

Zion

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

9:15 am Worship

Live streamed on Zion's facebook page

Or posted at www.zionmanheim.com (Worship Videos) to view

Order for Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

*GATHERING HYMN "Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna"



1 Christ is ris - en! Shout ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.
3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.
Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion. Not a ser - vant, but a friend,
Tell its grim, de - mon - ic chor - us: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.
Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
God the first and last is with us. Sing ho - san - na, ev - 'ry - one!

* ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

And also with you.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

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

refrain

2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are his.

refrain

3 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.

refrain

4 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a common time signature (C) and contains the melody for the lyrics: "This is the feast of victory for our God." The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some phrases connected by slurs.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 98

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the
earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

***GOSPEL: John 15:9-17**

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

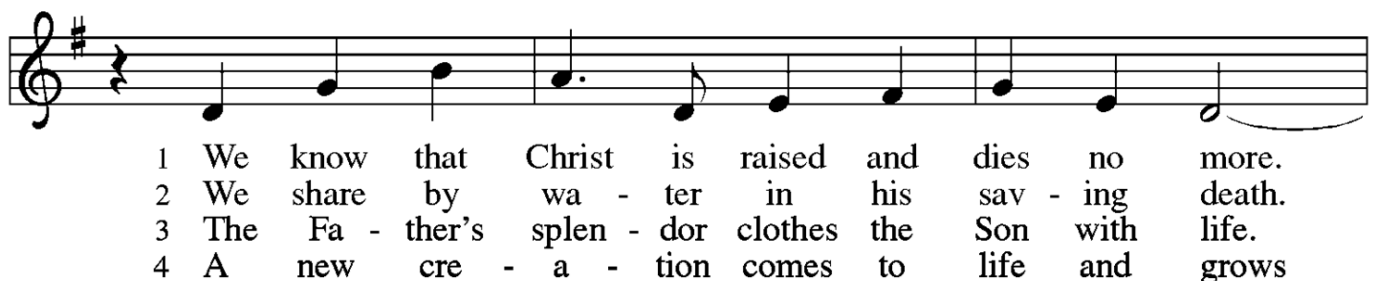
¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You 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. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Kate

***HYMN OF THE DAY “We Know That Christ is Raised”**



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther’s splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

*NICENE CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe 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.

We 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.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Each petition ends "God of grace" and the congregation responds
"Hear our prayer."*

***SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY CANTICLE (*remain seated*)



☩ Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our



cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the



seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the



prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

A stewardship note: Offering plates have been placed near the entrance to receive your gifts. An additional offering plate is on the stand near the organ. If you miss the chance to drop off your offering when you arrive, you are welcome to place your offering in the plate at the close of the service.

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION and DISTRIBUTION

We gather at the Lord's Table and all are welcome. Communion will be distributed by continuous progression at the front of the sanctuary, and you are welcome to come forward by side, as directed by the pastor. In addition to the pre-poured cups of wine, grape juice (darker in color) is available in the center of each tray, and gluten free wafers are available upon request. You are welcome to kneel at the rail for prayer after receiving the elements. The communion cups may be placed in the small baskets near the end of the pews as you return to your seat.

COMMUNION HYMNS



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

“Jesus Loves Me”

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

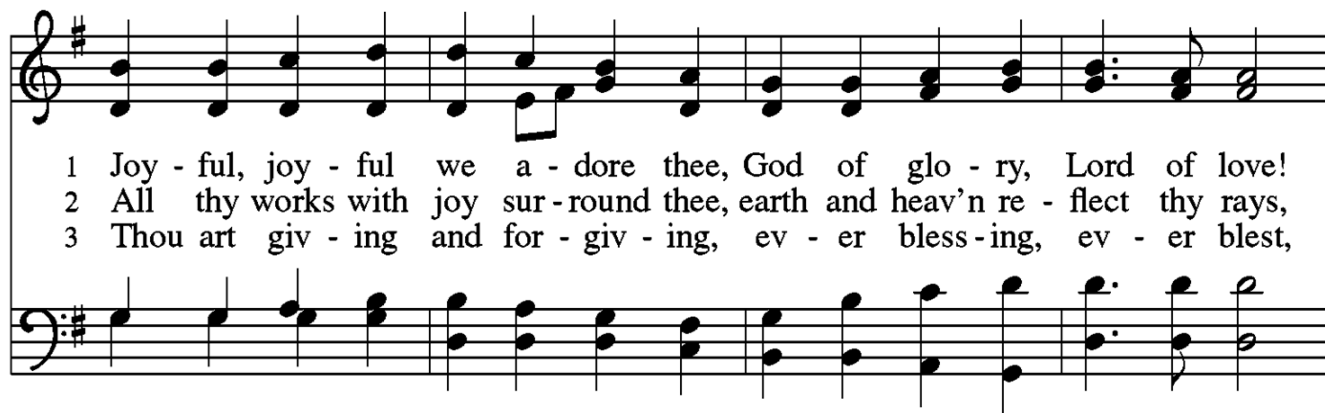
*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Shepherding God,
**you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

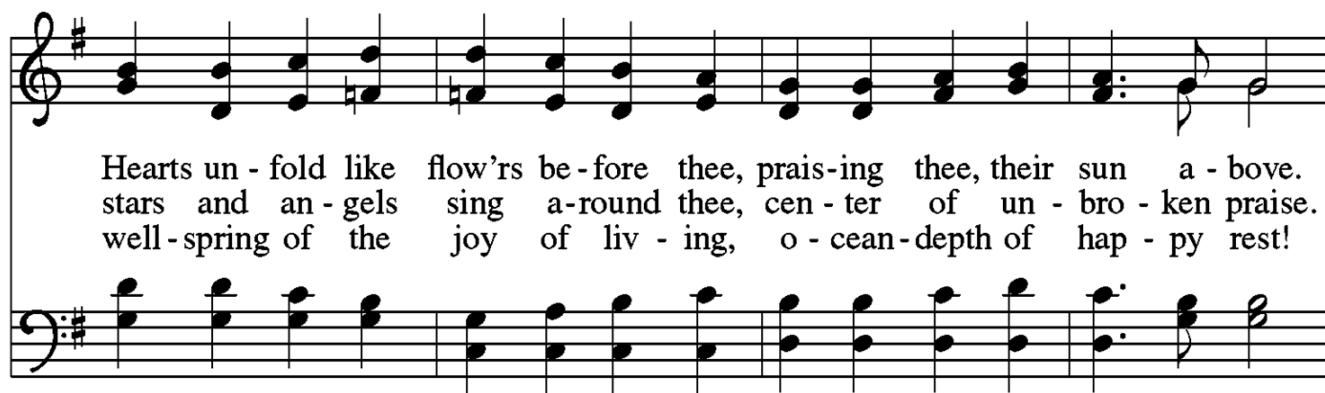
*THE BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”



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, flash - ing 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 DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

Go in peace. Share the good news! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Flowers are presented by Dennis Shafnisky in honor of Carol Atherholt's birthday

Bulletins are sponsored by Donna Moore

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM:

Pastor Kate, Karen Kline

Usher/Greeter – Stacy Fry

Lay Reader – Donna Wilkie

Communion Assistant – Donna Wilkie

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Weekly Record	Last week	Mo. Total	Budget
Attendance (in-person)	40	172	-----
Attendance (on-line)	n/a	n/a	-----
General Fund offering	4,285	15,900	18,963
Greater Zion Fund offering	906	2,718	-----

Overview of the Readings for the Sixth Sunday of Easter Invited into Friendship

Ask any child who has moved to a new place and they will probably confirm that their biggest worry was if they'd make new friends. Parents worry for their teenager and young adult in each stage of growth, wondering if new friends will be kind and generous, if their daughter or son will find mutually beneficial relationships. Adults are not immune from their own relationship trials. Busy lives, competing priorities, transitions and death can mean the end of sustaining relationships. Bullying, fear-tactics and misuse of others are common problems, so friendship is precious. We treasure new friendships and work to keep tending those that last for many years—because we need them.

Today's readings inspire and compel us to love one another and see one another as God does. As the Holy Spirit falls on those outside the inner circle of the circumcised, Peter asks how the water of baptism can be withheld. In 1 John we hear that those who love the parent love the child. Jesus says followers are no longer servants but friends. So whether they are a stranger with different customs and practices, our family member, or closest friend, we are called today with the challenge and opportunity to love them. The promise is that this unconditional love that comes first from our Creator and Parent, expressed through the person of Jesus and through the Spirit, is splashed all over us, and will make our joy complete.

For those who have experienced great relationships in their lives and for those who have never yet quite tasted that sustaining fruit, Jesus shows how much he loves us and the ways to cultivate deeper relationships. Jesus laid down his life to show his great love. We're invited to love expansively and experience the joy of friendship with Jesus and through the body of Christ.

The Readings on This Day

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Today is the 36th day of Easter. (Ascension Day is this coming Thursday, the 40th day of Easter). We continue to celebrate the meaning of the resurrection.

John 15:9-17

We continue through John 15. The command to love takes the form of a sign in the footwashing of Maundy Thursday. The crucified and risen Christ enables us to live in such love. This passage includes an emphasis on joy and introduces the language of being a friend of God. We are so accustomed to this language that we lose the shock of the divinity calling humankind friends. The command to love in Mark 12 will be the reading on November 1, often celebrated as All Saints Day.

Acts 10:44-48

How to experience the resurrection of Christ? Receive the Holy Spirit and be baptized. The order of events in this narrative has given support to those churches that understand baptism as only a ritual that confirms one's belief, thus "believer's baptism." Apparently in the 80s CE, some Christians were baptizing "in the name of Jesus Christ" and others in the name of the Trinity; this difference continues today.

1 John 5:1-6

This reading complements the gospel from John by repeating an emphasis on love but also by placing "children" alongside "friends." The truth of each term balances the other.

Psalm 98

We respond to the narrative of the Gentiles receiving the Holy Spirit by reciting Psalm 98. Also appointed for Christmas Day, Psalm 98 is an exuberant hymn in which we, with "all the ends of the earth," praise the victory of Christ's resurrection. Psalm 98 inspired the hymn "Joy to the World," but the psalm is wonderfully appropriate for Easter as well as Advent/Christmas.

Announcements

We will hold a congregational meeting after worship today to vote on the proposed purchase of a new boiler system. After reviewing three proposals, one was chosen and approved at the Council meeting on April 8th. Please plan to stay, as we will present the information about and vote on the new boiler at that time.

Zion's Camping Group is planning another camping weekend on May 10-12, this time to Harper's Ferry, WV. If you'd like to join in the fun, or for more information, please contact Sharon Lynes at 717-413-0895.

Daughters of Zion are collecting items for the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey from May 20th through June 30th. There is a complete listing of needed pantry items in the May Rosette. All donations may be placed in the marked "Collection Bin" that will be found in the Rose Parlor.

Please take some time to stop and sign up for sponsorship or attendance at the Rose Festival to be held on Sun., June 9th. Deadline to sign up is Monday, May 27th.

MC Food Pantry Needs for the month of May are: boxed spaghetti, diapers, applesauce, soup, Spam, and canned fruit. They could use some reusable grocery bags. At this time they do not need any one-use plastic bags. Please make sure any donations are not out of date. You may place your food donations in the shopping cart outside the church office. Thank you.



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E-mail: zmanheim@ptd.net

Zion's web page: www.zionmanheim.com

<https://www.facebook.com/ZELCManheim>

Check out Zion's YouTube channel @

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