

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 14, 2023

AS WE GATHER

We live in a world where we increasingly hear strange ideas. The people we work, play, and live near increasingly consider the truths that our God created this world and redeemed us to be strange. Jesus, Peter, and Paul lived in a world that had some striking similarities to our own. As we live out our Baptism, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to love Jesus and keep His commands. We are urged to always be “prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15). As we do so, it is easy to fall into the angry, divisive, argumentative patterns that we hear in the political realm. Yet, we are called to share our hope with gentleness and respect, so that we keep a clear conscience and suffer for doing good rather than evil.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice” (LSB – 556 vv. 1-4)

Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
And with united heart and voice
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
What price our ransom cost Him!

With exultation springing,
And holy rapture singing,
How His right arm the vict’ry won.

Fast bound in Satan’s chains I lay;
Sin was my torment night and day;
But daily deeper still I fell;
So firmly sin possessed me.

Death brooded darkly o’er me.
In sin my mother bore me.
My life became a living hell,

My own good works all came to naught,
Free will against God’s judgment fought,
My fears increased till sheer despair
The pangs of hell I suffered.

No grace or merit gaining;
Dead to all good remaining.
Left only death to be my share;

But God had seen my wretched state
And mindful of His mercies great,
He turned to me a father’s heart;
But gave His dearest treasure.

Before the world’s foundation,
He planned for my salvation.
He did not choose the easy part

INVOCATION

(please stand)

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Jesus said, "Because I live, you also will live."

People: In Him we live and move and have our being.

Pastor: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

People: We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father, seeking His forgiveness through our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: Heavenly Father, creator of all that was, is, and will ever be, we confess to You that we fall short of the calling that we have received from You, as Your dearly loved children. We have struggled to share the reason for the hope we have in You. We have not always responded to others with gentleness and respect. We have failed to live and share the love we have first received from You. Forgive our sins, for Jesus' sake, and lead us to live lives that reflect Your indwelling presence.

Pastor: Our God hears our prayers and forgives our sins because of Jesus' perfect life, death, and resurrection. At the command of Christ and through the power of the cross and the empty tomb, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace!

People: Alleluia! Amen.

☩ WORD ☩

INTROIT

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

Pastor: Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

People: Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You have established the earth, and it stands fast.

Pastor: By Your appointment they stand this day, for all things are Your servants.

People: If Your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

Pastor: I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life.

People: 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.

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

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, You are the Creator of all things in heaven and on earth, and You have claimed and cleansed us to be Your people through the waters of Baptism.

People: By Your Spirit, give us hearts and minds to hear Your Word.

Pastor: Give us eyes and ears to see and listen to our world as You view and hear it.

People: Give us words and actions to share the hope we have in You;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord, who lives eternally with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen. *(please be seated)*

FIRST READING: Acts 17:16-31

(Paul witnesses about the one true God.)

16 Now while Paul was waiting for them in Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he observed that the city was full of idols. 17 So he was reasoning in the synagogue

with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be present. 18 And some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers as well were conversing with him. Some were saying, "What could this scavenger of tidbits want to say?" Others, "He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities," - because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. 19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming? 20 For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean." 21 (Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.) 22 So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in all respects. 23 For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything that is in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made by hands; 25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; 26 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might feel around for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His descendants.' 29 Therefore, since we are the descendants of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and thought. 30 So having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now proclaiming to mankind that all people everywhere are to repent, 31 because He has set a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all people by raising Him from the dead."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

(Be prepared to share your faith with gentleness and respect.)

13 And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be in dread, 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect; 16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who disparage your good behavior in Christ will be put to

shame. 17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong. 18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all time, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; 19 in which He also went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20 who once were disobedient when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. 21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you - not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience - through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:15-21 (*Jesus is with us, now and forever.*) (*please stand*)

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

15 “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. 16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; 17 the Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you. 18 “I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. 19 After a little while, the world no longer is going to see Me, but you are going to see Me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I in you. 21 The one who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will reveal Myself to him.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLE CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into

hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice” (LSB – 556 vv. 5-7)

God said to His beloved Son:
Then go, bright jewel of My crown,
From sin and sorrow set them free;
May live with You forever.”

The Son obeyed His Father’s will,
And God’s good pleasure to fulfill,
His royal pow’r disguised He bore;
To lead the devil captive.

To me He said: “Stay close to Me,
Your ransom I Myself will be;
For I am yours, and you are Mine,
The foe shall not divide us.

“Though he will shed My precious blood,
All this I suffer for your good;
Life will from death the vict’ry win;
And you are blest forever.

“Now to My Father I depart,
And, heav’nly wisdom to impart,
In trouble He will comfort you
And into truth shall guide you.

“What I on earth have done and taught
So shall the kingdom’s work be wrought
But watch lest foes with base alloy
This final word I leave you.”

“It’s time to have compassion.
And bring to all salvation.
Slay bitter death for them that they

Was born of virgin mother;
He came to be my brother.
A servant’s form, like mine, He wore

I am your rock and castle.
For you I strive and wrestle.
And where I am you may remain;

Me of My life bereaving,
Be steadfast and believing.
My innocence shall bear your sin,

From earth to heav’n ascending,
The Holy Spirit sending;
And teach you always to be true

Guide all your life and teaching;
And honored in your preaching.
The heav’nly treasure should destroy;

MESSAGE: “Comfort for the Comfortless”

John 14:15-21

OFFERING

(please be seated)

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. Also, a red booklet, the Friendship Register, will be passed down each row. Please record your presence with us today.

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!

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

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.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Pastor: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen.**

(please be seated)

HYMN “Children of the Heavenly Father” (LSB – 725)

Children of the heav’nly Father
Nestling bird nor star in heaven

Safely in His bosom gather;
Such a refuge e’er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish;
From all evil things He spares them;

In His holy courts they flourish.
In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever
Unto them His grace He showeth,

From the Lord His children sever;
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh,
His the loving purpose solely

God His children ne’er forsaketh;
To preserve them pure and holy.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the risen Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSIAH PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

Prayers for healing –

Les Turner - recovering from surgery on May 11th

Debbie Stender – recovering from surgery on May 10th

Judy Beauford - Ed Funk - Artie Dolt - Chip Dolt

Ed Mycock - Robert Saur



For Family and Friends –

Hal Eschenko's Family mourning the death of his mother, **Rose**

Sue Parker requests prayer for her sister **Jeannie** who has a recurrence of invasive squamous cell carcinoma in her throat.

Debra Beard's daughter-in-law **Sarah** who having complications from giving birth.

Laura Sanders requests prayer for daughter **Naomi** who is preparing to take school certification exams to teach music

Roger Winkelmann requests prayers for his brother **Roy** who fell from a roof and broke 3 ribs and Roger's sister, **Linda** dealing with Parkinson..

Jim Minica requests prayers for his sister, **Linda Rose**.

Mark Giardinelli request prayers for his trip to Gospel For Asia (Set Apart Retreat) from May 20th -28th. Pray that I'll be open to whatever God has to say and to obey it and that I'll grow in my love for Him and the lost while I'm there (and serve him as I volunteer) Also pray for safe travels to and from GFA.

For upcoming Vacation Bible School – June 19th – 22nd

For Messiah Learning Teams and upcoming Town Hall Meeting

Prayers for all on our hearts with physical, emotional, or other needs – God's will be done.

Prayers for all who are lost to hear and receive Jesus' Gospel message.

We pray in Jesus's Holy Name, Amen.

MAY ALTAR FLOWERS

May 7 – Tony & Kathy Giardinelli – Wedding of David & Aline Giardinelli

May 14 – Kim & Maurine Maloy – in memory of Avery Maloy Bailey

May 21 - Mike & Melanie Gissi - celebrating 45 years of marriage

May 28 – Tony & Kathy Giardinelli – celebrating 45 years of marriage

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WELCOME . . . *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! Please don't forget to sign your name and fill in your contact information in the red booklets on the inside aisle!*

We Believe, Teach and Confess - *Today we continue Pastor's Course for Adult Instruction in the Lutheran Christian Faith. We welcome all who are considering joining Messiah as well as anyone seeking additional information on what we believe.*

Sunday Lunch and Bible Study – *We will not meet this Sunday - May 14th. Please use the time to honor your mother, whether she is living or with the Lord, or whoever raised you. "Honor your father and mother so that it may be well with you."*

Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center wishes a **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL OF YOU SPECIAL MOTHERS!!** *To honor this special day the Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center is kicking off its Baby Bottle Boomerang. Please pick up a baby bottle from the display table after the service, take it home and fill it with your loose change, a check, or whatever way you want to honor our BBB. It helps the unborn child, babies whose parents cannot afford their babies' needs, and parents who take classes to learn more about raising their baby in a Godly way. The bottles are due on June 18th, Father's Day.*

Wine Tasting Social *Hosted by Messiah Fellowship Committee, Friday, May 19 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Vonda Petmecky's Home - 6111 Point Comanche, San Antonio, TX 7825.*

Town Hall Meeting – *By this time you should have received and read the reports from the is History-Culture, Partnerships and Leadership Groups. I'm sure there are going to be issues that you may not agree with and there will be issues important to you that you may find not addressed. For that reason, there will be a 'workshop' held on Saturday, May 20th starting at 9:00 AM. This is a particularly important part of the call process, and we want everyone to have an opportunity to give their input.*

Our next Adult Game Day *is the third Saturday, May 20th at 2pm! Bring your drinks and snacks and games if you like and join us! Friends are welcome!*

Messiah's Kids *is very excited about the installation of two new gates on the playground. Both gates have permanent keyed locks from the outside and a push bar from the inside. In addition, vinyl slats were added to the chain link fence to provide a degree of privacy. We are hoping that these additions add another layer of safety for our preschool families and congregation. These improvements were made possible by the grant awarded to the preschool.*

Issues, Etc. - *How does a Christian navigate the rising tide of lies and half-truths regarding human nature, human purpose and our place in God's creation? Is man free to define himself and his own truth, or is there an eternal Truth to guide us and free us from falsehood? Issue, Etc. has produced a three-part series on Human Nature with Pr. Christopher Esget, author of the new book (Dis)ordered: The Lies about Human Nature and the Truth that Set Us Free. You can listen at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.*



**"I WILL NOT
LEAVE YOU ORPHANED;
I AM COMING TO YOU."
JOHN 14:18, NRSV**

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 – April 14, 2023

Elders:	Allen Leitko & Larry Risley
Coffee:	Joyce & Janis Meier
Treats:	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:	Kathy Rottman
Ushers:	Allen Leitko – Anthony Sansone – Dennis Parker
Greeters:	Kathy Giardinelli & Sue Theis

Serving us Next Sunday – May 21, 2023

Elders:	Allen Leitko & Larry Risley
Coffee:	Joyce & Janis Meier
Treats:	Kathlin Jauregui
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician:	Bob Shoaf
AV:	Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek
Reader:	Alana Kemmy
Ushers:	Mike Stender – Harold Moore – Tony Giardinelli
Greeters:	Alana Kemmy & Kathlin Jauregui

Our Response to God Last Week
Worship Attendance: 72 | Sunday School: 30
Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study: 21

April 2023 Contributions

General Fund \$46,424.15 | Building Fund \$3,090.00
Renovation Fund \$359,850.00 | Family Life Center \$2,937.50