

resurrection  
**REALity**

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THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 5, 2024 ✠ 8:00 AM AND 10:15 AM

# 50 PRINCE OF PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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## A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

We're thrilled that you are here and we want you to feel at home.

- \* Restrooms are near the door that you came in today.
- \* The service is printed in this worship folder. Join in as your comfortable. Ask anyone if you're lost - they'll be glad to help!
- \* We're glad you brought your kids! We know and Jesus knows that little kids have a hard time sitting quietly sometimes. They are still welcome here. Jesus said: Let the little children come to me! If your little one is restless, feel free to spend a minute in the entryway, you should still be able to hear through speakers.

Please introduce yourself to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil. They would love to meet you and serve you however they can!

## SINCE GOD SO LOVES US...WE LOVE



The entirety of God's Word can be summed up in one word: love. God's Law is all about love. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart..." and "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37,39). The gospel is all about love: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..." (John 3:16). From his compassion for the sick and broken, to his sacrificial death on the cross, to the peace he provided after his resurrection, Jesus was the perfect embodiment of love. Love is his business.

Therefore, love is our business too. The resurrection reality is that with the same supernatural power by which God raised Jesus from the dead, God now enables us to live a new life—one marked by radically selfless love. The motivation and ability to do this comes from seeing the endless love Christ has for us. We love only because he first loved us.

*A personal prayer before worship*

*Heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, we come together before you in humble awe. You are the one True God, and there is none other like You. Come, we pray and bless our hearts and minds as we hear Your Word and receive Your gifts. Send Your Holy Spirit into our lives so that we may grow in love and grace, and that we may go forth into all the world, proclaiming Your Gospel in our words and deeds. Amen.*

## THE DIVINE SERVICE

 *The congregation speaks and sings the words in **BOLD type**.*  
*Hymns not printed in this service folder are found in the blue hymnals in each pew.* 

### Hymn 728 This Is My Will

#### Invocation

*Please stand at the minister's direction if you are able*

In the name of the Father and of the Son  $\text{✝}$  and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*Matthew 28:19*

#### Confession and Absolution

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.  
**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,  
and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,  
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*silence for reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

#### Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



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.



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



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



### Song of Praise Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds (#471, st. 1+3)

Now all the vault of heav'n resounds  
in praise of love that still abounds:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!  
Repeat their song of glory here:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;  
set heart and will on things above  
that we conquer thro' your triumph.  
Grant grace sufficient for life's day  
that by our lives we truly say:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you are the giver of everything good. Inspire us, your humble servants, to long for what is right and, through your gracious guidance, accomplish it to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## THE WORD OF GOD

### First Reading

**Acts 9:36-42**

*They wept at the funeral of their dear friend Tabitha as they remembered her humble, loving service; she was always doing good and helping the poor. They had seen the power of Jesus' love in her life and now they witness the power of Christ's resurrection in her being raised from the dead, which Christ had given Peter authority to do for her. No doubt she went back to her quiet life of loving service!*

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in

Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called

for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

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

## Psalm 150 Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

*The soloist will sing the refrain once; the congregation immediately joins to sing the refrain and sings the refrain twice after the soloist sings each verse.*

### Refrain

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal-le - lu - jah, hal -

le - lu - jah. jah. jah.

*Praise God in this holy place,  
 ev'ry nation, ev'ry race.  
 Come, make joyful music to the LORD.  
 Sound the trumpet, sound it clear;  
 sound it for the world to hear.  
 Come, make joyful music to the LORD.  
 (Refrain)*

*Ev'rything that breathes now praise;  
 sing your songs, let voices raise.  
 Come, make joyful music to the LORD.  
 Play the cymbals, play the lute;  
 play the timbrel, play the flute.  
 Come, make joyful music to the LORD.  
 (Refrain)*

## Second Reading

### 1 John 4:7-11,19-21

*Brothers, Sisters, let us gladly imitate the love that has found and atoned for us and filled us and inspires us. God is love. There is nothing, there could be nothing better than love.*

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God

showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

We love because he first loved us.

Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they

have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

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

*Please stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

*The congregation sings the refrains, the minister sings the verse.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Praise God for a living hope: Christ is risen from the dead!

**Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!**

## The Holy Gospel

**John 15:9-17**

*This lesson is the basis of the sermon this morning.*

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know

his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to You, O Christ!**

*Be seated.*

**Hymn of the Day | 557 Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice**

**Sermon** John 15:9-17

*Please stand.*

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there 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.**

*Be seated.*

## **Prayer of the Church**

Father of love, out of great love for You and for sinners, our Lord Jesus laid down His life for the world. Increase in us true love for one another, that like our Lord, we may also lay down our lives for our friends. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty Father, You rule this world by Your established authorities in ways that we do not always understand; yet in the name of Jesus, we may ask You anything freely as friends and sons. Bless our nation's leaders, and cause them to serve wisely for our good. Give earthly peace and justice that is in accord with Your commandments and the order You have revealed. Bring an end to injustice, violence and disdain for Your truth, and let us receive all good with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, the Giver of all that is good, grant Your healing and support to all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity [*especially \_\_\_\_\_*]. Give them also

the gift of Your grace to accept and bear their crosses with faith in You, that finally they would be prepared to depart this life and receive the gift of eternal life in Your kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Offering



Moved by God's love in Christ, we return to God our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.

There is an offering plate in the entry way for those who wish to give in that way.

To donate online, either scan the QR code on the left or text **princeofpeace** (no spaces) to (833) 693-7056. You'll receive a link in response. Follow the link to the Prince of Peace secure giving page.

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# THE SACRAMENT

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Stand



The Lord be with you.



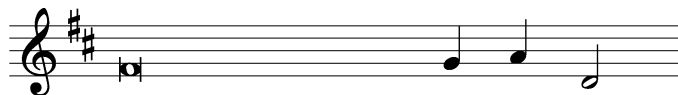
And al - so with you.



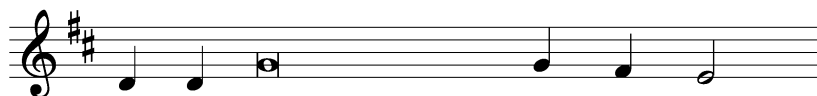
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,  
 heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin. We remember and give you thanks for everything your Son has done for our salvation.

Bless us as we receive His body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Remember us in Your kingdom as we pray...

## 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 Jesus

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do

this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us, grant us peace.

*Be seated*

## Distribution of the Lord's Supper

### A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS

***Children and those who are not communicant members of our church may come forward for a blessing. Those who do are asked to cross their arms on their chest to indicate this.***

*Prince of Peace practices closed communion, because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. That means we ask that only members of Prince of Peace or other congregations in our fellowship take the Lord's Supper this morning. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, it is simply our desire to uphold what God says in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 about who should receive Holy Communion and how. Because we believe from these words that Jesus' body and blood is really present in and with the bread and wine, we want to be sure that it is received in the manner He has commanded us.*

*Please speak to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil about communing with us in the future if you're not part of our congregation. **Thank you for your understanding!***

## Hymn 523 How Deep the Father's Love for Us

## Hymn 441 I Know that My Redeemer Lives

*After the distribution, the minister speaks this blessing:*

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.  
Go in peace. Your † sins are forgiven.

**Amen.**

*Stand*

### Prayer and Blessing

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

**His mercy endures forever.**

*Psalm 118:1*

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

**we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.**

*1 Corinthians 11:26*

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

*Numbers 6:24-26*

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

### Closing Hymn Christ Has Arisen! Alleluia! (CW #466, st. 1,4-5)

**Christ has arisen, alleluia.**

**Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.**

**For our Redeemer burst from the tomb,  
even from death, dispelling its gloom. (Refrain)**

*Refrain:* **Let us sing praise to him with endless joy;  
death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.**

**Our sin forgiving, alleluia!**

**Jesus is living, alleluia!**

**"Go spread the news: he's not in the grave;  
he has arisen this world to save.**

**Jesus' redeeming labors are done,  
even the battle with sin is won." (Refrain)**

**Christ has arisen; he sets us free;  
alleluia, to him praises be.**

**Jesus is living! Let us all sing;  
he reigns triumphant, heavenly King! (Refrain)**



*We thank the Lord for Amy Sehloff and Sophie Leng and their gifts used to serve us with music this morning and for Pastor John Boggs, a professor and Director of Ministry Relations at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI for proclaiming God's Word to us today!*

Roman roads, public baths and gymnasiums, Hellenistic high culture, the beginnings of democracy, the military muscle to ensure peace—the Roman Empire in the second century after Christ looked like a golden age. For the healthy, perhaps it was. But woe unto you if you got sick. Then the shining Roman city showed its dark underbelly. Mercy was discouraged as it only helped those too weak to contribute to society.

In the cramped, unsanitary streets, under the miserable cycle of plagues and famines, the sick found no public institutions dedicated to their care and little in the way of sympathy or help.

The classical world possessed no religious or philosophical basis for the concept of the divine dignity of human persons. As a result the chronically ill could be seen everywhere in streets, baths, and forums—many of them homeless and begging.

During the first century AD, a new culture began penetrating the classical Roman world: that of the Christians. [...] During this time, in spite of great danger to themselves, churches carried on an active ministry of philanthropy that included the care of the sick. Christian medical philanthropy found its basis in the biblical concept of the *imago Dei*, the belief that human beings are created in God's image (Gen 1), and thus that human life is precious and must be protected.

In the New Testament, the doctrine of the Incarnation (Jn 1:14) extended and deepened these implications. Early Christians believed that the motivation for charity should be God's self-giving love (*agape*), which reflected his nature (1 Jn 4:8). God loved the human race enough to send Christ in human flesh to die on a cross for our sins (Jn 3:16). Christians responded by demonstrating Christ's love to their brothers and sisters, who bore God's image (Jn 13:34-35). The weaker the neighbors, the greater the need to show them the compassion of Christ.

Church leaders encouraged all Christians to visit the sick and help the poor, and each congregation also established an organized ministry of mercy. Presbyters (priests) and deacons added benevolent ministry to their sacramental roles. Priests collected alms each Sunday; deacons distributed them. Widows and deaconesses provided a ministry of mercy to women.

One devastating epidemic began in 250 and spread from Ethiopia across North Africa, then to Italy and the western empire. At one point in Rome, 5,000 people died in one day. Beyond offering supplications to the gods for relief, public officials did nothing to prevent the spread of the disease, treat the sick, or even bury the dead. Romans believed that nothing effective

could be done in a time of plague other than appeasing the gods.

By 251 the plague had swept into Carthage in North Africa. Piles of dead bodies rotted in the streets, abandoned by their families. Leaders casting about for causes scapegoated Christians, and a severe empire wide persecution erupted.

Carthage's bishop, Cyprian, enjoined the city's Christians to give aid to their persecutors and to care for the sick. He urged the rich to donate funds and the poor to volunteer for relief efforts, making no distinction between believers and pagans. Under Cyprian's direction Christians buried the dead left in the streets and cared for the sick and dying. For five years he stood in the breach, organizing relief efforts, until he was forced into exile.

For the first time, Christians extended their medical care to pagans as well as fellow Christians. To provide even basic care for large numbers of the sick, Cyprian probably hired unemployed men to carry out work that had grown beyond the resources of Christian volunteers. These may have included grave diggers and perhaps an ambulance corps.

Such large-scale organized emergency efforts did not emerge from nowhere; they came from the existing infrastructure in Christian churches to help the sick. The deacon-led care that the churches offered the sick was usually palliative, because it was administered for the most part by people with little or no medical training or experience. But we know today that in the absence of professional expertise and even medications, a basic regimen of nursing care can cut mortality during epidemics by two-thirds or even more.

Many movements in the history of Christian philanthropy have drawn on this legacy. Prominent historian of medicine Henry Sigerist wrote that Christianity introduced the "most revolutionary and decisive change in the attitude of society toward the sick," giving sick people a "preferential position" in society that they retain to this day. Christians saw the suffering of others as an opportunity to provide compassionate care in the name of Christ. This was Christianity's novel contribution to health care, providing the foundation for the whole tradition of Western medical philanthropy. By the fourth century, it led to the creation of the hospital as a uniquely Christian institution. But the hospital would never have succeeded without the medical philanthropy integral to the ministry of the early church.

- *Christian History Institute*