



**St. James Lutheran Church
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer
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**The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 14, 2023**

Office of Matins

The Preservice Music, The Call to Worship & Welcome

Common Versicles *LSB 219*

Antiphon (Common) *LSB 220*

Venite *LSB 220*

Antiphon (Common) *LSB 221*

Opening Hymn: 483, “With High Delight Let Us Unite”

Collect of the Day

The First Reading *Acts 17:16–31*

L A reading from Acts, chapter 17.

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.

¹⁷So 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. ¹⁸Some 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. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?”

²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For 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. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And 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, ²⁷that 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, ²⁸for “‘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.’ ²⁹Being 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. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because 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.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading

1 Peter 3:13–22

L A reading from 1 Peter, chapter 3.

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but 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; ¹⁶yet 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. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. ¹⁸For 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, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because 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. ²¹Baptism, 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, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

A Hymn: LSB 487, "Come, You Faithful Raise the Strain"



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain Of tri - um-phant glad-ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst His pris - on
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright With the day of splen - dor,
 4 For to - day a - mong His own Christ ap - peared, be - stow - ing
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry To our King im - mor - tal,



God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness,
 And from three days' sleep in death As a sun has ris - en;
 With the roy - al feast of feasts Comes its joy to ren - der;
 His deep peace, which ev - er - more Pass - es hu - man know - ing,
 Who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars Of the tomb's dark por - tal.



Loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
 All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing
 Comes to glad - den faith-ful hearts Which with true af - fec - tion
 Nei - ther could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark por - tal
 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



Led them with un-moist-ened foot Through the Red Sea wa - ters.
From His light, to whom is giv'n Laud and praise un - dy - ing.
Wel - come in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
Nor the watch - ers nor the seal Hold Him as a mor - tal.
God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547

Text and tune: Public domain

The Holy Gospel

John 14:15–21

L A reading from John, chapter 14.

¹⁵[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even 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. ¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever 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.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory (Easter)

LSB 222

The Hymn of the Day : LSB 484 “Make Songs of Joy”

Sermon (During the sermon, children who are ages 3 through grade 2 are invited to participate in KIDZ Time. Children can make their way to the back of the sanctuary where the KIDZ Time teacher is waiting. The children will return to the service following the sermon.)

Offering (Please sign the burgundy Friendship booklet and pass it to other people sitting in your pew. When completed, pass it back to the center aisle and be sure to greet the people next to you! Those sitting by the center aisle: please tear off the completed sheet and place it on the pew. Thank you!)

Hymn: LSB 861 “Christ Be My Leader”

The General Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Benedicamus *LSB 228*

Benediction *LSB 228*

Closing Hymn: 855 “For All the Faithful Women” *vs. 1,3,4*

Acknowledgments

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Events of the Week: May 15 – May 21, 2023

Monday	6:30 p.m. Evening Service
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. Darrell’s Bible Class
Thursday	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
	7:15 p.m. Adult Choir
Friday	Pastors Day Off
Saturday	1:00 p.m. Bee Rubles Memorial Service
Sunday	8:00 a.m. Gizmo on FB
	9:30 a.m. Worship New Member
	Sunday
	11:00 a.m. Bible study

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP: May 7, 2023

General Fund	\$5,285.60
<i>Needed each week for budget</i>	<i>\$5,769.00 (- \$483.40)</i>
Building Fund	\$175.00
Tessaro Ministry	\$25.00
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TOTAL Contributions	\$5,485.60

Those Who Serve Today May 14th.

Officiant: Pastor Glenn Schaeffer

Lector: Carol Bifulco

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: Craig Popma

Ushers: Bryan Ensing / Orlin Bowman, Caleb Butler

Video/Sound/Recording: Nathan Urbanski, John, and Marjie Weiss

May Altar Guild: Irene Talen

Those Who are Serving Next Week: May 21st.

Officiant: Pastor Glenn Schaeffer

Lector: Nancy Spears

Organist: Beth McKay

Deacons: Dave Hood / Jerry Talen

Ushers: Dale and Grace Rosema

Video/Sound/Recording: Nathan Urbanski, John, and Marjie Weiss

May Altar Guild: Irene Talen

Announcements

ISRAEL PILGRIMAGE (2023): Would you like to go on a journey to Israel and haven't made plans yet? Pastor Frank Graves is planning on taking a 10-day pilgrimage to Israel (Oct.10-19, 2023). He has journeyed there 8 times prior. Cost is \$4992 (from Grand Rapids and Orlando). The cost includes entrance into all sacred sites, lodging (at least 4 star plus), air and ground transportation, full breakfast and dinner (lunch is at your expense), and all tips, etc. If you have an interest, please contact him at: revbev65@hotmail.com or 616-929-2267. Initial deposit is \$500 and can be paid by credit card. Trip details and itineraries are available on the table in the church lobby. We would love to have you experience the land where our Savior Jesus, grew up, ministered, suffered, died, and rose

again for us. The journey is life changing and the Bible comes alive in a special new way when you visit personally.

New Member Welcome Sunday – May 21st! Please join us for a special celebration following the service in the gathering room.

Bee Rubles Memorial Service: As a reminder Bees memorial service will be held on Saturday May 20th. Service will be held at 1:00pm.

Lutherans for Life is sponsoring a Diaper

Drive running from Mother's Day, May 14th, to Father's Day, June 18th, 2023. Needed are packages of diapers of all sizes. The collection boxes will be in the main entryway. All the diapers collected will be given to our local Pregnancy Resource Center. Questions? Please see Eunice Florip or Grace Rosema

The 17th annual ISJ Walk/Trike-a-thon will be held on Friday, May 19. ISJ students will be collecting pledges and walking or triking laps around our playground and parking area to raise funds to directly support our school. Our goal is to raise \$15,000..00 Watch for ISJ students to be collecting pledges over the next couple of weeks. Sponsor a student and help support our wonderful school. Donations may also be made online at mychristianschool.com Be sure to include your student's name and note that it is for walk-a-thon.

West Michigan Lutheran Full Time Teacher Needed West Michigan Lutheran is looking for a full-time teacher for math and sciences classes. For more information contact Mrs. Angers at kangers@wmlhs.org