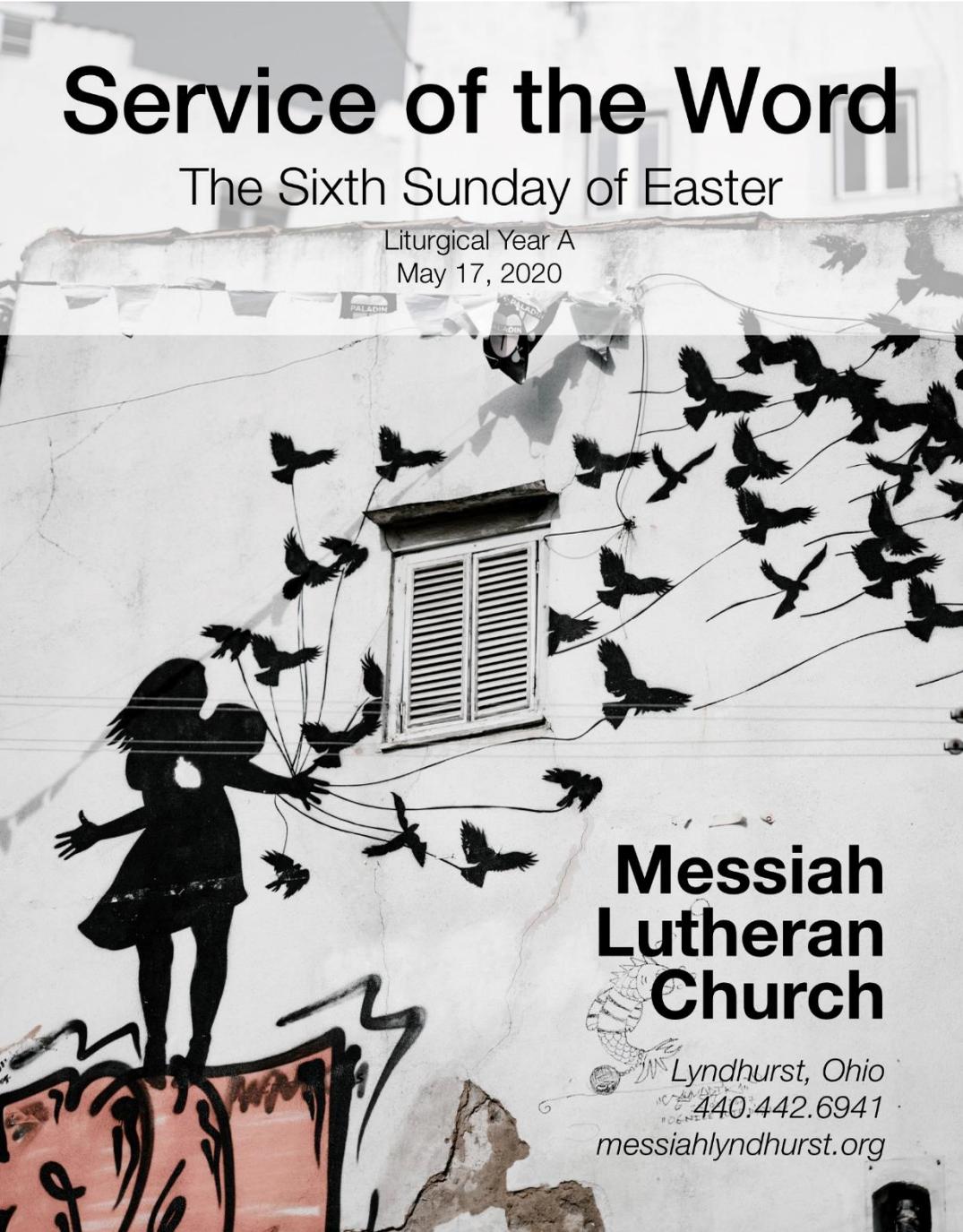


# Service of the Word

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Liturgical Year A  
May 17, 2020



**Messiah  
Lutheran  
Church**

Lyndhurst, Ohio  
440.442.6941  
[messiahlyndhurst.org](http://messiahlyndhurst.org)

# Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church!

**It is good to be together, even if we are meeting online.** If you are new to Messiah, you can find out more about our community at [messiahlyndhurst.org](http://messiahlyndhurst.org) or on our facebook page. During this current health crisis, we will upload our service to our website each Sunday morning ([www.messiahlyndhurst.org](http://www.messiahlyndhurst.org)). We invite you to follow along at home with the order of service included below.

**Prayer Concerns** can be shared via email ([pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org](mailto:pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org)) or phone (440-442-6941). Please indicate if you would like your request to be considered for inclusion in worship. Please note that some elements of the service are pre-recorded and prayer requests may not make it in until the following week.

**Children** are encouraged to participate at home as they are able. If you would like an at-home Sunday School Lesson Packet, please contact Cheryl Moser for more info.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is typically celebrated the first and third Sundays of each month, as well as on festival days. The date of our next Communion Sunday is TBD. If Communion is new for you, we invite you to have a conversation with Pastor Paul.

## Serving in Worship Today:

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Minister</b>           | The Rev. Paul Moody |
| <b>Organist</b>           | Glenn Odenbrett     |
| <b>Assisting Minister</b> | Jim Burghart        |
| <b>Reader</b>             | Drinda Kiner        |

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

*(As God gathers us on this day of resurrection,  
we take time during the prelude to center ourselves  
and prepare to receive the Gospel: both its proclamation  
of grace and its call to action.)*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked  
at baptism, as the presiding minister begins)*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*(Water may be poured as the presiding minister gives thanks)*

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning you created us in your image  
and planted us in a well-watered garden.

In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,  
and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,

you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,

and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,

for the water in our daily lives,

and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.

Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise

through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## GREETING

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# WORD

## 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.*

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For 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. <sup>24</sup>The 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, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is 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 too are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup>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.

<sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because 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.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

## Psalm 66:8-20

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

<sup>8</sup>Bless our <sup>l</sup> God, you peoples;

let the sound of <sup>l</sup> praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup>**Our God has kept us a- <sup>l</sup> mong the living  
and has not allowed our <sup>l</sup> feet to slip.**

<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have <sup>l</sup> tested us;  
you have tried us just as sil- <sup>l</sup> ver is tried.

<sup>11</sup>**You brought us in- <sup>l</sup> to the net;  
you laid heavy burdens up- <sup>l</sup> on our backs.**

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

<sup>13</sup>**I will enter your house <sup>l</sup> with burnt offerings  
and will pay <sup>l</sup> you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup>those that I promised <sup>l</sup> with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I <sup>l</sup> was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup>**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the <sup>l</sup> smoke of rams;  
I will give you ox- <sup>l</sup> en and goats.**

<sup>16</sup>Come and listen, all you <sup>l</sup> who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has <sup>l</sup> done for me.

<sup>17</sup>**I called out to God <sup>l</sup> with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord <sup>l</sup> with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup>If I had cherished evil <sup>l</sup> in my heart,  
the Lord would <sup>l</sup> not have heard me;

<sup>19</sup>**but in truth <sup>l</sup> God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound <sup>l</sup> of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not reject- <sup>l</sup> ed my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing <sup>l</sup> 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.*

<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and

do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but 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; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For 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, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who 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 persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And 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, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL**

**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.*

The Holy Gospel According to Saint John:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Pastor Paul Jones Moody

*(Please observe a moment of silence after the sermon)*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Goodness is Stronger than Evil*  
ELW #721

*(The hymn will be taught in the worship service; please listen and respond as you are able)*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*(A brief silence)*

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You are the creator of heaven and earth. Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures (*local bodies of water may be named*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your commands are good and merciful. Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless, and free the oppressed and imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered)*

You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us (*especially*). Unite us forever in your final victory over death. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*(If you are gathered with others, please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you" or similar response.)*

## **OFFERING**

*(Please give your tithes and offerings by mail or electronically at [messiahlyndhurst.org](http://messiahlyndhurst.org))*

# THANKSGIVING

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## SENDING

### **MISSION PRAYER**

As God has gathered us and filled our hearts with the Gospel,  
now God sends us forth to serve in mission. Let us pray:

**Gracious God, through belief in Christ and through the presence of the Holy Spirit within us, empower us to share the word; care and support each other and God's community; worship as a family in Christ; and be Christ-like examples to those whose lives we touch.  
Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead  
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,  
and turn your mourning into dancing.  
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

*Goodness is Stronger than Evil*  
ELW #721

*(The hymn will be taught in the worship service; please listen and respond as you are able)*

## **DISMISSAL**

Christ is risen, just as he said.  
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

*(Please observe a moment of silence before the postlude)*

## **POSTLUDE**

### **Messiah Staff Members**

Organist: Glenn Odenbrett  
Choir Director: Vicki Lester  
Christian Education Director: Cheryl Moser  
Office Administrator: Steven Liss  
Building & Custodial: Steve Newcomer

### **Attributions**

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## **Prayers**

**Prayer Team & Partners:** Prayer is a vital part of the Christian life. Messiah has a Prayer Team which will pray with/for you. If you have a prayer request, please complete a blue Prayer Request Card – available in the sanctuary – which offer these options: (1) request a Pastoral follow-up, (2) include in the intercessory prayers to be read aloud in worship, (3) add to the ongoing list in the Bulletin and Grace Note, or (4) add to the Prayer Partner Email Chain.

*(Contact Nancy Pittard to participate in the Prayer Partner Email Chain and/or to serve on the Prayer Team)*

**Please pray for our siblings in Christ:** The family of Dorothy Raynak, sister of Bette Schmidt, who died suddenly on Mother's Day; Linda Makee and family at the death of sister-in-law Joanne Meredith; the family and friends of Shirley Blagg; Will Grotto, Jay Imel, Jayne Imel, Denise and Rich Jennings, Laura Kennedy, David Kosovich, Meredith Moore, Karen Murphy, Lisa Perry, John Talbert, Sirena Worthington, Helen Wolfe, and all in need of comfort and healing.

*(Your prayer request, printed in the bulletin, will remain active for a period of four weeks. If you wish to have the prayer renewed, please fill out a new request card.)*

## **Announcements**

**PLEASE NOTE: All upcoming activities and events are subject to change as Messiah responds to the ongoing world health crisis.**

**Pastoral Care:** The world is experiencing an unprecedented season of difficulty, and all of us are affected in our own way. If you would like to connect with Pastor Paul for a conversation, please call or email the church office: 440-442-6941 or [pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org](mailto:pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org).

**Pastor Paul was invited to take part in a podcast**, hosted by Pastor Nathan Sutton from the Seattle area. They talk quarantine life and the Gospel for last Sunday (John 14). Listen in at [anchor.fm/nate-sutton/episodes/Together-in-the-Word-on-Pioneer-and-Third-Episode-8-edodel](https://anchor.fm/nate-sutton/episodes/Together-in-the-Word-on-Pioneer-and-Third-Episode-8-edodel).

**Financial Secretary Message re: Holiday Giving:** Just a reminder, if generic offering envelopes are used for designated holiday giving (e.g. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Ash Wednesday, Christmas), please designate the religious holiday if you want that offering to be part of the particular holiday giving. If it is not specified, the counting teams will assume it is part of your regular pledge. Otherwise, the designated giving goes to institutions or charities as recommended by the Social Ministry Committee and approved by Church Council. If you have questions, please contact Tom Griffith.

**LWR Personal Care Kits:** This year, we're joining Lutheran World Relief, in a Season of Hope, to announce to the world the HOPE of Christ. Messiah is collecting items to assemble LWR Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations. Collection bins for the items are located by the coffee area. Our goal is 50 kits! PLEASE NOTE: Our collection will resume at a later date.

**Miles of Quarters:** To help with Messiah's budget deficit, we are collecting a mile of quarters – over 63,000 quarters – more than \$15,000. Put your quarters in the glass jug by the easel. NOTE: Our collection will resume at a later date.

### **Church Office Hours This Week:**

The Church Office will not be open until further notice. However, we will be checking voicemail and email regularly.

**Attendance and Offering** for the week of May 10, 2020:

YouTube Views: 57

Offering (incl. electronic giving): \$2,762.00

(NOTE: \$4,000 a week is needed to remain current with our budget)

**Church Council Meeting:** the next session is on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 7:00pm.

**Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS):** The Social Ministry committee has placed educational posters about the ELCA's history of helping refugees through the work of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). Take a look at the new posters in the coffee area when you are able, or check out the LIRS website: <https://www.lirs.org/>.



## ***Special Acknowledgments***

*This is our space to honor expressions of appreciation. Email items c/o [office@messiahlyndhurst.org](mailto:office@messiahlyndhurst.org) by Wednesday at 3pm for publication on the following Sunday. We'll keep submissions in print for two weeks.*

- ♥ Thanks to everyone who participated or helped prepare the Mother's Day service on Sunday, May 10, 2020. Pastor Paul and Katie, Glenn Odenbrett, Tom Trost, Ben and Kathy Johnson, Tom Griffith, Kristy Bohinc, Steven Liss and anyone that I may have missed.  
*c/o Jim Rase*
- ♥ A thank you in abundance to Kristy Bohinc for all her creative slideshows and additions to the website each week. Your talent is greatly appreciated and makes Messiah shine.  
*c/o Vicki Lester*
- ♥ Thank you, Gail Patton for all the work you do around and inside Messiah Lutheran Church. You take care of plants, trees and shrubs to beautify our church grounds, even working after dark many evenings. Plants are kept watered and potholes are filled as needed. Painting as required. Anything needed done as above and more.  
*c/o Helen Wolfe*