

## ✠ THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ✠

Sunday, May 17, 2020 9:30 a.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School Sheboygan, WI

### HYMN 725 “Children of the Heavenly Father”

- 1 Children of the heav’nly Father  
Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
Such a refuge e’er was given.
- 2 God His own doth tend and nourish;  
In His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares them;  
In His mighty arms He bears them.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- 4 Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne’er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.

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### INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### CONFESSION OF SINS

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**P** Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## INTROIT

**P** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**C** Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

**P** Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

**C** By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants.

**P** If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

**C** I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have

given me life.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

## KYRIE

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

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

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** 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.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

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

**C** Lord, have mercy.

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

**C** Amen.

## HYMN OF PRAISE *page 155* "This is the feast of victory ..."

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

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

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

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,  
And honor, blessing, and glory are His.**

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

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,**

**And join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might**

**Be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

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

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain**

**Has begun His reign. Alleluia.**

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

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

#### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

#### **FIRST READING Acts 17:16-31**

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean

and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries

of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually 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 are indeed his offspring.' Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **GRADUAL**

**P** Christ has risen from the dead. [God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor,

**C** **He has given him dominion over the works of his hands; he has put all things under his feet.**

## **EPISTLE READING 1 Peter 3:13-22**

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake,

you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, 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 having been subjected to him.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL St. John 14:15-21**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN 816 "From All That Dwell Below the Skies"**

1      From all that dwell below the skies  
          Let the Creator's praise arise;  
          Alleluia, alleluia!  
          Let the Redeemer's name be sung  
          Through ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue.  
          Alleluia, alleluia!



Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 2     Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;  
       Eternal truth attends Thy Word.  
       Alleluia, alleluia!  
       Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore  
       Till suns shall rise and set no more.  
       Alleluia, alleluia!  
       Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3     All praise to God the Father be,  
       All praise, eternal Son, to Thee.  
       Alleluia, alleluia!  
       Whom with the Spirit we adore  
       Forever and forevermore:  
       Alleluia, alleluia!  
       Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## SERMON

### THE NICENE CREED

**☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven**

and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the ✠ life of the world to come. Amen.

## THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C** 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.

### BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ✠ peace.

**C** Amen.

## HYMN 655 “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;

Curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son  
And bring to naught all He has done.

2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,  
For You are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend Your holy Church that we  
May sing Your praise eternally.

3 O Comforter of priceless worth,  
Send peace and unity on earth;  
Support us in our final strife  
And lead us out of death to life.

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