

Sunday Worship Service – May 10, 2026
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book – Holy Communion Setting 7

Words of Welcome by Pastor

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement

Introduction to the Theme of the Bible Readings*

The desire to be near God, through faith and prayer is present in our Bible readings today. God is present even when we are unaware. God is present in the hearing of our prayers. God is present when we suffer for doing good. God is present in the Advocate, the Spirit of truth. No matter where we are in our faith journeys, God is present.

Thanksgiving for Baptism ¹

Children of God, we claim again God's promises to us. We recommit ourselves to service in Christ. We place our hope and trust in God and pray for the work of God's Spirit in our midst. Baptism is a sign of God's faithful covenant promises, under which we live each day, as the Family of God. Let us remember now our baptism and be thankful. We thank you, O God, for our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. In the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters, and you created everything that is—seen and unseen. In the time of Noah you destroyed evil in the water of the flood, and by your saving ark you gave a new beginning. In the night of trouble you led Israel through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the water of the Jordan Jesus was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. In the baptism of Christ's death and resurrection, you have set us free from sin and death and opened up the way to eternal life.

**May Christ, who sank deep into death and was raised to new life,
 keep us and our loved ones safe in your loving embrace.**

**May your Spirit mark us with a faith
 that shines brightly in the light of day and endures the dark of night.**

To you be all honor and glory, now and forever,

¹ Reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition*, © 2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources (adapted).

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

#864 Gathering Hymn “Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

1. Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; joyfully your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God's praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praises everlasting ring!
2. God be praised for grace and favour to our forebears in distress;
God be praised, the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious is God's faithfulness!
3. Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone;
but, as mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the great eternal one!
4. Angels, sing in adoration, in God's presence face to face;
Sun and moon and all creation, all who dwell in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

p.175 **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.**

p.175 **Kyrie**

Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy on us; O Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy on us; O Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
O Lord, have mercy.

p.176 **Canticle of Praise “Gloria”**

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!
Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!
And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.
And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.

Prayer of the Day*

Hear our prayers, O God, as we come to sing your praises. Bless us with your steadfast love, in times of trial. Make your presence known to us this day, for we seek to know you better. Enliven us with your Spirit of truth, and increase our faith, even as we place our hope and trust in you. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

In today's reading from the book of Acts, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks in Athens who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true God of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

A reading from the Acts of the apostles', chapter 17:

Paul stood up in the middle of the council on Mars Hill and said, "People of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. As I was walking through town and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: 'To an unknown God.' What you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you. God, who made the world and everything in it, is God of heaven and earth. God doesn't live in temples made with human hands. Nor is God served by human hands, as though God needed something, since God is the one who gives life, breath, and everything else. From one person God created every human nation to live on the whole earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands. God made the nations so they would seek God, perhaps even reach out to and find God. In fact, God isn't far away from any of us. In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, 'We are God's children.' "Therefore, as God's children, we have no need to imagine that the divine being is like a gold, silver, or stone image made by human skill and thought. God overlooks ignorance of these things in times past, but now directs everyone everywhere to change their hearts and lives. This is because God has set a day when God intends to judge the world justly by a person God has appointed. God has given proof of this to everyone by raising Jesus from the dead." (CEB)

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

A reading from 1st Peter the 3rd chapter,
read from *The Message* (a Paraphrase of the Bible):

If with heart and soul you're doing good, do you think you can be stopped? Even if you suffer for it, you're still better off. Don't give the opposition a second thought. Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy. Keep a clear conscience before God so that when people throw mud at you, none of it will stick. They'll end up realizing that *they're* the ones who need a bath. It's better to suffer for doing good, if that's what God wants, than to be punished for doing bad. That's what Christ did definitively: suffered because of others' sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones. Christ went through it all—was put to death and then made alive—to bring us to God. Christ went and proclaimed God's salvation to earlier generations who ended up in the prison of judgment because they wouldn't listen. You know, even though God waited patiently all the days that Noah built the ark, only a few were saved then, eight to be exact—saved *from* the water *by* the water. The waters of baptism do that for you, not by washing away dirt from your skin but by presenting you through Jesus' resurrection before God with a clear conscience. Jesus has the last word on everything and everyone, from angels to armies. Jesus is standing right alongside God, and what he says goes. (MSG)

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

p.179 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21

In the gospel reading from John, we hear Jesus' final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest. Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

The holy gospel according to John, the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
 And I will ask God, who will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees nor knows the Spirit.
 You know the Spirit, because the Spirit abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.
 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in God, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by God, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ***"I Will Never Leave You Orphaned"***²

STUTTGART 8.7.8.7 (#254 *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*)

1. **"I will never leave you orphaned," Jesus, you once told your own.
When we're overwhelmed and frightened, show us that we're not alone.**
2. **Thank you for the Holy Spirit who is present every day,
giving love that we might share it, giving us the words to say.**
3. **In affliction, we find comfort through our Friend and Help and Guide.
When we're sad and cannot bear it, you are with us – by our side.**
4. **Then, in comfort, we find challenge as you call your church to be
mercy-bearers, justice-seekers in your new community.**
5. **God Christ, in comfort and in challenge, May the church hear what you say:
"I will never leave you orphaned." May we trust your word today.**

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Affirmation of Faith

I believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God,
 who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.
 I believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God,
 and that Jesus' grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.
 I believe in the bathing, refreshing, Spirit of God
 who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.
 I believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures,
 and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.
 I believe that our journey does have a purpose and a destination,
 and that our path leads to a final glory we cannot yet imagine.
 I believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road,
 and that we are called to refresh one another as God refreshes us. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession³

Rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you,
 O God; through Jesus Christ. Prayer petitions will end with "Hear us, O God"
 and the congregation responds by praying "your mercy is great."

A brief silence.

God our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send
 your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world
 to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants,
 and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song.
 Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation.
 Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly,
 show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power
 through your prophets. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence
 known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or
 grieving. We pray for those who live with dementia and their families and

³ <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts>

caregivers. We pray for those living with cancer or chronic illness, and for those in hospital. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers and for whom their mothers were not nurturing, anyone grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. Support all for whom this day is difficult.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always! **And also with you!**

Offering and Offering Prayer*

Merciful God, **everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

p.180 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 our thanks and praise.

It is a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you for the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ, who in dying 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 your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

p.181 Holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord. Holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.

**Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Eucharistic Prayer E: The Season of Easter⁴

Holy, living, and loving God, we raise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending Jesus.

Holy are you, and holy is your son, Jesus Christ,
who taught his disciples to listen for his voice and to follow him,
even when all hope seemed lost.

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, Jesus took the cup,
Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms
from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in Christ.

Through him all honour is yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your
holy church, both now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

⁴ *With One Voice: Leaders Edition*, Eucharistic Prayer E – The Season of Easter, p.69 (adapted for inclusive language). © 1995 Augsburg Fortress Minneapolis.

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
 Amen.

Communion Distribution

p.182 *Lamb of God*

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
 have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
 Grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

#781 Communion Hymn "*Children of the Heavenly Father*"

1. Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;
 nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.
2. God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish.
 From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.
3. Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
 unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.
4. Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh,
 his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

Communion Blessing

Prayer after communion

Most gracious and generous God, you open your hand and feed those who hunger. Grant us faith to trust your wise providing, courage to share our bread, and grace to pour out our lives in service to others as Christ poured out himself to us. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

Go in the name of God,
 the one who created all the nations of the earth.
 Go in the name of Christ,
 the one who abides in love, and abides in you.
 Go in the name of the Spirit of truth,
 the one who advocates for you and guides you.
 Go in the name of the + Three in One,
 the one who surrounds you and encourages you
 today, tonight, and always. Amen.

#392 Sending Hymn *"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"* (v.1-2)

1. **Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;
 Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone.
 Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
 "Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood.**

2. **Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;
 Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes, nor questions how.
 Though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o'er,
 shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?**

Sending

Go in peace, filled with the joy of the risen Christ
 to love and serve God through word and deed. **Thanks be to God!**

Sources:

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