



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 17, 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



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present 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, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine 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! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. 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 – Between Christ’s Ascension and Pentecost, the disciples waited together in prayer, trusting the promises of their risen Lord. We live in that same confidence. The Christian life includes fiery trials, spiritual warfare, and suffering, yet we are not abandoned. Jesus, who died, rose, and ascended into heaven, is even now praying for His Church. In Holy Baptism, God placed His name upon us and made us His own. In the Lord’s Supper, Christ strengthens us with His true body and blood. Therefore, we are people of promise—promised struggles, promised hope, and promised blessings. And after we have suffered a little while, the God of all grace will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish us in Christ forever.

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

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!**

Here I Am to Worship

1. Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

***CHORUS: So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me***

2. King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor ***CHORUS***

BRIDGE: And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross ***CHORUS***

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P "The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world." John 1:9

Women – "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!"

Psalm 95:6

Men – "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37

P With repentant hearts, let us continue our worship as we return to the heart of worship.

The Heart Of Worship

1. When the music fades all is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

2. King of endless worth no one could express
How much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor all I have is Yours
Ev'ry single breath

I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

***CHORUS: I'm coming back
to the heart of worship
And it's all about You... all about You Jesus
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You... all about You Jesus***

P "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise."

Psalm 51:17

C "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:8, 9

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

Confession and Absolution

C Most merciful God, we confess that we have often made worship about ourselves rather than about You. We have honored You with our lips while our hearts have wandered. We have become anxious and afraid in the midst of trials. We have doubted Your promises and forgotten that Christ is praying for us even now. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus, who stepped into our darkness, bore our sins upon the cross, and rose again in victory. Restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish us in Your grace.

P Hear the Good News. Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, has conquered sin, death, and the devil. He is risen, ascended, and even now intercedes for His people. In Holy Baptism, God placed His name upon you and made you His own. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P "After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace... will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."

C To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O King of glory, Lord of Your Church, You suffered on the cross and defeated death and the devil for us.

C Make us one as You and the Father are one. Unite us with You and as Your Body, the Church, in suffering and celebration, that the world may be drawn to You and the power of the resurrection;

P for You are risen and reign eternally with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Acts 1:12–26

¹²Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸(Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.

¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰"For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

"May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it";

And “‘Let another take his office.’

²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 68:1–10; antiphon: v. 32

L O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; **C** **sing praises to the Lord,**

L God shall arise, His enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate Him shall flee before Him!

C **As smoke is driven away, so You shall drive them away;**

L as wax melts before fire, so the wicked shall perish before God!

C **But the righteous shall be glad;**

L they shall exult before God; **C** **they shall be jubilant with joy!**

L Sing to God, sing praises to His name; **C** **lift up a song to Him who rides through the deserts;**

L His name is the LORD; exult before Him!

C **Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in His holy habitation.**

L God settles the solitary in a home;

C **He leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.**

L O God, when You went out before Your people,

C **when You marched through the wilderness, the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain,**

L before God, the One of Sinai,

C **before God, the God of Israel.**

L Rain in abundance, O God, You shed abroad; You restored Your inheritance as it languished;

C **Your flock found a dwelling in it; in Your goodness, O God, You provided for the needy.**

L O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; **C** **sing praises to the Lord.**

Epistle

1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” ¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. . . .

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

Romans 6:9; John 14:18

P Alleluia.

C **We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**

P Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 17:1-11

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

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

⁶"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon – "We are People of Promise! We're Promised Struggles, Hope, and Blessings!"

1. The Church Between Ascension and Pentecost

- Waiting
- Praying
- Trusting God's promises

2. Promised Struggles

- "Do not be surprised at the fiery trial" (1 Peter 4:12)
- Christians should expect opposition
- The devil seeks to devour and discourage
- God uses trials to refine faith
- Our cross is trusting Christ in the midst of suffering

3. Promised Hope

- Jesus is praying for you right now (John 17:11)
- Christ preserves His people
- The risen Lord restores fallen sinners
- "This one is Mine"

4. Promised Blessings

- God does not waste your pain
- "After you have suffered a little while..." you'll be restored, confirmed, strengthened, and established! (1 Peter 5:10)
- You belong to Jesus
- Baptized, forgiven, redeemed, and Christ's
- Free to love, serve, and witness

5. The Greatest Love Story Ever Told

- Christ lived for you
- Christ died for you
- Christ rose for you
- Christ reigns for you
- Christ intercedes for you

6. Final Promise – "The God of all grace... will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you." (1 Peter 5:10)

Apostles' Creed

P God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

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!**

P Lord Jesus, You are the Lord of the Church. Watch over all who lead Your people. Shape them to be men and women after God’s own heart, fuel them with Your Word and Sacraments, and guide them to walk in Your ways. We pray for our Synod president; for our district president; our regional vice president; our circuit visitor; and the servants of our congregation. Lead them as they lead us, because Christ is risen! **C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

WOMEN – O Jesus, we pray for all who are suffering trials because of their Christian faith. Comfort them and lead them to rejoice as they share in Your sufferings, that Your glory is revealed, because Christ is risen! **C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

MEN – Holy Father, we grieve the divisions in our families, communities, world, and especially in Your Church. Keep all Your people in Your name, which You have given in the waters of Baptism, and lead us to the unity we will experience fully with You in Your kingdom, because Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P O Great Physician, bind up the broken hearted and heal those who are suffering in heart, soul, strength, and mind. We pray this day for those who are grieving, and ask You to give them comfort as they mourn. We pray this day for those who are suffering from illnesses, and ask that You heal them according to Your good and gracious will, because 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, our risen Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

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.**

I'll Fly Away

Some Glad Morning When This Life Is Over, I'll Fly Away;
To A Home On God's Celestial Shore, I'll Fly Away.

***CHORUS: I'll Fly Away, O Glory, I'll Fly Away;
When I Die, Hallelujah, By And By, I'll Fly Away.***

When The Shadows Of This Life Have Gone, I'll Fly Away;
Like A Bird From Prison Bars Has Flown, I'll Fly Away. ***CHORUS***

Just A Few More Weary Days And Then, I'll Fly Away;
To A Land Where Joys Shall Never End, I'll Fly Away. ***CHORUS***

Benediction

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