pow’r and might:**

**Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 153)**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos;

you encircled the globe with air;

you created fire for warmth and light;

you nourish the lands with water.

You molded us in your image,

and with mercy higher than the mountains,

with grace deeper than the seas,

you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,

might be adopted to live in your Spirit,

you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

In the night in which 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.

Again, 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.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ,

we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,

the first-born of your new creation.

We remember his life lived for others,

and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.

We await his coming,

when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,

all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,

send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,

whose breath revives us for life,

whose fire rouses us to love.

Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.

Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,

that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy and benevolent God,

receive our praise and petitions,

as Jesus received the cry of the needy,

and fill us with your blessing,

until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,

we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:

through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,

with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)**

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.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ in Mark invites us into the Easter story alongside Jesus and the disciples. As we hear the disciples and apostles learning and growing the new church in Acts during the Easter Season, we hear again and again how God invited everyone to the table. Hear that invitation extended to you- whatever your doubts or fears, your distance or presence, God has extended this table for you!

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 154)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**grant us peace, grant us peace.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 155)**

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son’s resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Gracious God, you sent your son to save those you care for in his death and resurrection. We trust that you also send those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned.  Empowered by your Spirit, encouraged by this community, encourage those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Christ is Risen! Let us profess this through acting and living our mission statement: **Responding to great love, given by God's grace, it is our mission to do God's work with our hands.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We have scheduled another Wild Walk in the Word on Saturday, May 18th. We will be hiking in the Sylvania Wilderness. We will meet at Good Shepherd at 8:30am and carpool out to the trailhead.

VBS is scheduled for June 10th - 14th. It is filling up fast! If you are interested in signing up, please be sure to do so on our website, goodshepherdashland.com.

**BIRTHDAYS**

06 Mack

**ANNIVERSARIES**

06 Mark & Pat

**BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* (ELW 836)**

1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,  
praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.  
  
2 All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in thee.  
  
3 Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine!

**DISMISSAL (ELW p. 155)**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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