THE ORDER OF WORSHIP SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 2024

AS WE GATHER

The hymn text "Abide with Me," by English clergyman Henry Lyte, has a history that assists in making the words of hope and comfort in the text memorable. Yet, in reflecting on the true importance of the hymn, it is not the circumstances surrounding why it was written that gives it beauty but the words themselves that the author wrote. In timeless poetry, Lyte underscores the meaning of God's presence in the life of the Christian as he writes: "I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless" (LSB 878:5). Our Lord abides with us not only at eventide, but at all times and in all places. Here and now let us bring to this caring God our thanks and praise!

▼ PREPARATION ▼

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118:24

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made. **People:** Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

HYMN "What A Friend We Have in Jesus"

{LSB 770 – 3 stanzas}

What a friend we have in Jesus, What a privilege to carry Oh, what peace we often forfeit; All because we do not carry

Have we trials and temptations? We should never be discouraged -Can we find a friend so faithful Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness -

Are we weak and heavy laden, Precious Savior, still our refuge -Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? In His arms He'll take and shield thee; All our sins and griefs to bear! Ev'rything to God in prayer! Oh, what needless pain we bear -Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Is there trouble anywhere?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Who will all our sorrows share?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Cumbered with a load of care? Take it to the Lord in prayer. Take it to the Lord in prayer. Thou wilt find a solace there

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and the ■ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 146:1–2, 5, 10

Pastor: Praise the LORD!

People: Praise the LORD, O my soul!

Pastor: I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

People: I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Pastor: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

People: whose hope is in the LORD his God.

Pastor: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.

People: Praise the LORD!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

People: Gracious God, in heartfelt repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We

are sin-stained people by nature. Each day we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We have not seen people in the loving way that You see them. We have not always been ready to care and quick to help. We do indeed deserve

Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus

Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Abide with us and grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives, lead

us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.

Pastor: God is loving and merciful. He sees us with loving eyes and graciously hears our

supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I

for give you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the \blacksquare Son and of the Holy

Spirit.

People: Amen.

₩ WORD ₩

INTROIT *Psalm 66:1–2, 8–9, 20; antiphon: v. 16*

Pastor: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

People: Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him

glorious praise!

Pastor: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

People: who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

Pastor: Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast

love from me!

All: 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.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy, **People:** Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy,
People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy, **People:** Lord, have mercy.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen. (please be seated)

FIRST READING: (People from every nation are accepted by God.) Acts 10:34-48

34 So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), 37 you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, 40 but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. 43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." 44 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. 45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, 47 "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 6 This is he who came by water and blood - Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(please stand)

HOLY GOSPEL: (Obeying Christ's commands and remaining in His love.) **John 15:9-17**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 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. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Project to You O Christ

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

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 Ξ of the world to come. Amen. (please be seated)

HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

{LSB 700 – 4 stanzas}

Love divine, all loves excelling, Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Visit us with Thy salvation,

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Let us all in Thee inherit; Take away the love of sinning; End of faith, as its beginning,

Come, Almighty, to deliver; Suddenly return, and never, Thee we would be always blessing, Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down! All Thy faithful mercies crown. Pure, unbounded love Thou art; Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Into ev'ry troubled breast; Let us find Thy promised rest. Alpha and Omega be; Set our hearts at liberty.

Let us all Thy life receive; Nevermore Thy temples leave. Serve Thee as Thy hosts above, Glory in Thy perfect love. Finish then Thy new creation, Let us see Thy great salvation Changed from glory into glory, Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Pure and spotless let us be; Perfectly restored in Thee, Till in heav'n we take our place, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

MESSAGE: "Be a Friend" John 15:9-17

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according

to their needs . . . Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer

Pastor: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray, trusting in Your

mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen. (please be seated)

OFFERING

If you are a **visitor** this morning, you are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to give as the offering plate is passed. The offering is an opportunity for **members** to practice faithful stewardship and to support the ministries of Christ's church.

OFFERING SONG: "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

{LSB 781 vv. 1-2}

(Please sing as the offering is presented at the Altar)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

★ SACRAMENT ★

PREFACE (please stand)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, Lord our

God, for You have come to redeem Your fallen creation. Through the saving work of Jesus Christ, whom to know is everlasting life, we are granted all good things and are directed in ways of peace. Through the working of Your Holy Spirit, bestow upon us Your benediction that we may abide in Your love, sharing that wondrous love in all our words and deeds throughout our life's journey on earth. Together with angels and archangels and with all that rejoice in the courts of

heaven we praise Your glorious name.

People: Amen.

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord of heaven and earth. We bless You now for sending Your

Son Jesus Christ to give us assurance of Your fatherly care, knowing that all of our days are spent in God's sight. Directed by Your Holy Spirit and reflecting Your limitless love toward us, grant that we abide in Christ's love, awaiting the fulfilled promise of eternal life in Your heavenly kingdom, where saints and angels gather

around Your throne in glory everlasting.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ♣ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \maltese blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen

AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

You take the sin of the world away;
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(please be seated)

HYMN: "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord" {LSB 637 - 3 stanzas}

Draw near and take the body of the Lord,

Offered was He for greatest and for least,

And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;

Himself the victim and Himself the priest.

He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow
And take the pledges of salvation here.
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

HYMN: "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise"

{LSB 680 – 5 stanzas}

Thine the amen Thine the praise Alleluias angels raise

Thine the everlasting head Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story Thine the harvest then the cup

Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the life eternally

Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree

All the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing

Gone the pleading gone the cry

Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly Thine the yes

Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee

Then the ringing and the singing

Then the end of all the war

Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.

Thine the kingdom Thine the prize

Thine the banquet then the praise

Then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory Thine the story

Then the welcome to the least

Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night

Thine the river Thine the tree

Then the Lamb eternally

Then the holy holy

Celebration jubilee

Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

HYMN: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

 $\{LSB 643 - 2 stanzas\}$

Sent forth by God's blessing,

Our true faith confessing,

The people of God from His dwelling take leave.

The Symposis and ed.

The people of God from His dwelling take leave.

O now be extended

The Supper is ended.

The fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,

Shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us,

His love shall unite us To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving

To God ever-living,

The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing,

In love ever caring, Embracing His children of each tribe and race.

With Your feast You feed us, Unite us as one in this life that we share. With praise and thanksgiving With Your light now lead us;
Then may all the living
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, once again You have welcomed us at Your Table

of grace. Grant that this Sacrament that we have now received may strengthen us so that we may abide in loving service day by day. As we have shared in the blessings of Your Table, grant that we live each day as Your people who see people around us as You see them and love them as You love them. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with You and the

Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen. (please be seated)

HYMN "Abide, O Dearest Jesus"

{LSB 919 - 6 stanzas}

Abide, O dearest Jesus,

That Satan may not harm us

Among us with Your grace

Nor we to sin give place.

Abide, O dear Redeemer, Among us with Your Word, And thus now and hereafter True peace and joy afford.

Abide with heav'nly brightness Among us, precious Light; Your truth direct and keep us From error's gloomy night.

Abide with richest blessings Among us, bounteous Lord; Let us in grace and wisdom Grow daily through Your Word.

Abide with Your protection Among us, Lord, our strength, Lest world and Satan fell us And overcome at length.

Abide, O faithful Savior, Grant steadfastness and help us Among us with Your love; To reach our home above.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve our living Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MAY ALTAR FLOWERS

May 5th - Joyce & Janis Meier - in Memory of Parents - Floyd & Alma Meier

May 12th — Linda Dicke — thanksgiving for our Moms

May 19th - Mario & Eve Betancourt - celebrating Bella's 19th birthday

May 19th - Kim & Maurine Maloy - in Memory of Avery Maloy Bailey

May 26th - Joe & Verna Sorensen - celebrating 56 years of marriage

May 26th - Tony & Kathy Giardinelli - celebrating 46 years of marriage

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs...

Prayers for Pastor Neil Vanderbush as he prays for God's guidance, & healing for Hollie's arm

Bill Thomas – thanksgiving for successful hip replacement & prayers for continued recovery

Ann Zumm – thanksgiving for successful heart procedure & prayers for continued recovery

David Wendeborn's father Marvin- thanksgiving for successful removal of cancer cells & prayers for continued recovery

John Soper who is in Reeves Rehab at University Hospital - prayers for healing after a fall – daughter Laura reported that he is steadily improving – praise God

Prayers for **Pam Risley** thanksgiving for successful dental procedure & for Grandson Lucas – casts are off wrists and his return to summer ball

Prayers for **Pastor Rick Pfaff** – thanksgiving for successful kidney transplant – new kidney is working, labs are already improving & continued recovery

Prayers for Sue Parker's sister Jeannie who has been fighting throat cancer as new tumor was found

Prayers for Ruth Knupke, for continued healing after a fall & a cut on her arm

Prayers for Susan Boenig trying physical therapy on shoulder hoping to avoid surgery

Rolf Schultz who is being evaluated for a heart Watchman procedure

Prayers for Chris Carter & wife Penny as Chris continues chemo & radiation

Kathleen Blakey requests prayer for niece, Michelle Mohnke O'Brian, dealing with breast cancer

Brad & Laura Sanders request prayers for Laura's Father, Jack

Terry Chhabra who is having vision problems

Dennis Parker for healing following right hand surgery

Joyce & Janis Meier give thanks as they are recovering from severe colds

Prayers for Gloria Bloecher & her medical team as she remains in their care

Debra Beard requests prayers for her brother, Tod Dunlevy in Wisconsin

Rutledge Family requests prayers for Sister-in-Law Heather Mulledy's breast cancer

Parkers & Theis request prayers for Robert Patterson undergoing cancer treatment

Kathlin Jauregui requests prayers for the Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center's fund-raising efforts including **Baby Bottle Boomerang** & volunteers for delivering **Mother's Day** flowers

Mark Giardinelli who will be going to Ysleta El Paso Lutheran Mission in June

Prayers for Justice & Peace around the world, especially with tensions in the Middle East

For family discord, reconciliation, & healing; for rescue for those in abusive relationships

Prayers for all those with physical, emotional, & those who are lost to hear & receive Jesus

Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray, trusting in Your mercy; thru Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

<u>WELCOME</u>... Whoever you are... Wherever you have come from... we are so glad you are here! Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior together. If you are visiting with us today, we'd love to get to know you!

Messiah Lutheran Church celebrates the Lord's Supper as a visible expression of our unity in the faith and a confession of our Lord's death until He returns (1 Cor. 11:23-29).

Those who desire to commune with us must:

- 1) be baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;
- 2) believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation;
- 3) believe that they receive, with the bread and the wine, the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sin (1 Cor. 10:16);
- 4) sincerely desire to amend their sinful way of life.

Please announce your intention to receive the Lord's Supper to the pastor or one of our elders before communing.

Pastor Vanderbush and wife Holly will be in Boerne Mon. May 6th thru Wed. May 8th. They will be shown around the Boerne / Kendall County area. Pastor Vanderbush has asked to meet with church leadership on Tue., May 7th. Meetings with Gina, Pastor Lofgren, the Board of Elders, & the Board of Directors have been scheduled for Tuesday afternoon starting at 1:00 pm with Gina and ending with the BOD which should be done around 5:00 pm. Pastor Vanderbush would like to have a 'meet and greet' with the congregation after the BOD meeting. If you are able to get to the church between 5:00 & 6:00 pm, please try to do so and meet Pastor Vanderbush and his wife Holly. Please continue to pray for Pastor Vanderbush and for Messiah in this call process.

<u>Repairs to the 2nd floor will begin on Mon. May 6th</u> and is expected to take less than two weeks to conclude. A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to everyone that came out on Tue. morning to help move items from the VBS room!

<u>Hill Country Daily Bread</u> – <u>Today</u> -30 bags will be available for their Back-to-School Clothing Drive <u>Messiah Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study</u> - <u>May 7th</u> we will meet at 8:30 am at Centinela, 215 West Bandera Road. New Book Study – "I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be Atheist!"

Messiah Ladies Mother's Day Brunch - Thu. May 9th at 9:00 am at The Dienger Trading Co.

Messiah's Adult Game Day – Sat. May 11th from 2-5 pm in the Fellowship Room of the FLC.

Sunday Afternoon Adult Bible Study – next meeting is May 12th on the Heaven Series in the FLC

<u>Fellowship Committee's Family Picnic</u> – Sat. June 1st from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Joshua Springs Park Large Pavilion – lunch will be catered by Bill Miller. Tickets are on sale today! Adult \$15.00 – Child \$10.00.



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

9401 Dietz Elkhorn Boerne, Texas 78015 (830) 755-4300 www.messiahboerne.org

Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor

Gina Husky, Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool

David Rhoads, Facilities Manager

Maurine Maloy, Administrative Assistant



Serving us today - May 5, 2024

Elders: Larry Risley & Ed Mycock
Coffee: George & Linda Berberich
Breakfast: George & Linda Berberich

Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren

Musician: Bob Shoaf

AV: Tony Giardinelli Reader: Kathy Rottman

Ushers: Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek – Pam Fields – Maurice Doublet

Greeter: Larry & Kathy Rottman

Serving us next week - May 12, 2024

Elders: Larry Risley & Ed Mycock

Coffee: Sue Parker Breakfast: Sue Parker

Tellers: Anthony Sansone

Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren

Musician: Bob Shoaf

AV: Tony Giardinelli Reader: Kathleen Blakely

Ushers: Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek – Pam Fields – Maurice Doublet

Greeter: Lindy Eschenko

Our Response to God - April 28th

Worship Service – 78 Sunday School – 20 Adult BS - 9

March 2024 Contributions			
General Fund	\$45,088.71	Building Fund	\$1,255.00
Renovation Fund	\$0.00	FLC Rental	\$2,300.00