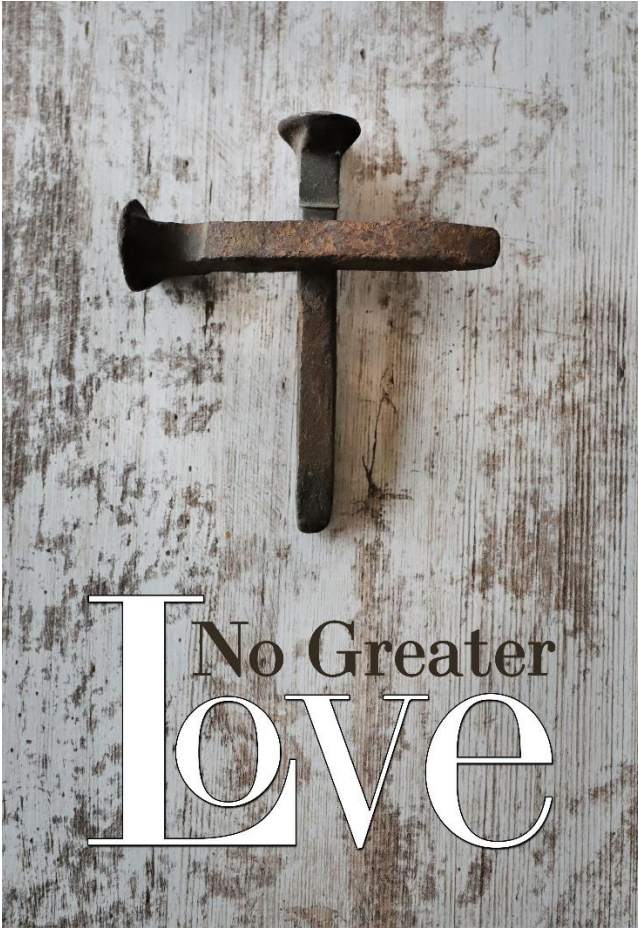


Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

10:30 a.m.



"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"

444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778

www.martinlutherchapel.org

The church is called to be an apostolic community that dwells in the new commandment of Christ. The challenge of the gospel is not to love others as others love us, but to love others as Jesus Christ loves us. He sees our failings and fears with utter clarity, yet offers us the gentle gifts of forgiveness and healing. Here we find ground for hope: we have been made friends of God in baptism.

WELCOME

PRELUDE “We Have Been Told”

David Haas

Choir

INVOCATION

Stand

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

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** Amen.

WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/ Remain Standing

P Most merciful God,

C We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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 us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE

Introduce yourself to those around you with the greeting of peace.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

HYMN

“Love in Christ is Strong and Living”

1 Love in Christ is strong and liv-ing, Bind-ing faith-ful
2 Love is pa-tient and for-bear-ing, Clothed in Christ's hu-
3 Love in Christ a-bides for-ev-er, Faint-ing not when

hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giv-ing.
mil-i-ty, Gen-tle, self-less, kind, and car-ing,
ills at-tend; Love, for-giv-ing and for-giv-en,

May His will in us be done.
Reach-ing out in char-i-ty.
Shall en-dure un-til life's end.

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, b. 1934
Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932

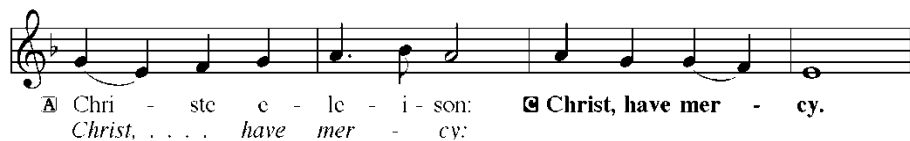
DOROTHY
87 87

Text and tune: © 1980 Concordia Publishing House

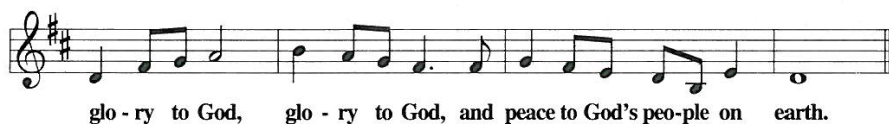
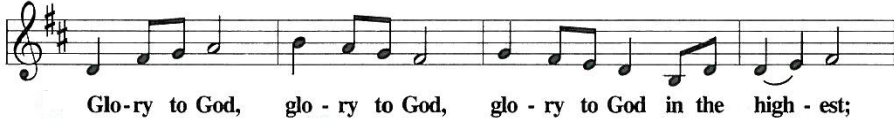
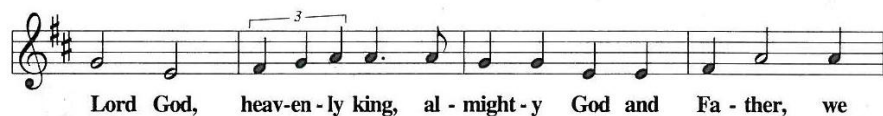
Col. 3:12-14; Eph. 5:2; 1 Corinthians 13; Eph. 4:2, 32

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

KYRIE (Cong. sings "c" parts)



HYMN OF PRAISE



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[P] The Lord be with you. **[C] And also with you.**

[P] O God, from whom all good things come: Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to think those things which are right, and by your goodness help us to do them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **[C] Amen.**

Sit

Children are invited to the Fireside Lounge for the Children's Lesson.

FIRST LESSON Acts 10:44-48

Jesus is raised from the dead as Lord of all creation. The risen Christ comes to all persons regardless of their condition in life. In today's reading, a Roman army officer welcomes Peter's witness to Christ. The Holy Spirit descends on these Roman "outsiders," causing amazement among the witnesses.

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

[R] This is the Word of the Lord. **[C] Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON 1 John 5:1-6

John calls upon Christians to love God and to love one another. Toward the end of this text, John says exactly what this faithfulness means: we love God when we obey God's commandments.

[P] Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This 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.

[R] This is the Word of the Lord. **[C] Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA



GOSPEL [P] The Holy Gospel according to John, chapter 15, starting at verse 9.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[P] Jesus said: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I 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. You 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. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven,
 And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come again 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.

Sit

MESSAGE "No Greater Love" (Jn 15:12-14)

Stand

HYMN "Christ, The Eternal Lord"

1 Christ the e - ter - nal Lord, Whose prom - ise here we claim,
 2 Christ the un - chang - ing Word To ev - 'ry pass - ing age,
 3 Christ the re - deem - ing Son, Who shares our hu - man birth,
 4 Christ the un - fad - ing Light Of ev - er - last - ing day,

Whose gifts of grace are free-ly poured On all who name Your name;
 Whose time-less teach-ings still are heard Set forth on Scrip-ture's page;
 And by His death sal - va - tion won For ev - 'ry child of earth;
 Our Morn-ing Star in splen-dor bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way;

With thank - ful - ness and praise We stand be - fore Your throne,
 Trans - form our thought and mind, En - light - en all who read,
 In - spire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love a - broad,
 That light of truth You give To ser - vants as to friends,

In - tent to serve You all our days And make Your glo - ry known.
 With - in Your Word by faith to find The bread of life in - deed.
 That all may hon - or Christ to - day And fol - low Him as Lord.
 Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth's brief jour - ney ends.

5 Christ the ascended King

Exalted high above,
 Whose praise unending ages sing,
 Whom yet unseen we love;
 When mortal life is past
 Your voice from heaven's throne
 Shall call Your children home at last
 To know as we are known.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958

DIADEMATA
 S M D

Text: © 1999 Hope Publishing Co.
 Music: Public domain

Matt. 28:18-20; John 1:1-18; 14:6; 1 Peter 1:8-9

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy," to which the congregation responds, "hear our prayer." The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

Sit


ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

OFFERING

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.



 Give Now

OFFERTORY MUSIC

OFFERTORY SONG AND PRAYER

Stand



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PREFACE

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

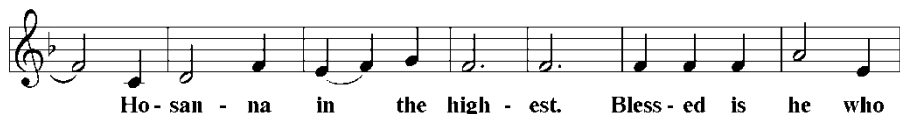
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right ...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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.

P 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.

LORD’S PRAYER

Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

☐ 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 LAMB OF GOD

☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit
THE DISTRIBUTION *You may approach the altar as space is available to receive communion elements pre-packaged or from the common loaf, along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free options are available.*

HYMN

"What A Friend We Have"



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis-cour-aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor-rows share?
 Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.



Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819-86
 Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918; setting: *The Hymn Book*, 1971

CONVERSE
 87 87 D

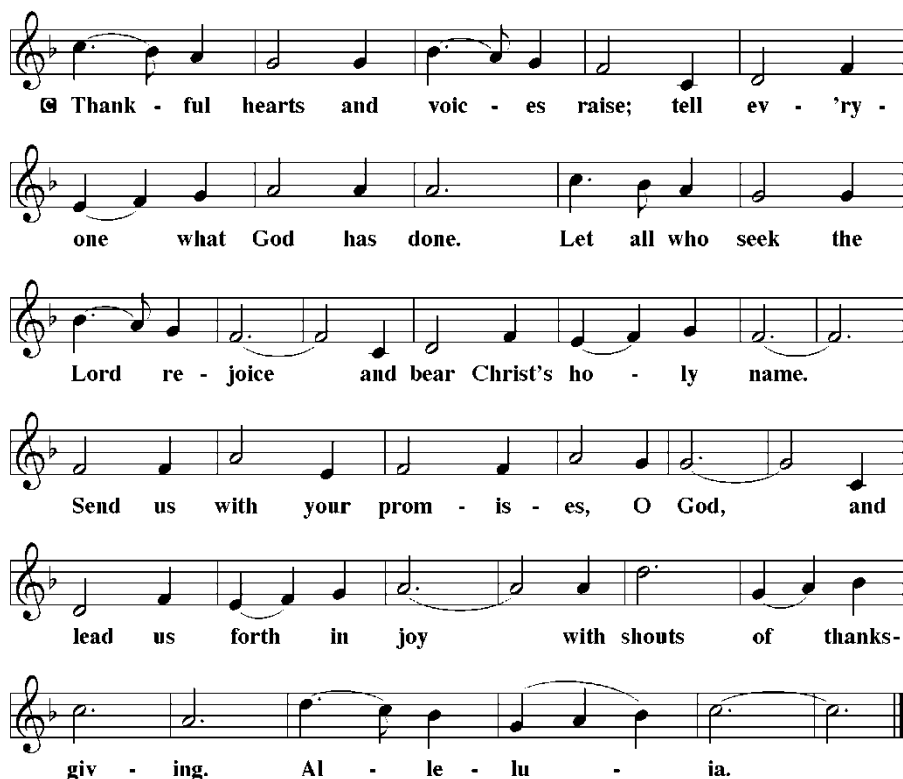
*Text and music: Public domain

Matt. 7:7-8; Heb. 4:15; John 15:14-16; 1 Peter 2:24

Stand

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C** Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE AND PRAYER



☐ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

☐ Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith towards you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **☐ 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 upon you with favor and give you peace. **☐ Amen.**
- ☐ Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **☐ Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us
 4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and

heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in
 all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
 spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy

hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
 turn, and nev - er, Nev - er more Thy tem - ples leave.
 great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,

Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing; Serve Thee
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in

Continued on next page

bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our

Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88
Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958

HYFRYDOL
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POSTLUDE

Our Confession about Communion

Our Confession

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible, and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. have been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord, and concur in our confession;

b. are not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.

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