

Worship In Person & At Home
Sixth Week of Easter, Year B
Sunday May 9, 2021 & Wednesday, May 12, 2021



In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather as normal for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot all be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

**You are invited to stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Announcements

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for the waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to

sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther

eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield,
e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

***Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

***Prayer of the Day**

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.
⁴⁵The believers from among the Jewish people who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles,
⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said,
⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So Peter ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

Psalm 98

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done¹ marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey God's commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey the commandments, which are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This 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.

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

***Gospel: John 15:9-17**

The holy gospel according to Saint John...**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in my Father's love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I 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. ¹⁶You 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. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

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

Homily

Reflection

As in the synoptic Gospels, both the Gospel according to John and the First Letter of John articulate two commandments: we should love God and we should love each other. But even if these commandments are “not burdensome,” we often do not keep them. Are we then really children and friends of God? In answer to our failure and sin, God gives the witness that overcomes the world: the Spirit, the water, and the blood. The Spirit enables us to trust that Jesus comes among us by the water of his baptism and by the blood of his cross. More: these things come to us, when we are in assembly and even when we are alone. As Jesus dies he gives over the Spirit to be among us and teach us. The water has not been withheld from us and, like Cornelius and his family, we have been baptized into him. We have received and we will receive again his blood in the holy communion. Spirit, water and blood testify to us that we are indeed children of God, forgiven and formed anew as friends to turn to our neighbor in love.

*Hymn of the Day

You Are Mine

ELW # 581



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. To stanza 2
 Come and rest in me. To refrain
 all will know my name. To refrain
 up, now walk and live! To refrain



Refrain
 Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine." To stanzas 3 and 4
 4 "I

Text: David Haas, b. 1957
 Music: YOU ARE MINE, David Haas
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***Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

We pray on this sixth Sunday of Easter for the baptized around the world and for all people according to their needs.

O triune God, we praise you for your wondrous love, for the witness of Moravian Christians, and for the steadfastness of believers throughout this pandemic. Whenever churches face hardship or challenge, strengthen us in affection within and between denominations. Hear us, loving God: **fill us with your love.**

We praise you for the beauty of spring, and we stand in awe of even the hungry cicadas. Wherever creation is beckoning us to lives of ecological restraint, teach us your care of our earth. Hear us, creating God: **fill us with your love.**

We praise you for all efforts to achieve peace throughout the world. Wherever violence prevails, wherever brutality silences protest, wherever prejudice reigns, wherever the rich oppress the poor, lead us and all nations into the ways of justice. Hear us, righteous God: **fill us with your love.**

We praise you for the gradual lessening of the pandemic and for your gift of vaccines. Wherever the virus still rages, especially India, Turkey, and South America, wherever medical resources are depleted, wherever medical advice is rejected, extend the power of your healing hand. Be present with all who today will die, and visit all who are sick or suffering, especially . . . Hear us, healing God: **fill us with your love.**

We praise you for the loving support of mothers to their children. Bless mothers, stepmothers, foster mothers, godmothers, and all of each gender who give mothering care. Protect mothers in societies where women have few rights. Comfort those who grieve because they cannot mother a child. Wherever children are deprived of mothering, provide responsible and affectionate care. Hear us, mothering God: **fill us with your love.**

We praise you for calling yourself our friend. Receive now the petitions of our own hearts. Hear us, dearest God: **fill us with your love.**

We praise you for the witness of all who have died in the faith, especially for Nicolaus Zinzendorf, the apostle Matthias, and those we name in our hearts. Keep us united with all your children until we join them in your presence forever. Hear us, everlasting God: **fill us with your love.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*** Liturgy of Holy Communion for In-Person Worship**

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.**

***The Great Thanksgiving & Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 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 Hymn

Eat This Bread

ELW # 472

Refrain

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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Communion Blessing

Closing Hymn

Lord You Give the Great Commission

ELW # 579



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

Refrain



With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934
 Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991
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*** Benediction**

May our glorious God grant us a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Postlude

Because the outdoor service is recorded and uploaded but not live, we will not host Zoom fellowship after this week's service. Please join us on Zoom following the 9AM worship service on the first Sunday of the month.

Please be advised that worship services are recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

Office Hours This Week:

Monday-Friday: 9AM to Noon (Lori)

Monday & Wednesday: 1PM to 4PM (Pastor Traci)

May Worship Schedule

1st Sunday: 9AM Sanctuary, 10:30 Fellowship Hall

2nd-4th Sunday: 9AM outdoors (recorded and then uploaded)

5th Sunday: 10:30 at Kreider's Farm; brown bag lunch after

**Wednesdays: 6:30PM Sanctuary
(no worship Wednesday, May 19th)**

Other Midweek:

Monday & Friday: 9AM Hymn Devotions

Tuesday: 9AM & 9PM Morning & Night Prayer

(No mid-week worship the week of May 16th—22nd)

Wednesdays May 12 & 26: Yoga Devotion in the church yard at 5PM

Saturday May 22: Holy Hike 10AM & Catechism Picnic (after)

at Canoe Creek State Park

Saturday May 29: Yoga Devotion in the church yard at 10AM

Staff Meeting is scheduled at the church on Thursday, May 27th, at 10:00 a.m.

Inservice for Adults Volunteering with Children and Youth

The Staff Support Committee is sponsoring two educational sessions at the church on Sunday, June 6, 2021, at 10:00 am and at 11:30 am for adults volunteering with the children and youth of our St. Matthew community. Any adult, whether they have or have not volunteered in the past, who desires to volunteer is requested to attend. We will be providing education about the updates for our St. Matthew's Child Protection Policy including identifying and reporting child abuse. This will be an opportunity to complete necessary forms to secure or renew background checks that are required this year. If you have a Pennsylvania State Police criminal background clearance and a Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance that are current and do not expire in 2021, please bring copies to the session. A packet of information for both new and previous volunteers will be available in the Church office prior to the inservice. If you have any questions about whether you should attend or about the content of the inservice, please contact Kaye Burket at 814 224-5224 or Pastor Traci at 814 935-9267.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Shirley Acker, Carl & Dawn Alexy, John Aljets, Vivian Beach, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Clyde Claycomb, Donna Gearhart, Betty Helsel, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, Audrey Hite, Ruth Johnson, Janet Kreider, Harry Partner, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Cindy Barnes, Randy Barrett, Jim Brower, Diane Cappel, Dwight Ciccotelli, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Dan Hershberger, Jere Hess, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Jenny, Bob Kensinger, Anna Klepser, Kirk Kling, Janet Kreider, Darren Kreutzer, Karrie McCall & Family, Chuck McGeary, Kristen Malloy, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Nathan, Aunt Mica, Elaine Ormsby, Kevin Ormsby, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, Paul Ruth, Barbara Smith, Luther Steele, Cindy Thomas, Peggy Tremmel, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

Our college students: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jacob Orceck.

Specialist Training in the Army: Nathan Smith

THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)

The Third Century Fund had good earnings year in 2020 and as a result has \$5,437 for distribution in 2021. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting David Lehman, chairperson or committee members Allen Kuster, Laura Orczeck, Beth Garner or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 30, 2021. Funds will be distributed in June 2021. You can email Dave at: **dlehman1@atlanticbb.net**

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

USE OF THE FUND

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements.

Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given using the following guidelines.

1. Youth of all ages - scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs and education.
2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members and the ELCA.
3. Worship and music - support for the worship of St, Matthew.
4. Capital Projects - major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.

Mark your Calendars: Sunday Worship at Camp Sequanota, June 13th

On Sunday, June 13th, we will gather for worship at Camp Sequanota in Jennerstown, PA. Weather-permitting, we'll meet at the Luther League chapel (transportation up the hill is available); in case of rain, we'll use the large pavilion by the large athletic field (follow signs). Worship will begin at 11AM; please arrive a little early if you'll need a golf cart ride up to the chapel. Lunch (BYOLunch) will be immediately following worship at the large pavilion. We will provide beverages, s'mores, and a fire (you can bring your own over-the-fire food if you want to cook). This will be the day of Sequanota's benefit donors' picnic; the pool will be open and available to you in the afternoon. Stay for worship, worship and lunch, worship, lunch, and swimming, or register for the benefit picnic and stay all day. Have extra seats in your vehicle and want to provide a ride? Call the church office. Need a seat in someone's vehicle and want to accept a ride? Also call the church office.

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 93. **Tuesday** 1 Timothy 6:13-16. **Wednesday** Deuteronomy 11:18-21. **Thursday** (Ascension of Our Lord) Luke 24:44-53. **Friday** (Matthias, Apostle) Luke 6:12-16. **Saturday** John 16:4-11. **Seventh Sunday of Easter** Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19.

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw.

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