



**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MAY 22, 2022**

**MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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**Welcoming all  
Reaching out in love  
Growing together in Christ  
Worshiping and serving in Jesus' name**

**The Rev. Dr. Christopher Suehr  
717-532-4614 or 724-989-8106 or [pastor@memluth.org](mailto:pastor@memluth.org)  
Pastor Chris will be available remotely or by appointment  
this week.**

**Welcome to Memorial Lutheran Church. As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone, complete the connection card and place it in the offering plate.**

## **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.

## **GATHERING**

### **WELCOME**

### **PRESENTATION OF THE McCracken Award**

**PRELUDE** *“Come Down, O Love Divine”*

*- Held*

### **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 waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing. You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through. In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation. Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear. To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please stand*

**GATHERING HYMN** *“Come Down, O Love Divine”*

**ELW 804**

*Come down, O Love divine; seek thou this soul of mine  
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near; within my heart appear  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.*

*Oh, let it freely burn, till worldly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.*

*Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing--  
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.*

*And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the pow'r of human telling;  
no soul can guess Love's grace till it become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.*

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

*Read Responsively*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen, amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *“This is the Feast”*

*Read Responsively*

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches, wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**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.**

*Please be seated*

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING**

**Acts 16:9-15**

*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.*

<sup>9</sup>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."<sup>10</sup>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.<sup>11</sup>We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis,<sup>12</sup>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.<sup>13</sup>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.<sup>14</sup>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.<sup>15</sup>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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup>May God be merciful to us and bless us;  
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

<sup>2</sup>**Let your way be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.**

<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup>**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations  
on earth.**

<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup>**The earth has brought forth its increase;  
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

<sup>7</sup>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.*

<sup>10</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup>Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup>People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>22:1</sup>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 <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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; <sup>4</sup>they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Alleluia.*** 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. ***Alleluia.*** (*John 14:23*)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 5th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL**

**John 5:1-9**

*Jesus performs a healing miracle on the sabbath. In doing so he both reveals divine creative power and teaches a richer, deeper meaning for the sabbath as a healing and creative time.*

<sup>1</sup>After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. <sup>3</sup>In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. <sup>5</sup>One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” <sup>7</sup>The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” <sup>9</sup>At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## **SERMON**

*Please stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*”

**ELW 631**

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.*

*Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee! Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!*

## **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 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**

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of new life, open your church to the unexpected ways your Spirit is at work. Guide bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders in their visioning, partnership, and planning. Surround us with your peace. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give a vision of increase and abundant harvest for farmers, laborers, and gardeners who are beginning their growing season. Join their efforts with the goodness of creation to feed all living things. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Shine your light of wisdom and peace among nations. When those in power seek to assert dominance over others, confound their ways and make them yield to your humble authority. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give safe haven to those who seek healing, liberation, or peace (*especially*). Create places filled with hospitality where hurting people find your loving presence and wholeness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Uphold the work of ministries and organizations in our communities who assist people experiencing homelessness, citizens returning from prison, and all marginalized people (*especially*). Accomplish your will through their efforts. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Assemble your people at rivers, streams, and fonts, where we remember our baptism and welcome others into the communion of saints. Gather us with those who have died (*especially*) when we meet together at your river of life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

*Please be seated*

## **OFFERTORY**

*The Ushers will collect the offering*

## **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*Please stand*

## **MEAL**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

**Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

## **PREFACE - EASTER**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

*Read Together*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God; you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*(1 Corinthians 11:23b-25)*

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving Passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again, we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine; that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son may be filled with heavenly peace and joy, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all your saints.

All glory and honor is yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **THE 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**

The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

*Please be seated*

### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward by the center aisle at the usher's direction. If you choose to have wine for communion, take an empty cup from the usher. If you prefer grape juice, receive a pre-filled cup at the altar. If you or a child has never received the sacrament, fold hands to receive a blessing instead. After receiving communion or a blessing, you may choose to remain at the altar for extra time in prayer. When you return to your pew do so by the side aisles. Please deposit the empty cup in the basket.*

*Please stand*

### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together.

**We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## SENDING

### FAREWELL AND GODSPEED FOR ALYVIA KYLE, HAYDEN McCOLE AND SYLVIA SCHRADER

#### BLESSING

God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

#### SENDING HYMN “My Life Flows On in Endless Song” ELW 763

*My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.*

#### Refrain:

*No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? Refrain*

*What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.  
Refrain*

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?  
Refrain*

*Please be seated*

#### POSTLUDE “Toccatà in F Major” - Buxtehude

#### DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Pastor  
The Rev. Dr. Christopher Suehr**

**Organist  
Nancy Fogelsanger**

**Bell Choir Director  
Kathy Kerr**

**Parish Coordinator  
Amy Piper**

**Youth Director  
Stacy McCole**

**Preschool Director  
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