A wooden cross is positioned in the upper left corner of a dark blue, textured background. The cross is made of two simple wooden beams. The text is centered in the lower right portion of this image.

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.  
Always be prepared to give an answer  
to everyone who asks you to give the  
reason for the hope that you have.*

**(1 Peter 3:15)**

*“He who loves Me will be loved by  
My Father, and I will love him  
and manifest Myself to him”*

*- Jesus*

*St. John 14:21*

# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, PULASKI, WI

SUNDAY, MAY 17TH, 2020

## SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

**AS WE GATHER...** What makes our Easter celebration so amazing is that here it is that same Lord Jesus whom we witnessed dying on a bloody cross who now risen from the dead appears and speaks to us. Today He promises to send to us “*another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth*” (John 14:16–17). By means of the Spirit we are equipped not only to testify and witness to the saving faith but also, should it be God’s will, to suffer for that testimony. We hear the inspired words of Peter speak about suffering “*for righteousness’ sake*” living in the very resurrection hope of Christ.

Peter wants to convince us that it is precisely in our suffering that Christ meets us and acts for us. For He knows suffering intimately but also possesses the triumph over it. He points us to our Baptism, where Christ’s victory becomes our victory. His resurrection life gives us new life, which for now is but the beginning to be stretched out into life eternal.



### INVOCATION

**L** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**L** Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**C** He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

**L** The three sad days have quickly sped,  
He rises glorious from the dead.

All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

(LSB 464:3)

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**C** He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins,  
and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**PSALM 66:8-20 - READ ALONG AS A FAMILY AT HOME**

**8** Oh, bless our God, you peoples!

And make the voice of His praise to be heard,

**9** Who keeps our soul among the living,

And does not allow our feet to be moved.

**10** For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined

**11** You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs.

**12** You have caused men to ride over our heads;

We went through fire and through water;

But You brought us out to rich fulfillment.

**13** I will go into Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows

**14** Which my lips have uttered

And my mouth has spoken when I was in trouble.

**15** I will offer You burnt sacrifices of fat animals,

With the sweet aroma of rams; I will offer bulls with goats. *Selah*

**16** Come and hear, all you who fear God,

And I will declare what He has done for my soul.

**17** I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue.

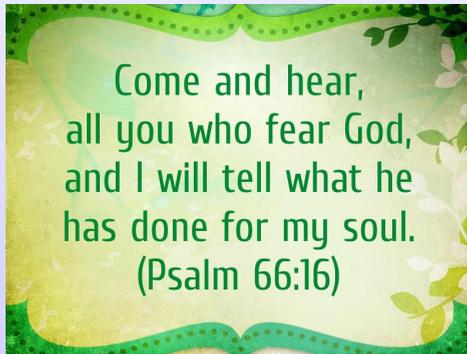
**18** If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.

**19** But certainly God has heard me;

He has attended to the voice of my prayer.

**20** Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer,

Nor His mercy from me!





1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who  
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are  
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your  
 Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that  
 u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And bring to naught all He has done.  
 we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
 strife And lead us out of death to life.

~ READ ALONG WITH THE LESSONS ~

**FIRST LESSON**

(Paul in Athens)

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

<sup>16</sup>Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup>So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup>Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities” – because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup>And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup>For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” <sup>21</sup>Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup>So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup>For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup>nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and

everything. <sup>26</sup>And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup>that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup>for

“In Him we live and move and have our being’;  
as even some of your own poets have said,

“For we are indeed His offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup>The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

(Suffering for Christ)

1 Peter 3:13-22

<sup>13</sup>Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

<sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

<sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup>Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God.

<sup>15</sup>[Jesus said:] “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Yet a little while and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord

**C** Praise to You, O Christ

**HYMN**                      **Voices Raised to You We Offer**                      **LSB 795** vs. 1,3, & 4



1 Voic - es raised to You we of - fer; Tune them, God, for  
 3 Christ, the song of Love in - car - nate, Touch - ing earth with  
 4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, Kin - dle faith with -



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute  
 heav - en's grace, For Your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,  
 in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;



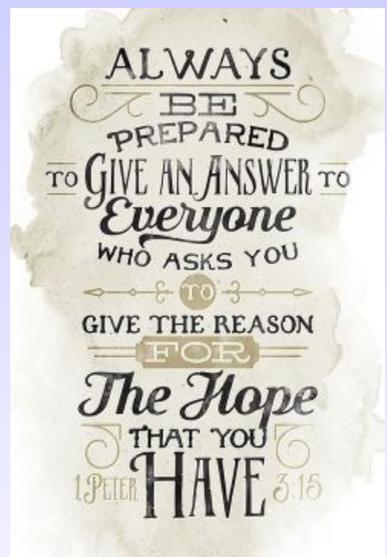
For Your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 For Your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Through our hands Your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to You we sing!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, Re - deem - er, Lord of life!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, Help - er, breath of life!

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## APOSTLES' CREED

**C** 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.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each Prayer will end with:

*... let us pray to the Lord:*

Reply with:

**... Lord, have mercy.**

## LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

**A** 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.

## BENEDICAMUS

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

# BENEDICTION

**L** 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. *Numbers 6:24-26*

**C** Amen.

## HYMN

## Children of the Heavenly Father

LSB 725



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly  
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the  
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in  
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He  
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He  
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.  
show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.  
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

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**Pastor will be at church today offering communion until 12:00 pm.**

**He is also available during the week between 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.**



*Soli Deo Gloria*