

# **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**



**“Identity: God’s and Yours”**

**May 14, 2023**

# AS WE GATHER

Who am I? Who are you? Who is God? These are questions surrounding identity—questions we and others wrestle with on and off throughout our lives as we live through life’s chapters that may include being a child, sibling, spouse, parent, employee, employer, hobbyist, or retiree, with the spiritual journey that accompanies them. These identity questions also have added meaning today as the society we live in especially wrestles with one’s identity. When God baptizes us into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we receive our most important identity as a baptized child of God.

## OPENING HYMN

*Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*

LSB 556



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joi - ce, With ex - ul - ta - tion  
2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; Death brood - ed dark - ly  
3 My own good works all came to naught, No grace or mer - it  
4 But God had seen my wretch - ed state Be - fore the world's foun -



spring - ing, And with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly  
o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; In sin my  
gain - ing; Free will a - gainst God's judg - ment fought, Dead to all  
da - tion, And mind - ful of His mer - cies great, He planned for



rap - ture sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God has done, How  
moth - er bore me. But dai - ly deep - er still I fell; My  
good re - main - ing. My fears in - creased till sheer de - spair Left  
my sal - va - tion. He turned to me a fa - ther's heart; He



His right arm the vic - t'ry won. What price our ran - som cost Him!  
life be - came a liv - ing hell, So firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.  
on - ly death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suf - fered.  
did not choose the eas - y part But gave His dear - est trea - sure.

# THE BAPTISM OF WILLIAM THEO SPEAS

## OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Jesus said, "Because I live, you also will live."

People: **In Him we live and move and have our being.**

Pastor: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

People: **We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father, seeking His forgiveness through our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: **Heavenly Father, creator of all that was, is, and will ever be, we confess to You that we fall short of the calling that we have received from You, as Your dearly loved children. We have struggled to share the reason for the hope we have in You. We have not always responded to others with gentleness and respect. We have failed to live and share the love we have first received from You. Forgive our sins, for Jesus' sake, and lead us to live lives that reflect Your indwelling presence.**

Pastor: Our God hears our prayers and forgives our sins because of Jesus' perfect life, death, and resurrection. At the command of Christ and through the power of the cross and the empty tomb, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace!

People: **Alleluia! Amen.**

# HYMN OF PRAISE

## *God Loves Me Dearly*

LSB 392

1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -  
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -  
va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.  
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.

*Refrain*  
There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me  
dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Text and tune: Public domain

## SALUTATION

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

O God, You are the Creator of all things in heaven and on earth, and You have claimed and cleansed us to be Your people through the waters of Baptism.

**People:** **By Your Spirit, give us hearts and minds to hear Your Word.**

**Pastor:** Give us eyes and ears to see and listen to our world as You view and hear it.

**People:** **Give us words and actions to share the hope we have in You;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord, who lives eternally with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
People: Amen.

## FIRST READING

*Acts 17:16–31*

<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup> And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" <sup>20</sup> For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." <sup>21</sup> Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. <sup>22</sup> So Paul, standing in the midst

of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup> And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup> that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup> for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring." <sup>29</sup> Being

then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.<sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

## EPISTLE

*I Peter 3:13-22*

<sup>13</sup> Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

<sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,<sup>15</sup> but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,<sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered<sup>ἁ</sup> once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being

put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,<sup>19</sup> in which<sup>ἡ</sup> he went and proclaimed<sup>ἔ</sup> to the spirits in prison,<sup>20</sup> because<sup>ἡ</sup> they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup> Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,<sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 14:15-21*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St John, the fourteenth chapter.  
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Yet a

little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## *Built on the Rock*

LSB 645



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when  
2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most  
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His  
4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how



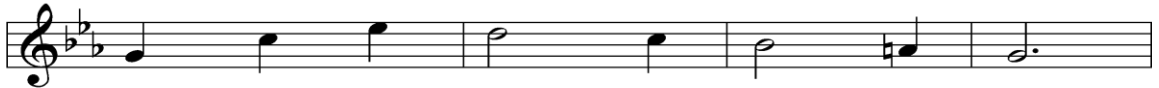
steeples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in  
High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His  
own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal  
God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -  
tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -  
grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -  
sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,  
ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove  
tion. Were we but two His name to tell,  
us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,  
Choos - es to live with us in love,  
Yet He would deign with us to dwell  
Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.  
Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.  
With all His grace and His fa - vor.  
And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.

# SERMON

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray with boldness and confidence because we know He hears our prayers because Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we praise and thank You for sending Your Son to die and rise again for the sins of the world. We praise and thank You for sending the Holy Spirit, who calls us by the Gospel, gathers us around Your Word and Sacraments, enlightens us with Your truth, and sanctifies and keeps us in the true faith. Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Creator God, You have created this world and everything in it, as well as each person who lives in it. In You we live and move and have our being, and You continue to provide for our daily needs of body and life. Lead us as we steward the resources and relationships You generously give us. Guide us to see all people as Your masterpieces. Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: O Jesus, You know intimately the challenges we face and the griefs we bear in this life. Hear us as we pray for those who are hurting and grieving. Give them strength and healing according to Your good and gracious will. Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Lord God, You have placed us in a community where there are people who have never known You or who no longer are connected to Your Church. Guide us, as You guided Paul and others, to seize the opportunities to share the reason for the hope we have, doing this with gentleness and respect. Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Almighty God, You are the King of all creation and the fount of all wisdom. We pray for all the world's leaders and ask that You guide them according to Your will and Your ways as they make decisions for the good of all. We especially pray for our president, vice president, governor, mayor, and all those who work in government. Watch over their lives, and guide them in the decisions they are called to make on our behalf. Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Gracious God, we thank You for making us male and female and for creating families with a loving father and a mother. We grieve for those who do not experience life according to Your design and for those who experience abandonment, abuse, and neglect. We celebrate with those who experience Your love in their families. Today, we especially remember our mothers. We remember those in whose wombs you knit us together. We remember those You have worked through to provide us comfort, wise counsel, care, and discipline throughout the different stages of our lives. We ask Your blessing on all mothers, that they experience Your love and are shaped by it in their parenting. Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

**People: Amen.**

## **OFFERING/OFFERTORY**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**People: 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.**

## BENEDICTION

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: The almighty God—Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit—bless you, now and forever.  
**People: Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

LSB 655

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and

by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your  
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that  
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son And bring to naught all He has done.  
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text and tune: Public domain

*For with you is the fountain of life;*



*in your light we see light. Psalm 36:9*

**Fountain of Life Lutheran Church**, Missouri Synod

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**Prayer Requests:** Mary Ann Lowell 623-670-6870

### Service Times

#### **Sunday**

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study 11:15 am

#### **Tuesday**

Mid-week Bible Study 10:00 am

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Men's Breakfast/Royal Cafe 8:30 am

#### **Wednesday**

Quilters 9:00 am

Choir 5:30 pm

#### **Thursday**

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week Permission to Grieve Group 10:00 am

#### **Friday**

Chimes 5:00 pm

### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday (9am-2pm)

\*\*Closed Friday\*\*

**Fountain of Life Lutheran Church**