



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Sixth Sunday in Easter
May 10, 2026 10am

REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER HIS SANCTURARY, PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ THROUGH THIS WORSHIP FOLDER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

**THE HOLY SPIRIT,
OUR HELPER & ADVOCATE**

JUSTIFIES & SANCTIFIES

*"I will ask the Father,
and He will give you
another Helper,
to be with you forever."*

— JOHN 14:16

YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN DEFENSE.
CHRIST STANDS FOR YOU.
THE SPIRIT INTERCEDES FOR YOU.
THE VERDICT IS NOT GUILTY.

Risen Christ Lutheran Church
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734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe that the Lord’s Supper is not symbolic. We believe what Jesus Himself said: that His body and blood are truly present in this, His meal that He instituted for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above and you are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and you have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to the Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Grape Juice is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world through your here! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR MEMBERS AND GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Everyone please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. For Guests, Pastor will send you a welcome card and please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather – What happens when we feel accused by our conscience, by others, or by the holy Law of God? In today’s Gospel, Jesus prepares His disciples for His departure by promising that He will not leave them as orphans. He asks the Father to send “another Helper” (*Paraclete*) the Holy Spirit who comes alongside believers as Comforter, Counselor, and Advocate. Together, the Son and the Spirit form our “Divine Defense Team.”

Jesus Christ stands before the Father as our Advocate, presenting His perfect life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection as the full payment for our sins. The Holy Spirit points to Christ and calls us by the Gospel, creates and sustains faith, and continually intercedes for us when we are weak.

Through the Word, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper, God delivers His verdict again and again: “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1). In Christ, the Judge has already declared us forgiven, reconciled, and not guilty.

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer and Blessing over Mothers

Invocation and Opening Sentences

John 14:19b; Acts 17:28; Romans 6:3–4

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen! **C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P Jesus said, “Because I live, you also will live.” **C In Him we live and move and have our being.**

- P** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?
- C** **We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.**
- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen! **C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Thy Strong Word



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
 4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of
 Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
 forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias,
Alleluias without end!

△ 6 God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!

Confession and Absolution

- ℙ Let us confess our sins to God, our Father, seeking His forgiveness through our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.
- ☩ **Heavenly Father, creator of all that was, is, and will ever be, we confess to You that we fall short of the calling that we have received from You, as Your dearly loved children. We have struggled to share the reason for the hope we have in You. We have not always responded to others with gentleness and respect. We have failed to live and share the love we have first received from You. Forgive our sins, for Jesus' sake, and lead us to live lives that reflect Your indwelling presence.**
- ℙ Our God hears our prayers and forgives our sins because of Jesus' perfect life, death, and resurrection. At the command of Christ and through the power of the cross and the empty tomb, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace!
- ☩ **Alleluia! Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 119:89–93; antiphon: v. 105

- ☩ **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**
- ℙ Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.
- ☩ **Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You have established the earth, and it stands fast.**
- ℙ By Your appointment they stand this day, for all things are Your servants.
- ☩ **If Your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.**
- ℙ I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life.
- ☩ **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, You are the Creator of all things in heaven and on earth, and You have claimed and cleansed us to be Your people through the waters of Baptism.

C **By Your Spirit, give us hearts and minds to hear Your Word.**

P Give us eyes and ears to see and listen to our world as You view and hear it.

C **Give us words and actions to share the hope we have in You;**

P through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord, who lives eternally with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 17:16–31

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So 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. ¹⁸Some 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. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For 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. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And 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, ²⁷that 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, ²⁸for

"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."

²⁹Being 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. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because 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.**

Psalm

Psalm 66:8–20

L Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard, who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

C **For You, O God, have tested us; You have tried us as silver is tried.**

L You brought us into the net; You laid a crushing burden on our backs; You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet You have brought us out to a place of abundance.

C **I will come into Your house with burnt offerings; I will perform my vows to You, that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.**

L I will offer to You burnt offerings of fattened animals, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

C **Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what He has done for my soul.**

L I cried to Him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue.

C **If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.**

L But truly God has listened; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.

C **Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me!**

Epistle

1 Peter 3:13–22

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but 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; ¹⁶yet 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. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For 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, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because 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. ²¹Baptism, 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, ²²who 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.**

Verse

Romans 6:9; John 16:33b

P Alleluia.

C **We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.**

P Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 14:15–21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter. **C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁵[Jesus said:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even 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.

¹⁸"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever 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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Spirit of The Living God

Spirit of the Living God

Fall fresh on me

Spirit of the Living God

Fall fresh on me

Melt me mold me

Fill me use me

Spirit of the Living God

Fall fresh on me

CCU Song # 23488

Daniel Iverson

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Sermon – “Your Divine Defense Team: Christ Stands for You. The Spirit Intercedes for You.”

1. Jesus Promises “Another Helper” – John 14:16–18
 - Parakletos = Helper, Comforter, Advocate, “One called alongside”
 - “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever.”
John 14:16
2. We Cannot Save Ourselves
 - “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins...” Ephesians 2:1
 - “For by grace you have been saved through faith... not a result of works.” Ephesians 2:8–9
3. The Courtroom of God
 - God’s Law reveals our guilt.
 - Self-defense fails.
 - Christ alone is our Advocate.
 - “We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” 1 John 2:1
4. The Verdict: No Condemnation
 - Justification is God’s declaration.
 - Christ has paid in full.
 - “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

5. Sanctification Flows from Justification
 - Good works do not earn salvation.
 - The Holy Spirit transforms us after we are declared righteous.
6. The Holy Spirit Intercedes for Us
 - Even when we cannot pray.
 - "The Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." Romans 8:26
7. Luther's Confession of Grace Alone
 - Third Article of the Apostles' Creed... "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith."
 - Lord's Prayer Explanations
 - o "The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer."
 - o "The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer."
 - o "God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers."
8. Our Defense Before the World
 - 1 Peter 3:15
 - We do not defend ourselves before God.
 - We testify to Christ who defended us.
 - "Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." 1 Peter 3:15
9. The Means of Grace Deliver the Verdict ("means" = the objective means of how God delivers all He has done and promised)
 - His Word (preached, studied, meditated upon, sung, etc...)
 - Baptism (His command and work)
 - Lord's Supper (His command and meal He established "for the forgiveness of sin")
 - "You are forgiven." "You are Mine." "You are not alone."
10. Final Truth
 - Christ stands for you.
 - The Holy Spirit intercedes for you.
 - The Father declares over you: Not guilty.
 - Your defense team never leaves.

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at www.RisenChrist.info – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a **Worship Card** so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
We pray with boldness and confidence because we know He hears our prayers because Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

MEN – Heavenly Father, we praise and thank You for sending Your Son to die and rise again for the sins of the world. We praise and thank You for sending the Holy Spirit, who calls us by the Gospel, gathers us around Your Word and Sacraments, enlightens us with Your truth, and sanctifies and keeps us in the true faith. Christ is risen! **C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

WOMEN – Creator God, You have created this world and everything in it, as well as each person who lives in it. In You we live and move and have our being, and You continue to provide for our daily needs of body and life. Lead us as we steward the resources and relationships You generously give us. Guide us to see all people as Your masterpieces. Christ is risen! **C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P O Jesus, You know intimately the challenges we face and the griefs we bear in this life. Hear us as we pray for those who are hurting and grieving, [especially . . .]. Give them strength and healing according to Your good and gracious will. Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

MEN – Lord God, You have placed us in a community where there are people who have never known You or who no longer are connected to Your Church. Guide us, as You guided Paul and others, to seize the opportunities to share the reason for the hope we have, doing this with gentleness and respect. Christ is risen! **C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

WOMEN – Almighty God, You are the King of all creation and the fount of all wisdom. We pray for all the world’s leaders and ask that You guide them according to Your will and Your ways as they make decisions for the good of all. We especially pray for our president, vice president, governor, mayor, and all those who work in government. Watch over their lives, and guide them in the decisions they are called to make on our behalf. Christ is risen! **C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P Gracious God, we thank You for making us male and female and for creating families with a loving father and a mother. We grieve for those who do not experience life according to Your design and for those who experience abandonment, abuse, and neglect. We celebrate with those who experience Your love in their families. Today, we especially remember our mothers. We remember those in whose wombs you knit us together. We remember those You have worked through to provide us comfort, wise counsel, care, and discipline throughout the different stages of our lives. We ask Your blessing on all mothers, that they experience Your love and are shaped by it in their parenting. Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him. **C Amen.**

Preface

P The Lord be with you. **C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts. **C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Communion

Grace Flows Down

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
Amazing love now flowing down
From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree
Grace flows down and covers me

***It covers me
It covers me
It covers me
And covers me***

Lamb of God

1. Your only Son, no sin to hide
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God

2. Your gift of Love they crucified
They laughed and scorned him as He died
The humble King they named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God

***CHORUS: Oh Lamb of God,
Sweet Lamb of God
I love the Holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in His precious Blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God***

3. I was so lost I should have died
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God ***CHORUS***

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The More I Seek You

The more I seek You
The more I find You
The more I find You
The more I love You

***CHORUS: I wanna sit at Your feet
Drink from the cup in Your hand
Lay back against You and breathe
Feel Your heart beat
This love is so deep
It's more than I can stand
I melt in Your peace
(It's overwhelming)***

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Zach Neese
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Closing Prayer

Who You Say I Am

1. Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

***CHORUS 1: Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am***

2. Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

***CHORUS 2: Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am
In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am***

BRIDGE: I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am ***CHORUS 2***

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Benediction

P 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.

C Amen.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.
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