



Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 10, 2026
Esther Lutheran Church, ELCA
Making Christ Known Through Faith, Hope, and Love

Introduction:

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.

PRELUDE
BELL
WELCOME

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Please stand as you are able

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

P: Praise God, who made the world,

C: And all that lives within it!

P: The God of heaven and earth.

C: Does not live in human shrines.

P: This one gives life to all,

C: And we are God's own children!

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: Give us the willingness to be honest with ourselves, with one another, and with you about the ways in which we have caused harm in this world. Give us the openness to see where our actions or failures to act have led to pain in those closest to us and in those far away. Do not let us sink further into self-harm through self-blame and hatred, but give us the courage to set right our wrongs, and to return to you again and again for forgiveness.

P: The risen God has raised you to newness of life in Jesus' name. You are in Christ a new creation, and God forgives you every wrong. Celebrate with all of creation a world redeemed, and lavish the love you have received on all that is.

C: Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: "Be Thou My Vision" (ELW 793)**

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
 may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
 Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
 still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

***GREETING:**

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

KYRIE: *sung* (ELW pg. 213)

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christe eleison: **Christ, have mercy.**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE: “*Glory to God*” (ELW pg. 213)**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God’s people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God’s people on earth.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
receive our prayer.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

Please be seated

Special Music – Esther Harmony

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING: ACTS 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by

human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’²⁹“Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” Here ends the first reading.

PSALM 66:8-10 ~ Congregation reads the bold

Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8)

⁸Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord ^lwith my tongue.

¹⁸ If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, 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, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. Here ends the second reading.

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Alleluia” (ELW pg. 205)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They 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.” The Gospel of the Lord...

Thanks be to God!

Please be seated

CHILDREN’S TIME & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “*Children of the Heavenly Father*” (ELW 781)

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.**
- 2 God his own doth tend and nourish,
in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them,
in his mighty arms he bears them.**
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.**
- 4 Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;**

**his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.**

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958
Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

L: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L: Your command to love is the simplest but hardest of all. Open our hearts as only you can, that we would receive the ones you give us to love, excluding no one—including ourselves. Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You give life and breath to all that exists in this world, and in worlds yet unknown to us. Keep us connected to the source of our being, and to all that shares this planet with us. Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Bless all mothers and all who care for others in a nurturing way. Heal broken relationships and bind old wounds. Comfort those who grieve mothers, children and lost chances at creating life. Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Be with those going through trials and challenges in their lives, and show them that your Spirit has never left them. We lift up this day especially Jerry, Bruce, Cheryl, Chris, Kristy, Ricky, Larry, Joan, Dennis, Lois, Dale, Bev, Gary, Shirley, Joyce, Kathy, Allison, Becky, Kim, Cadence, Sara, Barb, Connie, Leroy, and Karen. Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Your disciples never failed to share your gospel with all those whom they met. Give us their fire, courage and tenacity of spirit to be lights in the places where you have put us in this world. Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You have promised never to leave us orphaned and alone. Join our prayers with those of all people around the world, and join us in love with all your children, for whom we ask these things in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

Please stand as you are able

***APOSTLES' CREED: (ELW pg. 217)**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
on the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

***PEACE:**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please be seated

OFFERING

We thank you for our gifts of time, talent, and treasure that help this congregation, to continue our ministry together, and to make Christ known in our communities and the world.

OFFERING HYMN:

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” vs. 4 (ELW 367)

**4 Adoring praises now we bring
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God,
all the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Please stand as you are able

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

P: Merciful God,

C: **Let us come into God's house with offerings of thanksgiving and gratitude for all that we have received. Bless these gifts and may they be the means through which others may also be blessed by you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER: *sung* (CLH 632)**

Our Father, which 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

***BLESSING:**

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit

✠ bless you and give you peace.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

***SENDING SONG: “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” (ELW 392)**

- 1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."**

- 2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us;
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise:
"I am with you evermore"?**

- 3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful
flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.**

- 4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.
As within the veil you entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest,
here on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.**

**5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

***DISMISSAL:**

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jerry Anderson Kristy Fyhrie
Larry Sather Joan Burquest
Dennis Rosenquist Lois Rosenquist
Ricky Hart Sara Skoglund
Leroy Olson – father of Becky Arvidson
Cheryl Farber – mother of Melissa Schlosser
Rev. Bruce Miller- father of Karin Wagner
Barb Peterson -friend of the Thoms
Dale Flemming – father of Laurie Ratajesak
Gary Borst – friend of the Andersons
Shirley Nesges – friend of the Thoms
Bev Lorine – mother of Mandy Arvidson
Joyce Muyres – friend of the Thoms
Bev Guse-Ohlrech – friend of the Pedersons
Allison Dotzler – friend of Kathy Mittag
Cadence Smith – friend of Mandy Arvidson
Becky Yttrie – friend of the Townsends
Kim Casavan – friend of Mandy Arvidson
Kathy Wilkins – friend of the Thoms
Connie Pesta – sister of Dick Thom
Karen Schlosser – mother of Justin Schlosser

Family and Friends of: Sarah Pomeranz, David Anderson, Katie Jahnke, Colleen Burquest, Doug Tvedt, Alma Robinson, Jerry Pogose, Terry Burns, Wayne Lund, Bruce Carter, Inez Nelson, and Gary Willie



Happy Mother's Day to all of our moms, and those who love and nurture us like moms!

*May those with children feel appreciated,
may those grieving empty arms be comforted,
may those mourning and missing the one who gave them life,
be wrapped in goodness and love today.*

Tamara Rice

THIS WEEK AT ESTHER

Sunday, May 10th - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday Fellowship Before & After Worship

8:30 am - WELCA

10 am – Worship led by Pr. Ken Bowman

2 pm – Worship at St. William's

Tuesday, May 12th

6 pm – Women's Night Out at Herby's in Carlos

Wednesday, May 13th

6 pm – Council

6 pm – VBS Prep Night

Sunday, May 17th – Seventh Sunday of Easter

9:30 am – Senior Recognition Cake Reception (Ruth Circle hosts)

10 am – Worship w/Holy Communion led by Pr. Preston & Senior Recognition

2 pm – Worship at St. William's

7 pm – Baccalaureate at Immanuel Lutheran Church

Monday, May 18th

6 pm – Worship Committee

SERVING IN MAY

Pastor: May 10 - Pr. Ken Bowman, May 17 - Pr. Dennis Preston, May 24- Pr. Brigitte, May 31- Megan Townsend

Organists: Marcia Guenther & Brad Lambrecht

Altar Care: Donna Pederson

Usher: Brady Arvidson

Acolyte: **NEED VOLUNTEER**

Lay Reader: Terri Grinager

Communion Assistant: **NEED VOLUNTEER**

Birthday Card Sender: Linda Arvidson

NEWS AND NOTES

We are still in need of Acolytes and Communion Assistants for the month of May. Please contact Mandy in the church office if you are willing to serve.

Women's Night Out will be held on Tuesday, May 12th at 6 pm at Herby's in Carlos. Please RSVP to Luella.

VBS Prep Night will be held on May 13th at 6 pm at church.

Parkers Prairie High School Student Council is planning for its annual Day of Caring on Friday, May 22nd. The students of PPHS will be ready, willing, and able to help out in the community. If you would like help with spring clean up or have a special project that needs to get done in the Parkers Prairie, Urbank, and Miliona area, contact PPHS Student Council Advisor David O'Brien at dobrien@pp.k12.mn.us.

The Widows & Singles Share & Care Group of Immanuel will meet on Friday, May 15th at 1 pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Parkers Prairie. They will be carpooling to Cherry Grove Market in Browerville and visiting other area Amish Greenhouses.

We will be honoring our seniors Evalynn Grinager & Isaiah Schlosser on Sunday, May 17th during worship. There will also be a cake reception hosted by WELCA at 9:30 am.

The Esther Caring Ministry will have packaged meals available in the kitchen freezer for you to take to anyone who could use a meal to nurture their body and spirit.

GIFT OF PLANNING EVENT

Join us at Esther on Tuesday, June 9 at 6:00 PM for an evening of food, fellowship, and thoughtful conversation about planning for the future to provide the ultimate gift to yourself and your loved ones: peace of mind.

What a Mess! VBS at Esther will be held June 14th-18th starting each evening with supper at 5:30 pm with lessons, music, crafts, and worship from 6-8 pm. For more information contact the church office at secretary@estherlutheran.net. Be sure to invite friends, grandkids, cousins, and neighbors to join in the fun!



Vanco online giving platform is a great way to set up a scheduled giving plan for even when you cannot make it to church. Scan the QR code, go online to estherlutheran.com, go to the tab “ways to support Esther Lutheran Church” and click on the link <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZP4R> or download the app Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement. Any questions please ask Mandy Arvidson.

Check out the Esther Calendar on our website to stay up to date on everything happening!

Go to:

estherlutheran.com and click on “Esther Calendar.”

You belong here. We believe that each person has unique gifts, are created in God’s image, and is a beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us each week to share in the community of faith at Esther - “Knowing Christ - making Christ known through faith, hope and love”. If you would like to become a member of Esther, please contact Mandy in the church office at 218-338-2171 or secretary@estherlutheran.net or Jewel Townsend at 320-760-2503 or jewellht17@gmail.com.

Answers to Mother’s Day Trivia:

Moses – Jochebed

Isaac – Sarah

Joseph – Rachel

Timothy – Eunice

John the Baptist – Elizabeth
Jesus – Mary
Solomon – Bathsheba
Jacob – Rebekah
Samuel – Hannah
Judah – Leah

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