

**W**elcome to **W**orship  
**St. Luke's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**



**Christ is Risen, indeed!  
Alleluia!**

***Sixth Sunday of Easter***

**May 14, 2023**



Disciples and Ministers: *All the People*  
Interim Pastor: *Rob Johnson*  
NWOS Bishop: *Daniel Beaudoin*  
ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Elizabeth Eaton*  
Companion Church: *Mwanawotta, Tanzania*  
Web Page: <http://www.stlukesnb.org>  
eMail: [StLukesNB@gmail.com](mailto:StLukesNB@gmail.com)  
Pastor Rob's phone: 419-913-7506

*Whether this is your first time with us or you have been here your whole life, **WELCOME** to the place where we stand together before God as equals. If you are new here and seeking a church home, please contact the church office at 419-257-3253 and leave a message.*

### **Assisting in Worship**

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Janet Goldner*  
Acolyte: *Easton Wymer*  
Ushers: *Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes,  
Nancy & Jim Wymer*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

### **To the Glory of God**

May Altar Candles: *Carol Williams*  
May Bulletins: [\*available for sign-up\*](#)  
May Newsletter: [\*available for sign-up\*](#)



**North Baltimore Food Pantry May** requested donations include: laundry detergent, dish soap, and toilet paper.

*Happy Mothers' Day!*

# Order of Worship

Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 14, 2023

*God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism. \*please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable. Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their guidelines.*

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## GOD GATHERS US

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### GREETING

### PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

*Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, “Gracious God.” When you exhale, pray, “open my heart.”*

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL: and also with you**

*Please share God’s peace using the “peace sign.”*

### AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Leader: Blessed be the ✠ One God who, like a farmer, plants the seeds of wisdom, faith, and joy in our hearts, so that we may reap a harvest of new life.

**ALL: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: If I say I have no sin, I deceive myself and the truth is not in me. However, if I confess my sins, you are faithful and just. Forgive me. Cleanse the thoughts of my heart by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that I may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*In your heart and your spirit, confess to God your fears, your anger, your greed, and your disappointments. Lift up the names of people whom you’ve hurt recently.*

**ALL: Most merciful God, I confess that I am captive to sin and cannot free myself. I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved you with my whole heart. I have not loved my neighbors as you have loved me. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me; renew me; and lead me, so that I may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

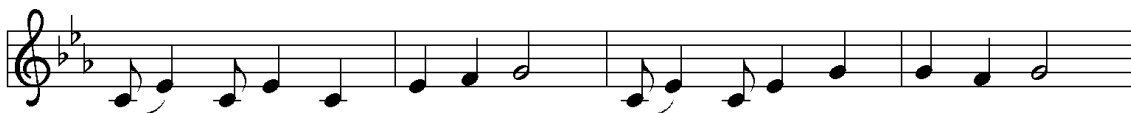
Leader: Hear these words and believe in their power: Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

*1 John 1:9; James 5:16*

**\*GATHERING HYMN #781**

CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

**\*KYRIE HYMN #151**



1, 3	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2	Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3	Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.	Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.
2	Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.	Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.	Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.	Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.

**\*GLORY TO GOD**

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 121

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# GOD SPEAKS TO US

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## PROPHETIC READING

ACTS 17:22-31

Reader: <sup>22</sup> So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: “Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, <sup>23</sup> for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: ‘To an Unknown God.’ This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I’m telling you about.

<sup>24</sup> “He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples, <sup>25</sup> and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. <sup>26</sup> From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.

<sup>27</sup> “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ <sup>29</sup> And since this is true, we shouldn’t think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone.

<sup>30</sup> “God overlooked people’s ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.”

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## DISCIPLESHIP READING

1 PETER 3:13-22

Reader: 13-18 If with heart and soul you're doing good, do you think you can be stopped? Even if you suffer for it, you're still better off. Don't give the opposition a second thought. Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy. Keep a clear conscience before God so that when people throw mud at you, none of it will stick. They'll end up realizing that they're the ones who need a bath. It's better to suffer for doing good, if that's what God wants, than to be punished for doing bad. That's what Christ did definitively: suffered because of others' sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones. He went through it all—was put to death and then made alive—to bring us to God.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 124

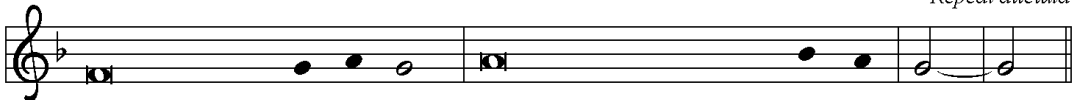


**ALL:** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



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

*Repeat alleluia*



Leader: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

### \*GOSPEL READING

JOHN 14:15-21

*Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.*

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of John chapter 14. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: <sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Leader: The gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leader: Martin Luther’s small catechism reminds us of our commitment to faith. We believe in the promises of the Lord’s prayer and the 10 commandments:

**ALL: I will love God with all my heart soul and strength;  
and I will love my neighbor as I have been loved by God.  
I will help and support others in all of life’s needs.  
I will talk about others in the best possible light.  
I will forgive myself and others just as God forgives me.  
I will care for and preserve the earth and all its abundance, and  
I will share its resources with others.  
I will not hoard what I don’t need;  
I will let go of my regrets;  
and I will grow in the fruits of the Spirit.**

## **THE MESSAGE**

# \*HYMN OF THE DAY #396

SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS

## \*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION

### \*PRAYER HYMN #752

LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

## \*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Leader: Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

We pray for Janet, Brittany, Jim, Harry, Julie, Cheryl, John, Fred, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Jim, Barb, Jack, Rex, Cindy, Susan, Daryl, Aunt Mary, Brianne, Beth, Gerald, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Chelsea, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, Catherine, Ed, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Teresa, Betty, Don, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Braxton, Eric, Lisa, Cindy, Chris, Arlene, Logan, Don, Ashley, Beth, Jayne, Ed, Barb, Riker, Kelly, Al, Pat, and Dan.

.....who taught us to pray saying,

### \*THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT US

**All: 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**

**\*PRAYER HYMN #752**

LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #186**

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right



spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the joy of



your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

**ALL: Ever-living God, fill us with the hope and joy of the resurrection. With each and all our gifts, bless us anew to bring your new life to others. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

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# GOD NOURISHES US

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## THE TABLE PRAYER

Leader: God of all creation, all you have made is good.

**ALL: Your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish me with these gifts. Use me and what I have gathered to feed the world with your love, through the feast of love and bread of life, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## THE EXHORTATION

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 133

Leader: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life.

**ALL: Blessed is the Lord, the God of the universe. God's faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise the Lord in the heights above. Praise the Lord, sun and moon; praise the Lord, all you shining stars. Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, and stormy winds. Praise the Lord, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for they were created.**

*Psalm 148*

Leader: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your

Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. And so, with all the universe and the hosts of heaven, we join in praise and sing....

## \*SANCTUS

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 130



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: In the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, gave a piece to each disciple and said,

**ALL: This is my body, given for you. Do this and remember me.**

Leader: Again, after supper, Jesus took a cup of wine, gave thanks; and gave it to each disciple to drink, saying,

**ALL: This is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this and remember me.**

Leader: We proclaim the mystery of faith:

**ALL: Sin is conquered! Death is defeated! Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.**

Leader: God of resurrection and new life: pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

**ALL: Grace this table with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.**

### **\*SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Please join in prayer if you are unable to receive the elements.*

**ALL: Forgiving and faithful God, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed and Holy Sacrament. Like a seed that pierces the soil with new life, your Spirit breaks through the fear and resentments that harden my heart. Since I cannot now receive You through bread and wine, come spiritually into my heart. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a forgiving spirit within me. Amen.**

### **\*LAMB OF GOD**

Setting #2 Hymnal page 135




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 peace.

### **DISTRIBUTION**

## \*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #313

VERSE 1

### O Lord, Now Let Your Servant



The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'O Lord, Now Let Your Servant'. It consists of four staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a '1' indicating the start of the verse. The lyrics are: '1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace, for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace: a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill. the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.'

## \*PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Leader: Please join me in the absolution,

**ALL:** Merciful and forgiving God, you have made this promise to me: I am a gift. Jesus' story is my story. When I was baptized in Christ Jesus, I was buried with him into his death. As Christ was raised from the dead, I, too, might live a new life. By removing my sins, you give me strength to forgive myself and to forgive those who have offended and sinned against me. Amen.

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## GOD SENDS US

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## \*BLESSING

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 136-137

*We are sent to serve others.*

## \*THE AMEN



## \*SENDING HYMN #790

DAY BY DAY

## \*DISMISSAL

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 137

## POSTLUDE

**ELCA "Hunger Appeal" Offering** - Each week as we leave worship, we remember the poor by placing loose change offerings in the "hunger bowls" on the Information Table in the Narthex.

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Please help to keep our Prayer List up-to-date by notifying the church office of any changes, additions or deletions.

**WE GIVE THANKS:** for our mothers. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Janet Holloway, Brittany Vanaman, Jim Wymer, Harry & Julie Friess, Cheryl & John Kruse, Fred Husing, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha & Jim Carter, Barb Williams, Rex McCarty.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Cindy Meyers, Susan Miller, Daryl Miller, Aunt Mary, Brianne Gott, Beth Johnson, Gerald Leitch, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy, Catherine Pritts.

**MILITARY:** for all those who are in training and who are serving in the military & their families; the chaplains (*especially those in combat zones*); grieving families and friends of those who died while serving.

**COMPANION CHURCH:** Mwanawotta Lutheran Church, of the Dodoma Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

**WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS:** all ministries of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), our presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, all our bishops, pastors, leaders, of the congregations of the NWOS (Northwestern Ohio Synod), Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, and our 15 Central Conference congregations.

**THE WORLD:** for peace in our country and around the world. For the end of violence against one another. For world leaders to seek guidance from you.



# Not Orphaned

“I will not leave you orphaned,” Jesus promises us in today’s gospel. God is not some ruthless heavenly spectator judging us as on reality television, relishing our failures, wishing to exchange us for a better or more attractive child, no curmudgeonly “Daddy Warbucks” in the sky. Rather, God comes to love us in Jesus, singularly loving and accepting, seeking our trust, promising to be ever-present with us in the Holy Spirit. This Holy Advocate moves us even when we don’t recognize its power, even when it seems “an unknown God” (Acts 17:23). Though we might battle an elemental loneliness, we have not been abandoned.

Many life experiences can leave us feeling orphaned or abandoned. Family can ease that feeling but also magnify it if our family relationships are strained or if our families live far away. Think of those in your congregation who count deployed soldiers among their loved ones in recent years, or construction workers and tradesmen who need to live in hotels far away from their families to keep making money for their families in the recent difficult economy. The Internet, webcams, Skype, and social networking can link people across the miles but can further aggravate loneliness and isolation when these substitute for real intimacy in our highly connected world. How do we experience this loneliness and this longing for home and belonging? How does Jesus’ promise that he will not leave us orphaned speak to these real-life concerns?

When Jesus makes this string of promises in John 14, saying that he will remain with us in the Holy Spirit as our Advocate, it’s hard to envision how this support comes to us sometimes. When we do not get to see or hear those we love, the simple gifts Jesus offers in body and blood, bread and wine shared with real warm neighbors have great power. Even when life keeps delivering bad news about how far apart we are from another, how broken our relationships are, “I will not leave you orphaned” is the godly reassurance that we are not alone.

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Church Office Hours M-F 9-1