

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion



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May 5, 2024
10:00 a.m.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1479 Morse Road + Columbus, OH 43229

“Our mission is to welcome all people in learning, living, and sharing God’s grace.”

A few notes about worship:

- Ascension strives to be a welcoming and safe place for all. Masks are optional: anyone may choose to wear a mask for any reason. Masks may be found on the back table in the sanctuary.
- Unchanged is our commitment to an excellent virtual worship experience. If you are unable to join in the sanctuary, worship services are streamed live on Facebook. Instructions on how to participate or view later the on-line (with or without a Facebook account) is on our website.
- **There are now three different options for receiving Holy Communion.** You may come forward and receive communion at the front in a continuous fashion (instructions will be given). Or, you may pick up communion elements on the back table as you arrive to commune yourself in the pew at the appropriate time. Or, you may remain in your pew, and communion will be brought to you (please inform the usher).

PLEASE NOTE:

- Gluten-free wafers are available. Indicate to Pastor this preference as you come forward.
- Juice is available: The white cups on the tray are apple juice; the red cups are wine. You may take your own cup from the tray even if one is offered by the lay minister.
- We are glad to have children in worship. We also know that children sometimes need to move and express themselves in ways that the pews don't accommodate. There is a family break room; and you are free to use it as needed. It is located in the back of the sanctuary.

ELW - indicates Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal - in the pew.

ACS - indicates All Creation Sings

W&P - indicates Worship & Praise

WOV - indicates With One Voice - in the pew

Bold print indicates Congregation.

Please rise as you are able at the titles marked with a plus sign - +.

At places where the cross ✝ appears, it is customary to make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your baptism.

Worship Notes:

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.



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www.ascension-columbus.org

Please like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranChurch>

✠ Gathering ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude Music

Welcome

+Easter Litany of Praise

A: The risen Christ meets us at the tomb, and turns our tears to joy.
For your love and goodness

C: **we give you thanks, O God.**

A: Christ comes through our locked doors, and turns our fear to courage.
For your love and goodness

C: **we give you thanks, O God.**

A: Christ comes to daily life and work, and turns our failure to new vision.
For your love and goodness

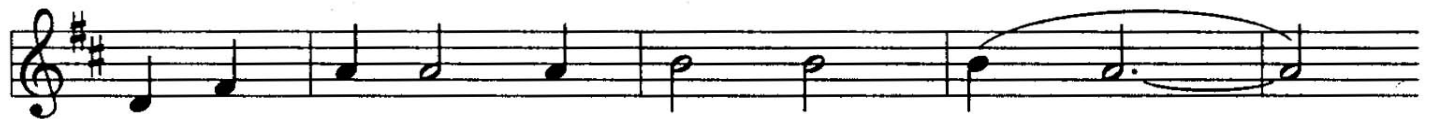
C: **we give you thanks, O God.**

A: Christ breaks the bread, and turns our despair to hope.
For your love and goodness

C: **we give you thanks, O God.**



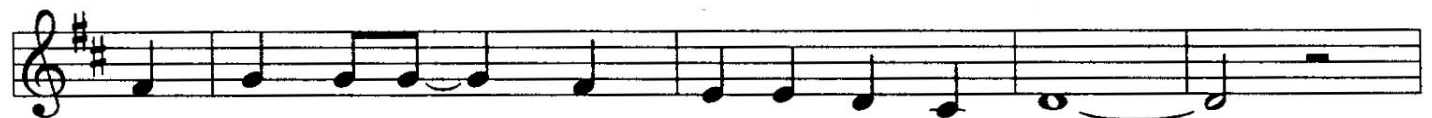
I will en - ter his gates with thanks - giv - ing in my heart,



I will en - ter his courts with praise.



I will say this is the day that the Lord has made;



I will re - joice for he has made me glad.



He has made me glad, he has made me glad,



I will re - joice for he has made me glad.



He has made me glad, he has made me glad,



I will re - joice for he has made me glad.

+Greeting

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: This is the day which the Lord has made.

C: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

+Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** *Please be seated.*

✠ Word ✠

God speaks to us in scriptures reading, preaching, and song.

First Lesson

The Spirit poured out on the Gentiles

Acts 10:44-48

A: A reading from Acts.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

⁴⁵The believers from among the Jewish people who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles,

⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So Peter ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

A: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Read responsively – congregation in bold print.

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Second Lesson

The victory of faith

1 John 5:1-6

A: A reading from First John.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey God's commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey the commandments, which are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.

⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

A: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him

Open our ears Lord
And help us to listen
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus

+Holy Gospel

Christ the friend and beloved

John 15:9-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in my Father’s love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon





Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

+Prayers of Intercession

A: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

A: Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. We pray especially for God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us (*especially....*). At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C: Amen.

+Sharing of Christ's Peace

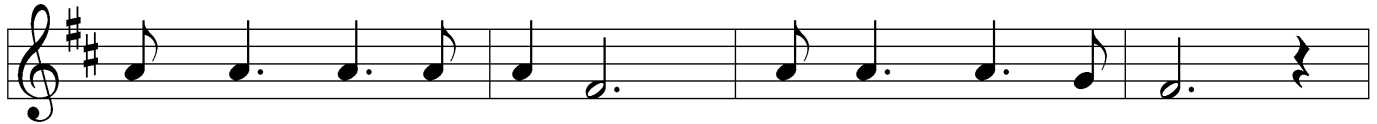
P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please share with one another Christ's peace, and then be seated.

Offering

An offering will be taken up today and the ushers will come to you; or you may go to www.ascension-columbus.org. to give electronically. We give thanks to you for your generosity of spirit.



1 What have we to of - fer? What have we to share?
 2 What have we to of - fer? What have we to bring?
 3 What have we to of - fer? What have we to give?



Coins from the cof - fer, hearts filled with care.
 Love, ripe with laugh - ter; hope that we can sing;
 Eyes that are wide o - pen; lies that we won't live;



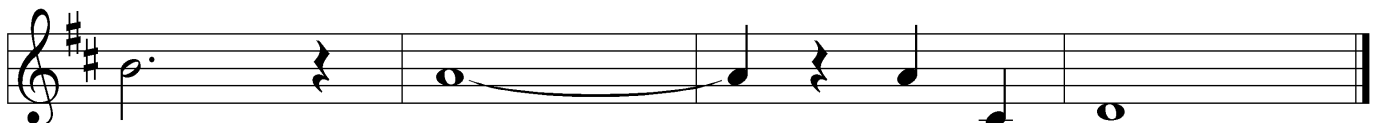
God will not fal - ter; so let us dare
 dreams of what we're af - ter; prom - is - es of when.
 truth that must be spo - ken; jus - tice some - how.



lay it at the al - tar there.
 Lay it at the al - tar then.
 Lay it at the al - tar now.



4 What have we to of - fer? What have we to



give? Lives we will live.

Offering Prayer

A: Risen One,
 you call us to believe and bear fruit.
 May the gifts that we offer here
 be signs of your abiding love.
 Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
 through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
Amen.

✠ Meal ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

+Thanksgiving at the Table

God is with you.

And also with you.

Rejoice with full hearts.

We offer them to God.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

+Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C: 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.**

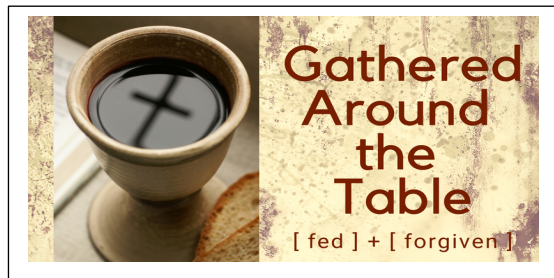
+Invitation to Communion

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
The gifts of God, for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to participate in Holy Communion. Please see the "Worship Notes" at the front of the bulletin regarding the options to receive communion, plus the options (gluten-free, grape juice...) for communion elements.



Gathered
Around
the
Table

[fed] + [forgiven]

Communion Song

"We Remember You"

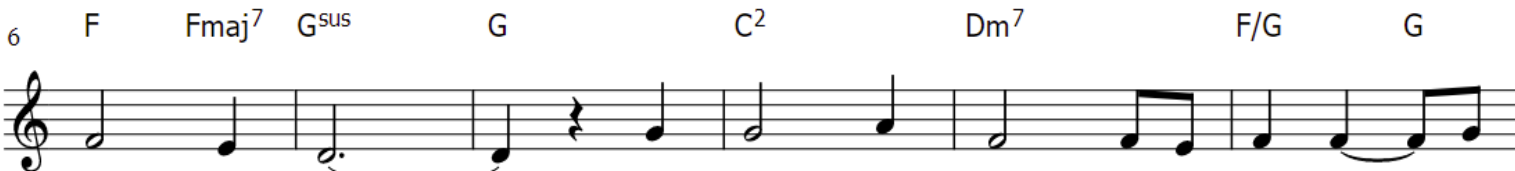
W&P 152

VERSE

C² Dm⁷ F/G G C G/B Am



In bro - ken bread and the cup that we share, we re -



-mem - ber You. In bro - ken bread and the cup that we

CHORUS

12 C G/B Am Dm⁷ G⁷ C^{sus} C F G/F



share, we re - mem - ber You. We re - mem - ber You,

19 C/E Am Cmaj⁷/G F G C Am Cmaj⁷/G F



Je - sus. We re - mem - ber Your love for us. We re -

Blessing at the Table

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

A: Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C: **Amen.**

✠ Sending ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Ministry Announcements

+Benediction

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.



+Sending Hymn

“We are Marching”

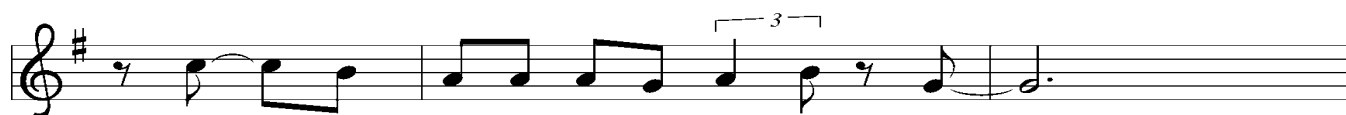
W&P 148/ELW 866



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. *Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',*
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

+Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

+++

Serving in Worship

Presider and Preacher: Pastor Karen Asmus-Alsnauer

Assisting Minister: Joe Riggs

Organist and Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Ed Duling

CWS Band: Tom Martin (Director and bass), Ed Hinton (drums), Von Smith (guitar), Chris Young (piano).

Ascending Tones Bell Choir: Jan Dahlstrom, Director

Altar Guild: Jan Dahlstrom, Brenda Noe, Peggy Dlusky, Pam Kratzer

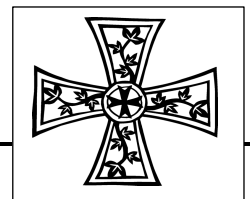
Ushers: Alan Dahlstrom, Mike Fitak

Tech Crew: Oscar Kamazima, Joel Kratzer, Dave Holtzapple

Librarian: Martha Gostely

Hospitality: Allan and Cindy Hiscox, Robin Kern, Joyce Heft, Karen Lashley, Sandra Stohr, Sandy Baker, Sara Smith, and Myron Miller.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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"We are Marching." PUBLIC DOMAIN.



Easter | This Changes Everything

Easter Sunday is always a wonderful celebration – and it is just the beginning!

The season of Easter continues for the next six weeks as we experience the power of the resurrection in our lives. Through this season, we are looking at how ***Easter changes everything.***

From our personal lives to our relationships, from our faith to our community – nothing can ever be the same after we experience God’s power and love.

Since the empty tomb changes everything, how will Easter change your life this year?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| * Easter Changes Everything | (An Ending without End) | Mark 16:1-8 |
| * Peace Changes Everything | (“Doubting” Thomas) | John 20:19-31 |
| * Presence Changes Everything | (Road to Emmaus) | Luke 24:13-35 |
| * Community Changes Everything | (Good Shepherd Sunday) | John 10 |
| * Connection Changes Everything | (Christ the Vine) | John 15:1-8 |
| * Friendship Changes Everything | (Agents of Grace) | John 15:9-17 |
| * Waiting Changes Everything | (Ascension) | Acts 1:6-14 |
| * Listening Changes Everything | (Pentecost) | Acts 2:1-21 |