

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**May 9 & 10, 2026**

**Introduction to the day**

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb! **Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*).

Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,

and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,

now and forever. **Amen.**

## A Litany for Mother's Day

*adapted from a litany prepared on <http://fatpastor.me>*

All who gather here are sons or daughters.

**We praise God for the women who give us life.**

For mothers brave, strong, compassionate, full of wisdom and grace,  
**we give God thanks and praise.**

For mothers vulnerable, worried, frustrated, and hurried, **we pray for peace.**

For strained relationships that are no longer a source of joy, **we pray for healing.**

For mothers who have died, that live no longer with us, but whose light shines on in our hearts and memories, **we give God thanks for life eternal.**

For mothers who grieve, who have lost children born or unborn,  
**we weep with those with broken hearts.**

For those who are struggling to raise children, who are tired and weary,  
**we pray that we may be their village, offering real help in hard times.**

For those who are preparing emptier nests, **we both celebrate and mourn with you, and hope their wings are as strong as their roots are deep.**

For stepmothers, foster mothers, and adoptive mothers navigating the pitfalls and joys of creating a new family, **we pray for wisdom and patience.**

For grandmothers who are doing the hard work of raising children again,  
**we pray the caregivers have those who care for them.**

For mothers-to-be who are waiting as new life grows within them,  
**we pray for comfort and joy.**

For hopeful mothers struggling with the biological process to bring new life, and for those who are waiting for the adoptive process to be fulfilled.  
**we pray for God's presence in the midst of these trying times.**

For women who do not have children, but instead teach, lead, care for, and guide the children of others, **we give God thanks and praise.**

For the mothers, sisters, daughters, aunts, grandmothers, and others who mother us, both in our midst and around the world. For the women who, created in the image of God, give not just life, but abundant life. For women fighting, struggling, and sweating for the sake of others. For women caring, compassionate and crying, with the heart of Christ. For our caregivers, prophets, preachers, teachers, leaders, shepherds, healers. For Moms, in their wide variety and many forms, we praise and thank you, O God, whose love has brought forth abundant life in our own families and communities. **Amen.**

Leader or All



1 Be - fore I can re-mem-ber the cov - e - nant was sealed  
 2 A sim - ple sweet be - gin - ning, a lov - ing place to start:  
 3 My hope and ex - pec - ta - tion for true com-mun - i - ty



with Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, in wa - ter was re-vealed.  
 Christ be - gan the sing - ing that swells with-in my heart.  
 be - gins with res - ur - rec - tion, his death and life in me.



The cleans-ing was for cer - tain, with wa - ter and the Word;  
 His love be-came my call - ing, his life my min - is - try.  
 His Spir - it fills the Bod - y: his church through wa - ter sees



gen - tle words were spo - ken, in heav - en they were heard.  
 His name is my a - dop - tion in - to his fam - i - ly.  
 prom - ise for to - mor - row, his wa - ter-life in me.

Refrain  
 All



They were sing-ing wa - ter-life, be-gin - ning life, wa-ter-life



all my life, wa-ter-life, Spir - it life, wa - ter - life.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950  
 Music: SPIRIT LIFE, Handt Hanson  
 Text and music © 1991 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## GREETING

Christ has called us to this place,  
gathered one and all by his Holy Spirit

**We are followers of Christ  
who seek to hear the Word,  
live the Word, and share the Word.**

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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE (ELW p. 204)



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

5:30 Leah Wilson    8:30 Chancel Choir    11:00 Praise Team

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

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

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an 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, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is 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, too, are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup> "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

### PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20

<sup>8</sup> Bless our God, you peoples;

let the sound of praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup> **Our God has kept us among the living  
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

<sup>11</sup> **You brought us into the net;  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

<sup>12</sup> You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup> **I will enter your house with burnt offerings  
and will pay you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup> those that I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup> **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;  
I will give you oxen and goats.**

<sup>16</sup> Come and listen, all you who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has done for me.  
<sup>17</sup> **I called out to God with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**  
<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished evil in my heart,  
the Lord would not have heard me;  
<sup>19</sup> **but in truth<sup>1</sup> God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**  
<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

**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.*

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, 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 made subject to him.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 198)**

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

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

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

The holy gospel according to St. John the 14th chapter.  
**Speak, Lord, your servants are listening!**

**GOSPEL: John 14:15-21**

*In 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.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <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 Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

**SERMON Pr. Sharon**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

(ELW 781)



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,  
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;  
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil-dren sev - er;  
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak-eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.  
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## **NICENE CREED**

**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.**

## **PEACE**

**The peace of Christ be with you always.**

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**



# Lead Me, Guide Me

(ELW 768)

*Refrain*



Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;



for if you lead me, I can - not stray.



Lord, let me walk each day with thee.



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.



1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,  
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,



to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.  
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.  
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.



Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.  
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.  
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

*Refrain*



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. In your bountiful grace you have given us a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Sustain us by your Spirit, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's righteousness throughout the world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, or ill (*especially*).

Mel Satnan, Stephany Sanborn, Lacey Mescher, Dawn Jensen, Pam Schulte, John Myre, John Robbins, Sandi Mitchem, Both Dak, Laury Detro, Neena Kraemer-Solberg, Becky Taylor, Seth Thompson, Sophia Danker Christensen, Allison Jordan, Peter Michalski, Gerry Hill, Mike Hill

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You are love and you desire that we love one another. As a mother hen cares for her chicks, bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and inspire us to care for one another. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

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.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **BLESSING**

**God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
Amen.**



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.  
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional  
 Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
 Thanks be to God. Alleluia!