

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Berlin, Wisconsin

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



"While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. 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." Acts 17:16–17

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

Serving Us Today:

Pastor Paul Munding

Organist: Cindy Schuett

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www.stjohnberlin.org

As We Gather.... What makes our Easter celebration so amazing is that here it is that same Lord Jesus whom we witnessed dying on a bloody cross who now risen from the dead appears and speaks to us. Today He promises to send to us "another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth" (John 14:16–17). By means of the Spirit we are equipped not only to testify and witness to the saving faith but also, should it be God's will, to suffer for that testimony. We hear the inspired words of Peter speak about suffering "for righteousness' sake" living in the very resurrection hope of Christ. Peter wants to convince us that it is precisely in our suffering that Christ meets us and acts for us. For He knows suffering intimately but also possesses the triumph over it. He points us to our Baptism, where Christ's victory becomes our victory. His resurrection life gives us new life, which for now is but the beginning to be stretched out into life eternal.

Pre-Service Music

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

Confession and Absolution

645 Built on the Rock



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



stee - ples 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.

5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,
 That, when the church bells are ringing,
 Many in saving faith may come
 Where Christ His message is bringing:
 "I know My own; My own know Me.
 You, not the world, My face shall see.
 My peace I leave with you. Amen."

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

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 C **Amen.**

- P 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

Service of the Word

Introit *Ps. 119:89–93; antiphon: Ps. 119:105*

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

**Forever, O LORD, your word
is firmly fixed in the heavens.**

Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

**By your appointment they stand this day,
for all things are your servants.**

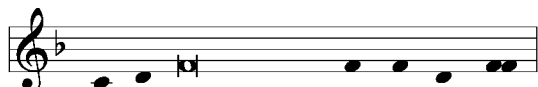
If your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my affliction.

**I will never forget your precepts,
for by them you have given me life.**

**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.**

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

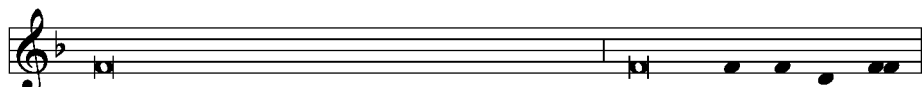
Kyrie LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.




C Lord, have mer - cy.




A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



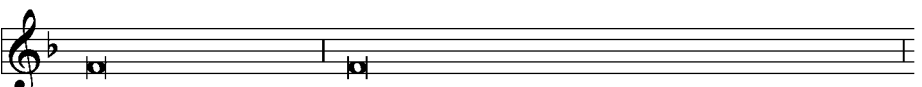
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



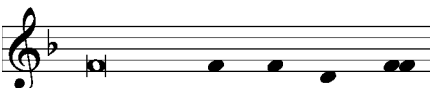
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

C A - men.

Hymn of Praise "This Is the Feast" LSB 155

Refrain

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb — who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

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

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. Amen.

First Reading *Acts 17:16–31 (Paul in Athens)*

¹⁶Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So 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. ¹⁸Some 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. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For 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. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And 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, ²⁷that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for

"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."

²⁹Being 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. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because 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."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Ministry of Music

Psalm *Psalm 66:8–20 (antiphon: v. 8)*

⁸Bless our God, O peoples;

let the sound of his praise be heard,

**⁹who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;

you have tried us as silver is tried.

¹¹You brought us into the net;

you laid a crushing burden on our backs;

¹²you let men ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

**¹³I will come into your house with burnt offerings;
I will perform my vows to you,**

¹⁴that which my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

**¹⁵I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals,
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.**

¹⁶Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

**¹⁷I cried to him with my mouth,
and high praise was on my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.

**¹⁹But truly God has listened;
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.**

²⁰Blesséd be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me!

Epistle 1 Peter 3:13–22 (Suffering for Christ)

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard 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; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered 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, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because 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. ²¹Baptism, 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, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Common Alleluia and Verse *LSB 156*

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel *John 14:15–21 (The Promise of the Holy Spirit)*

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

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹⁵[Jesus said:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even 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.

¹⁸"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

²¹Whoever 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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

741 Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

LSB 741

1 Je - sus Christ, my sure de - fense And my Sav - ior, now is
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, lives; Like - wise I to life shall
3 No, too close - ly I am bound By my hope to Christ for -
4 I am flesh and must re - turn To the dust, whence I am
liv - ing! Know - ing this, my con - fi - dence
wak - en. He will bring me where He is;
ev - er; Faith's strong hand the Rock has found,
tak - en; But by faith I now dis - cern
Rests up - on the hope here giv - en, Though the
Shall my cour - age then be shak - en? Shall I
Grasped it, and will leave it nev - er; E - ven
That from death I shall a - wak - en With my



night of death be fraught Still with man - y an anx - ious thought.
 fear, or could the Head Rise and leave His mem - bers dead?
 death now can - not part From its Lord the trust - ing heart.
 Sav - ior to a - bide In His glo - ry, at His side.

5 Glorified, I shall anew
 With this flesh then be enshrouded;
 In this body I shall view
 God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;
 In this flesh I then shall see
 Jesus Christ eternally.

6 Then take comfort and rejoice,
 For His members Christ will cherish.
 Fear not, they will hear His voice;
 Dying, they will never perish;
 For the very grave is stirred
 When the trumpet's blast is heard.

7 Laugh to scorn the gloomy grave
 And at death no longer tremble;
 He, the Lord, who came to save
 Will at last His own assemble.
 They will go their Lord to meet,
 Treading death beneath their feet.

8 O, then, draw away your hearts
 From all pleasures base and hollow;
 Strive to share what He imparts
 While you here His footsteps follow.
 As you now still wait to rise,
 Fix your hearts beyond the skies!

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Sermon "An Inspiring View" (1 Peter 3:13-22)

Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker 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 to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

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.

Lord God, we give You thanks and praise for the new life and salvation with which You have brought beauty into our lives and our world again through the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. We pray that You open the ears of all who hear Your Word, that this salvation come to many in true repentance and faith, the gift of Your own Holy Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Send Your Spirit mightily especially upon those called to preach, proclaim, and teach Your life-giving Word. Guide all pastors, teachers, and servants of the Church to be faithful in word and deed. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: To all who bear the authority of government in our land, give Your blessing, that tranquility and peace rule our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: When suffering for Your truth comes our way, remind us of the certain victory that is ours by our Baptism into Christ. Give us the vision of Your mercy and grace, that we endure any opposition to the true faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Visit with Your peace and healing all who suffer illness, injury, or any painful difficulty, [*especially* . . .]. Let not their hearts be troubled or weighed down with any fear, but lift their eyes to Your sure and certain promises of eternal life and joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: With reverence and affection, we remember before You, O everlasting God, all our departed family and friends who have followed Christ and now are with Him in glory. By Your grace, keep us faithful and steadfast, that we see the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught us to pray...

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

**C 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

LSB 166

P 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.
 C **Amen.**

475 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of song to
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry That love, that life which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, And sing to - day with



of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
 strew His way; Let all the world re - joice and say:
 can - not die, And sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 one ac - cord The life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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