

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 10th, 2026 – 9:30 AM
WELCOME



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.

- Preacher – Liz Griswold
- Officiant – Pr. Rudy Schneider

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

God gave His only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of death. Mindful of God's immense love and grace, let us humbly confess our sins.

Almighty God, **in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We many times overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we often are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we every so often despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

OPENING HYMN: ELW#879 – For the Beauty of the Earth

Prayer of the Day - 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.**

GOD'S HOLY WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

²² Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ 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. ²⁴ 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, ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ 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,

²⁷ 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.



28 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.'

29 "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. 30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 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."

The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 66: 8 - 20

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;

I will give you oxen and goats.

16 Come and listen, all you who believe,

and I will tell you what God has done for me.

17 I called out to God with my mouth,

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

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

20 **Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of John 14: 15 - 21; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This 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.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They 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, Lord Jesus Christ!**

SERMON – “God is Not...” Liz Griswold

HYMN: Everything is in Your Hands

CHORUS: Everything is in Your Hands!
Everything is in Your Hands!
Everything is in Your Hands! O God!

1. My Past and my present and things yet to come.
My days are in your hands, each and everyone.
I know You can handle any challenge that I face.
You promised you’d be there every step that I take. (**Chorus**)
2. There’s nothing too big, that You aren’t bigger.
Remind us again Lord, that You are in control.
We know You can handle any challenge that we face.
You promised You’d be there every step that we take. (**Chorus**)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- *We recognize all joining us virtually and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests.*

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.*

God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ’s righteousness throughout the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness, and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, or ill. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud, with our prayers and your blessings. (*Please name silently or out loud*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are love and you desire that we love one another. As a mother hen cares for her chicks, bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and inspire us to care for one another.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious Father, we seek Your divine wisdom and guidance in our search for a shepherd to lead us with humility, love, and grace. Lord, bless our search process, our call committee and open doors to reveal the right candidate to us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

(Additional Petitions may be offered.)

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.**

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

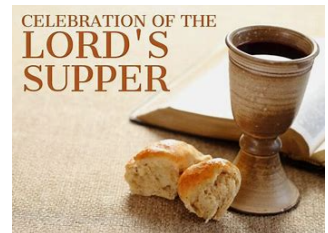
Lord Jesus, as you fed 5,000 from the gifts of a young boy, we pray that you will transform our gifts to feed many spiritually hungry people through the ministry and mission of this church. We offer these gifts and ourselves to your service. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, 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.



With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection, and His coming again.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest, and pray unto you the prayer he taught us to pray -

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.

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

COMMUNION HYMNS

1: Jesus, Name above Names	2: Stir My Spirit
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<p>Jesus name above all names Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord Emmanuel, God is with us Blessed Redeemer living Word.</p> <p>Jesus, loving Shepherd Vine of the branches, Son of God Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor Lord of the universe, Light of the world.</p> <p>Praise him, Lord above all lords, King above all kings, God's only Son The Prince of Peace, who by his Spirit Comes to live in us, Savior and Friend</p> <p><i>c. 1974, 1978 Universal Music, Brentwood Benson Publishing, CCLI License # 22085334</i></p>	<p>Stir my spirit, O Lord, I pray Tune my ear that I might hear Your word. Take pleasure in, be glorified by every step I take, Build my life a temple for You, Lord.</p> <p>By Darrell Dement c. 1986 ZionSong Music, CCLI license #22085334</p>
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COMMUNION HYMN 3: There is a Redeemer

1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
Chorus
2. Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners
slain.
Chorus
3. When I stand in glory, I will see His face,
And there I'll serve my King forever in that holy
place. **Chorus**

Chorus

Thank you oh my Father,
for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit 'til,
The work on earth is done.

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Closing Prayer - 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.**

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.

CLOSING HYMN: Your Name is Jesus

Your name is Jesus, the Lord of all,
You reign in majesty, at your feet we fall,
We lift our hands to you, O Lord we worship you,

Your name is Jesus, the Lord of all!
King of kings and Lord of lords, creator of all things,
King of kings and Lord of lords, let all the nations sing...

Your name is Jesus, the Lord of all,
You reign in majesty, at your feet we fall,
We lift our hands to you, O Lord we worship you,
Your name is Jesus, your name is Jesus, your name is Jesus,
The Lord of all, the Lord of all, the Lord of all.

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Dismissal: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Notes:



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