



**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**MAY 5, 2024**  
**WORD AND PRAYER**

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**613 LOCUST STREET**  
**JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 15901**

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**WORD AND PRAYER**

**THE PRELUDE ~**

*Stand.*

**ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

**THE PRAYER FOR PURITY**

P Let us pray.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C **and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

P The Lord God, Father and Creator spoke all these words saying:

a **I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land**

**of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;**

**You shall have no other gods before me.**

**You shall not make for yourself an idol.**

**You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God.**

**Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.**

**Honor your father and your mother.**

**You shall not murder.**

**You shall not commit adultery.**

**You shall not steal.**

**You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**

**You shall not covet.**

**Amen.**

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

C **I confess to Almighty God, to the Apostles and saints in heaven and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word and deed; by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault. I ask almighty God, the Apostles and saints in heaven and you my brothers and sisters to forgive me and help me amend my life.**

P Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As one called and ordained in the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you who do truly repent and believe in him, the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P By the same authority, I declare to those who do not repent and believe, that so long as they continue knowingly, arrogantly and willfully in their sins, God has not forgiven them, and will assuredly bring judgment upon them, if they do not turn from their evil ways and come to true repentance and faith in Christ.

C **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

## THE ENTRANCE HYMN ~ “O God Beyond All Praising”

wov797



1. O God be-yond all prais - ing, We wor-ship you to - day  
2. Then hear, O gra-cious Sav - ior, Ac - cept the love we bring,



1. And sing the love a - maz - ing That songs can - not re - pay;  
2. That we who know your fa - vor May serve you as our King;



1. For we can on - ly won - der At ev - 'ry gift you send,  
2. And wheth - er our to - mor - rows Be filled with good or ill,



1. At bless - ings with - out num - ber And mer - cies with - out end:  
2. We'll tri - umph through our sor - rows And rise to bless you still:



1. We lift our hearts be - fore you And wait up - on your word,  
2. To mar - vel at your beau - ty And glo - ry in your ways,



1. We hon - or and a - dore you, Our great and might - y Lord.  
2. And make a joy - ful du - ty Our sac - ri - fice of praise.

## THE GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

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

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

C **And also with you.**

## THE KYRIE

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A 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.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Amen.**

## THE HYMN OF PRAISE

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

C **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and 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, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

P O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*Sit.*

**THE FIRST READING:** Acts 10:44-48

L A reading from Acts.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**THE PSALM:** Psalm 98

Sing to the LORD | a new song,\*  
for he has done | marvelous things.

<sup>2</sup>With his right hand and his | holy arm\*  
has he won for him- | self the victory.

<sup>3</sup>**The LORD has made | known his victory;\***

**his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight | of the nations.**

<sup>4</sup>**He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the | house of Israel,\***  
**and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.**

<sup>5</sup>Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;\*  
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.

<sup>6</sup>Sing to the LORD | with the harp,\*  
with the harp and the | voice of song.

**Glory to the Father, and | to the Son,\***

**and to the | Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in | the beginning,\***

**is now and will be forev- | er. Amen.**

**THE SECOND READING:** I John 5:1-6

L A reading from First John.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our

faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand.*

### THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C **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 GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the fifteenth chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

P The Gospel of the Lord!

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

*Sit.*

### THE HOMILY

*Stand.*

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
 stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
 well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flashing sea,  
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

**THE NICENE CREED**

A Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C I believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen:  
And in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**I look for the + resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners.  
God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**



A Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. (*We pray especially for...*) God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us (*especially*). At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P In the presence of Christ himself, let us pray as he has taught us.

a **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.**

### **THE BENEDICTION**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Almighty God, the Father, the Son + and the Holy Spirit, bless you and raise you to life, both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant

emp - ty in to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.

3 Not throned afar, remotely high                      4 In ev'ry insult, rift and war,  
 Untouched, unmoved by human pains,                      Where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
 But daily, in the midst of life,                                      He suffers still, yet loves the more,  
 Our Savior with the father Reigns.                                      And lives, though ever crucified.

5 Christ is Alive! Ascended Lord—  
 He rules the world his father made,  
 Till, in the end, his love adored,  
 Shall be to all on earth displayed.

### THE DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Proclaim the resurrection. Alleluia, alleluia!

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

### SILENT PRAYER

### THE POSTLUDE ~