

# Worship in the Home

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

### May 17, 2020



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

#### Prelude

#### Opening Hymn

*Good Christian Friends*

*ELW # 385*



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is  
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:  
rolled a - way; let all the earth 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!

#### Prayer of the Day

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.**

**First Reading:** Acts 17:22-31

**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 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

**Gospel:** John 14:15-21

[Jesus said:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, who will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, whom the world neither sees nor knows. You know the Spirit, because the Spirit abides with you, and 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.”

**Reflection**

Our religion and our religious practice must not be a monument to an unknown God. We do indeed live within the boundaries of our mortality and the limits of our knowledge. We know that we die. And right now we certainly do not know enough about the future. But we are not left simply to grope for God. Rather, within those boundaries — and within the boundaries of social distancing — Christ comes to us, making us alive together with him. In him we know God and that God is not far from any one of us. Christ has died to bring us to God. In our baptism Christ has made us a family, even if we are distant from each other. The Spirit poured out from his resurrection abides with us, binding us together. We see the living Christ in the word, a place of refreshment for us. And that word bids us not to fear, but gently and reverently to tell our world and our neighbors about the hope that is in us.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

As we welcome our God into the sanctuaries of our homes, let us pray for all the needs of the world.

Abiding God, come into all the homes around the globe from which your people offer their prayer. Bless Christian leaders as they guide the church through this pandemic. Show our pastors and our church councils the way forward. Grant your grace also to the devout in other religions of the world, and show your kindness to all who search for you, whether within or outside the church. For this we pray: **O God, hear us!**

Creating God, revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures. Form us unto a baptized body that protects the waters on which we rely. For this we pray: **O God, hear us!**

Righteous God, instill in all the leaders of nations a desire for justice and the will to serve the oppressed. We pray especially for those nations in which dictatorship threatens the population. Guide our nation's governors in their difficult pathway between the threat of disease and the dangers of scarcity and isolation. Bring our legislators into agreement about how to assist those in need. Give us patience in facing our current predicament. For this we pray: **O God, hear us!**

Compassionate God, visit all who are in great need, those who suffer from the coronavirus, those living in loneliness and fear, those without jobs, and those who mourn their dead. Uphold those whose futures have been taken away from them. We pray for health care workers and for the residents in care homes, prisons, and refugee camps. For the countless persons who carry heavy burdens on their back, we pray, and we call out to you these names: For this we pray: **O God, hear us!**

Benevolent God, give the world a vaccine. For this we pray: **O God, hear us!**

Fatherly and motherly God, embrace all orphans. Support the agencies that attend to the world's orphans. Shield orphaned children from traffickers. Give to all nations wisdom concerning the refugees who are children. Watch over all children whose usual care-givers are absent. Form us into your children who love all your whom you have made. For this we pray: **O God, hear us!**

Loving God, once again each of us offers our personal praises and petitions. For this we pray: **O God, hear us!**

Eternal God, your kingdom is here now, and it has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us, those who have died of Covid-19, and those whom we remember in our hearts. Unite us forever in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For this we pray: **O God, hear us!**

With bold confidence in your love, merciful God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who taught us to pray:

**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.**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. The God of all grace ☩ bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Please Join us on Zoom for the Postlude, Closing Hymn, and Fellowship

ID: 596-621-1441 Password: 8675309

Hymn

*Spirit of Gentleness*

ELW # 396



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen-tle-ness, blow through the wil-der-ness



call-ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest-less-ness,



stir me from plac-id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an-cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;  
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;  
then you whis-pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;  
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:  
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,  
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,  
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”  
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.  
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.  
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo-ple a - rise.

*Refrain*

## **Worship Schedule**

Monday: Hymn Devotions, 9AM & 9PM (pre-recorded)

Tuesday-Friday: Morning Prayer, 9AM

Tuesday-Friday: Kids' Devotions & Otto Sings Camp's Greatest Hits, Midday

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: Night Prayer, 9PM

Wednesday: Holden Evening Prayer, 7PM (**observation of the Ascension**)

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Tuesday: Camp Sequanota Holden Evening Prayer, 7PM (Zoom link on Camp's page)

## **Study Schedule**

Wednesday: 10AM Bible Study on Zoom

Thursday: 3PM & 7PM Book Study on Zoom: *The Quotidian Mysteries* by Kathleen Norris  
(Attend either session as convenient; read through the end)

## **Readings for the Week:**

**Monday** (commemoration of Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160) Psalm 93. **Tuesday** 1 Peter 3:8-12. **Wednesday** John 16:16-24. **Thursday** (Ascension of Our Lord; commemoration of Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330) Luke 24:44-53. **Friday** Ephesians 2:1-7. **Saturday** 2 Kings 2:13-15. **Seventh Sunday of Easter** (commemoration of Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783; scientists) Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-01, 32;35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 15:6-11; John 17:1-11.

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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**Committee Chairs:** Remember to get meeting dates and times to Lori via email ([stmatthewluth@aol.com](mailto:stmatthewluth@aol.com)) so they can be on the weekly schedule.

**Weekly Bulletins and Messengers** are available on the NEW website ([stmatthewlc.com](http://stmatthewlc.com)) for viewing or printing.

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Shirley Acker, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Jim Calvert, Clyde Claycomb, Betty Helsel, Doris Henderson, Gene Henry, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, John Klepser, Betty Jane Moore, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Nancy Uber, Joy Williams.

**Prayer Concerns:** John Aljets, Jerry Allen, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Elaine Buchart, Jim Calvert, Dwight Ciccotelli, Donna Corle, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Sarah Frederick, Shari Gilbert, Crystal Faust-Harbaugh, Dan Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Jillian, Melissa Johnson, Connie Kensinger, Dan Kensinger, Anna Klepser, Janet Kreider, Darren Kreutzer, Bill Lively, Sandy Loomis, Kristen Malloy, Savannah McCready, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Aunt Mica, Ray Overdorff, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, Paul Ruth, Dan Sinal, Barbara Smith, Michele Smith, Luther Steele, Jim Stoudnour, Matt Straesser, Cindy Thomas, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Robert Winston, Todd Yingling, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

**Those Serving Overseas:** Kyle Guyer & Colin Guyer – Middle East

### **THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)**

The Third Century Fund had a good earnings year in 2019 and as a result has \$5,025 for distribution in 2020. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting David Lehman, chairperson at [DLEHMAN1@ATLANTICBB.NET](mailto:DLEHMAN1@ATLANTICBB.NET) **Deadline** to submit a request **BY EMAIL OR MAIL** is **Sunday May 24, 2020.** Funds will be distributed in June 2020.

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 by 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.