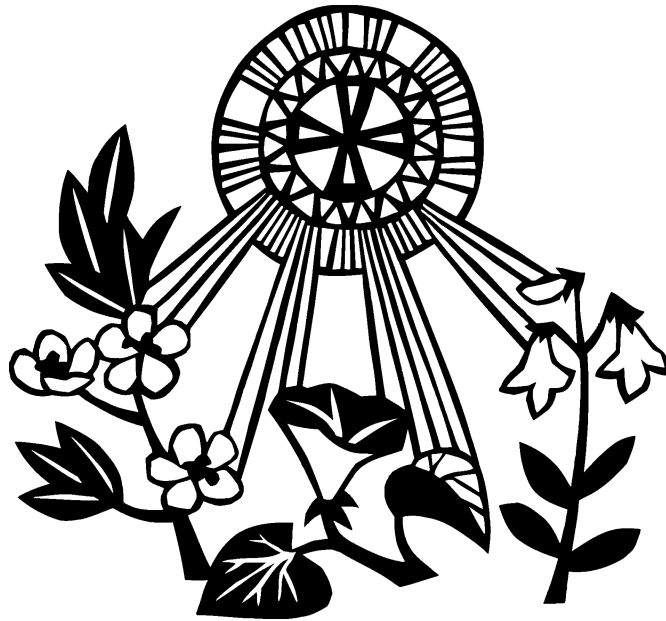


CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 EAST STROOP ROAD
KETTERING, OHIO 45429-4688
(937) 298-0136

INTRODUCTION

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.

NOT ORPHANED

"I will not leave you orphaned," Jesus promises us in today's gospel. God is not some ruthless heavenly spectator judging us as on reality television, relishing our failures, wishing to exchange us for a better or more attractive child, no curmudgeonly "Daddy Warbucks" in the sky. Rather, God comes to love us in Jesus, singularly loving and accepting, seeking our trust, promising to be ever-present with us in the Holy Spirit. This Holy Advocate moves us even when we don't recognize its power, even when it seems "an unknown God" (Acts 17:23). Though we might battle an elemental loneliness, we have not been abandoned.

Many life experiences can leave us feeling orphaned or abandoned. Family can ease that feeling but also magnify it if our family relationships are strained or if our families live far away. Think of those in your congregation who count deployed soldiers among their loved ones in recent years, or construction workers and tradesmen who need to live in hotels far away from their families to keep making money for their families in the recent difficult economy. The Internet, webcams, Skype, and social networking can link people across the miles but can further aggravate loneliness and isolation when these substitute for real intimacy in our highly connected world. How do we experience this loneliness and this longing for home and belonging? How does Jesus' promise that he will not leave us orphaned speak to these real-life concerns?

When Jesus makes this string of promises in John 14, saying that he will remain with us in the Holy Spirit as our Advocate, it's hard to envision how this support comes to us sometimes. When we do not get to see or hear those we love, the simple gifts Jesus offers in body and blood, bread and wine shared with real warm neighbors have great power. Even when life keeps delivering bad news about how far apart we are from another, how broken our relationships are, "I will not leave you orphaned" is the godly reassurance that we are not alone.

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

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Mallory Morris

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Come, Bless the Lord”

(Refrain)

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord.

He is risen.

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord

He is risen.

(Verse 1)

Heaven’s joy, creation’s King

Left his throne to save us,

Born of love for suffering,

On the cross forgave us.

(Refrain)

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord

Come, bless the Lord.

He is risen.

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord

He is risen.

(Verse 2)

On the cross our debt was paid.

Jesus died, rejected.

Three days in the grave he laid.

How he’s resurrected.

(Refrain)

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord

Come, bless the Lord.

He is risen.

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord

He is risen.

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord

Come, bless the Lord.

He is risen.

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord

He is risen.

OPENING LITANY

We gather in the name of the risen Christ, who promises:

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you."

Though the world may not see him, we see him through the eyes of faith.

Jesus says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

We are called to embody that love

in our lives, our words, and our service to our neighbors.

And the Father will give us another Advocate, to be with us forever.

We welcome the Spirit of Truth,

who dwells within us and guides us into all wisdom.

Because he lives, we shall live also.

Today, we celebrate the abiding presence of God in our midst.

Let us worship the One who holds us in eternal love.

**** GATHERING SONGS**

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

(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.**

“Christ Is Risen”

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Let no one caught in sin
Remain inside the lie of inward shame,
But fix our eyes upon the cross
And run to Him who showed great love
And bled for us.
Freely you've bled for us.

(Refrain - All)

**Christ is risen from the dead,
Trampling over death by death.
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave.
Christ is risen from the dead,
We are one with Him again.
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave.**

(Verse 2 - All)

**Beneath the weight of all our sin,
You bowed to none but heaven's will.
No scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown,
No burden great can hold You down.
In strength You reign,
Forever let Your church proclaim.**

(Refrain - All)

**Christ is risen from the dead,
Trampling over death by death.
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave.
Christ is risen from the dead,
We are one with Him again.
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave.**

(Bridge - Music Ministers / All)

**O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O church, come stand in the light,
The glory of God has defeated the night. Singing -
O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O church, come stand in the light.
Our God is not dead,
He's alive, He's alive.**

(Refrain - All)

**Christ is risen from the dead,
Trampling over death by death.
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave.
Christ is risen from the dead,
We are one with Him again.
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave.**

**Christ is risen from the dead,
Trampling over death by death.
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave.
Christ is risen from the dead,
We are one with Him again.
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave.**

"The Same Love"

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

You choose the humble and raise them high;
You choose the weak and make them strong;
You heal our brokenness inside and give us life.

(Refrain - All)

**The same love that set the captives free,
The same love that opened eyes to see
Is calling us by name; you are calling us all by name.**

**The same God that spread the heavens wide,
The same God that was crucified
Is calling us all by name; you are calling us all by name.**

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

You take the faithless one aside
And speak the words, "You are mine";
You call the cynic and the proud, "Come to me now."

(Refrain - All)

**The same love that set the captives free,
The same love that opened eyes to see
Is calling us by name; you are calling us all by name.**

**The same God that spread the heavens wide,
The same God that was crucified
Is calling us all by name; you are calling us all by name.
Oh...**

(Music Ministers/All)

You're calling, you're calling, you're calling us to the cross.
You're calling, you're calling, you're calling us to the cross.
You're calling, you're calling, you're calling us to the cross.
You're calling, you're calling, you're calling us to the cross.

**The same love that set the captives free,
The same love that opened eyes to see
Is calling us by name; you are calling us all by name.**

The same God that spread the heavens wide,

**The same God that was crucified
Is calling us all by name; you are calling us all by name.
Oh...**

**** MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER**

God, we pray to you on Mother's Day with many different feelings.

We offer you thanks for Mothers who birthed us, who comforted us, who fed and clothed us, who sent us out to play, and who raised us to be the people we are today. We give you thanks for all the people who mothered us, for aunts and grandmas, foster mothers and adopted mothers, for neighbors, and church friends, and teachers.

We offer up our grief for mothers who have died. Comfort us who mourn.

We lift up our grief for the times our mothers failed us, the times we needed something from our mothers that she couldn't or didn't provide.

We offer ourselves to you, those of us who couldn't or chose not to have children. Receive the pain of all who have miscarried. Receive the pain of all who have experienced the death of a child. Receive the pain of those that society misunderstands and judges because of how few or how many children they bore.

We lift up to you our own flawed parenting, the times we yelled when we should have comforted, the times we comforted when we should have been firm, the times when we weren't anywhere near our best. We pray for forgiveness from you and from those we've hurt.

We give you thanks, O God, for all your good gifts. Help us to see our mothers as you do. Help us to see ourselves as you do. And bring us all to your mothering arms, through Jesus Christ Our Savior.

Amen.

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Assisting Minister

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.

**** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

WORD

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

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.

A reading from Acts, the seventeenth chapter.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. 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. 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, 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. 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, 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. 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.’

“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. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 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

Psalms 66:8-20

Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8)

Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.

**Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

**You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

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

**I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows—**

those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**

Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

**I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

**but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

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.

A reading from First Peter, the third chapter.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? 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, 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, 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. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. 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, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 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. 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, 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 READING**

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.

The holy gospel according to John, the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 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.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 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.

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Mallory Morris

**** 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

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

A brief silence.

Each petition concludes:

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.**

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

** DIALOGUE

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.**

** THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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 new life.

Receive the risen Lord.

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 ~ We believe that the communion table is not Pr. Mallory's table, Good Shepherd Lutheran's table, or even the ELCA's table. This is God's table. And because this is God's table, we believe that anyone who wishes to receive communion can come forward and do so without condition or qualification.

Please note that we provide a non-alcoholic option (white) for those who do not want to partake of the communion wine (red). We also have gluten-free wafers available for those who need them. Simply let Pr. Mallory and the communion assistants know that you need something different when they come to you.

If anyone wishes to come forward and receive a blessing instead of communion elements, you are welcome to come forward to the communion rails with your arms crossed over your chest in the shape of an "X" instead.

If mobility concerns make it difficult to come forward for communion, you can alert the ushers, and they will let Pr. Mallory know to come to you.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ and ponder 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

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

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**

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.

**** SENDING SONG**

"Trading My Sorrows"

(Music Ministers/All)

I'm trading my sorrows, I'm trading my shame,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.
**I'm trading my sickness, I'm trading my pain,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.**

(All)

**Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord;
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord;
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord, amen.**

(Music Ministers)

I am pressed, but not crushed,
Persecuted, not abandoned,
Struck down, but not destroyed;
I am blessed beyond the curse,

For his promise will endure,
That his joy's gonna be my strength.
Though the sorrow may last for the night,
His joy comes with the morning.

(All)

**I'm trading my sorrows, I'm trading my shame,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.
I'm trading my sickness, I'm trading my pain,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.**

**Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord;
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord;
Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord, amen.**

(Music Ministers)

I am pressed, but not crushed,
Persecuted, not abandoned, Struck down, but not destroyed;
I am blessed beyond the curse,
For his promise will endure,
That his joy's gonna be my strength.
Though the sorrow may last for the night,
His joy comes with the morning.

(All)

**I'm trading my sorrows, I'm trading my shame,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.
I'm trading my sickness, I'm trading my pain,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.**

(Music Ministers/All)

La, la, la...
La, la, la...

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

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

Matthias, Apostle

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.