

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 25, 2025
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 EAST STROOP ROAD
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INTRODUCTION

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

OUR HOME-MAKING GOD

Into the midst of our anxiety and alarm we are offered a vision of a glorious future filled with promise—the promise that God will make a home with us. This is a promise of an ultimate future home—a New Jerusalem!—but also a promise of God’s daily home-making presence in the hearts of all who believe. Paul has a vision of a cry for help from Macedonia, and his beloved church at Philippi is founded in the home and household of Lydia. In Revelation, John, turning from the lake of fire, is carried up in a vision and sees the New Jerusalem coming down, centered on the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. But no longer is there separation from God, weeping, or mourning, but now a restored creation where God and God’s people are at home together. Jesus promises that though he is going away, he will come to his disciples in the power of an advocate, the Holy Spirit, and that both he and the Father will make their home in all who believe. The gathering of the faithful assembly to receive Christ’s word and sacrament is a foretaste of that New Jerusalem, where God will finally and ultimately be at home with us, even as the Holy Trinity makes a home now in the hearts of all who believe. Into the anxieties and uncertainties of our everyday life we are offered both a vision of a glorious future when God will be at home with us and we will be at home with God, and a living foretaste of that same future: “We will come to them and make our home with them. . . . Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you” (John 14:23b, 27a).

*** indicates to stand as you are able.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judy Treadway

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Lord, Be Glorified"

1 In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
2 In our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
3 In your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
4 In your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;

in my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
in our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
in your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
in your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.

**** OPENING LITANY**

The tomb is empty and darkness has fled!
We dance in the light of Christ's resurrection!
No more do we have to fear!
No longer are we slaves to sin!
His victory is our victory!
His glory is our song!
The love of Christ has made us free!
Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

**** GATHERING SONGS**

"My Savior Lives"

(Verse 1 - All)

**Our God will reign forever; and all the world will know his name;
Everyone together sing the song of the redeemed.**

(Refrain - All)

**I know that my Redeemer lives, and now I stand on what he did;
My Savior, my Savior lives;
Every day a brand new chance to say, "Jesus, you are my only way."
My Savior, my Savior lives.**

(Verse 2 - All)

**The King has come from heaven, and darkness trembles at his name;
Victory forever is the song of the redeemed.**

(Refrain - All)

**I know that my Redeemer lives, and now I stand on what he did;
My Savior, my Savior lives;
Every day a brand new chance to say, "Jesus, you are my only way."
My Savior, my Savior lives.**

(Music Ministers / All)

**My Savior lives, my Savior lives, my Savior lives.
My Savior lives, my Savior lives, my Savior lives.
My Savior lives, my Savior lives, my Savior lives.
My Savior lives, my Savior lives, my Savior lives.**

“Morning Has Broken”



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
 born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

"Lord, Listen to Your Children"

(Refrain - All)

**Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Something's gonna happen
Like the world has never known
When the people of the Lord get down to pray.
A door's gonna swing open,
And the walls come a-tumbling down
When the people of the Lord get down to pray.

(Refrain - All)

**Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

He's gonna take over,
He's gonna take control
When the people of the Lord get down to pray.
He's gonna move the mountain.
He's gonna make the waters roll
When the people of the Lord get down to pray.

(Refrain - All)

**Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

(Verse 3 - Music Ministers)

You're gonna know it
When the Lord stretches out his hand
And the people of the Lord get down to pray.
There's gonna be a brand new song
Of victory in this land
When the people of the Lord get down to pray.

(Refrain - All)

**Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

**** THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of † the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness,
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love
and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path,
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these
waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the
Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Bountiful God, **you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food
from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we
may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever. Amen.**

**** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING

Acts 9:36-43

*A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an
important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God
to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the
founding of the church at Philippi.*

A reading from Acts

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with
him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the
vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God
had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to
Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of
Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the
sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a

place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 67

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy. (Ps. 67:4)

May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

**Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.

A reading from Revelation.

And in the spirit one of the angels carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the

nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

**** GOSPEL READING**

John 14:23-29

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus answered Judas (not Iscariot), "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Bob Swanson

**** 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 power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.**

**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**

Assisting Minister

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Each petition concludes:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**** GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

**** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

**** LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

**** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table of grace.
Receive the gift of new life.

For those communing at home or in the pew:

COMMUNION — *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence*

The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.

Each person may respond: Amen.

Communion Statement ~ If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and reflect the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.

**** TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

**** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Assisting Minister

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

** SENDING OF COMMUNION

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

** BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

** SENDING HYMN

"We Are Marching"

Verse 1: We are marching... Verse 3: We are praying...

Verse 2: We are dancing... Verse 4: We are singing...



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God.

nyen' kwen - khos'.
light of God.

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
We are march - ing in the light of God,

nyen' kwen - khos'.
light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen—, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba _____ *oo* _____
 We are march - ing _____ *oo* _____

Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,
 We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen—, kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba _____ *oo* _____
 We are march - ing _____ *oo* _____



Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,
 We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march-ing in the light of God.

** DISMISSAL

Hallelujah! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Hallelujah!

Go in peace. In Christ, you are made new.

Created, saved and gifted by God,

we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“W + 2” = WORSHIP PLUS TWO

MAKE A COMMITMENT NOT ONLY TO WORSHIP EACH WEEK,
 BUT ALSO TRY TO FIND A WAY TO SERVE IN THE CONGREGATION
 AND SEEK OUT A WAY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

Upcoming Commemorations

John Calvin, renewer of the church, died 1564

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Gifted both as a systematic theologian and as an interpreter of scriptures, Calvin embraced the Reformation, and as a preacher in Geneva, Switzerland, brought a theocratic government to it. He is regarded as the father of the Reformed churches.

Jiri Tranovský, hymnwriter, died 1637

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Tranovský is considered to be the father of Slovak hymnody as well as an important reformer of the Slavic church. He translated the Augsburg Confession (the basis of Lutheran teachings) and published a collection of Slovak hymns.

Visit of Mary to Elizabeth

Saturday, May 31, 2025

This festival marks the occasion when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visited her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant with John. Elizabeth pronounced Mary "blessed among women," and Mary responded with the song called the Magnificat.