

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
EASTER WEEK 6
Reverend John R. Hanson
May 22, 2022, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Julie Hanson, Musician

INTRODUCTION

Last week we were challenged to bring life to others through following Christ's example of love. This week, that love gets practical as the readings call us to embody God's hospitality. If anything expresses the life that is unleashed through the Easter event, it is when we learn to see Christ in the stranger and welcome them into our lives and hearts. May worship be a welcome place for you and for the strangers among us.

THEME AND VERSE

**From God comes the wonder of creation, we worship our God the Father.
From God comes healing for the brokenness we see, we worship God the Son.
From God comes the strength to face the new day, we worship God the Holy Spirit.**

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION God is good. **All the time.**

GOSPEL: John 14:23-29

Jesus promises the gift of the Holy Spirit – God making God's home within those who love God.

²³Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me. ²⁵"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have

said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time. **God is good!**

HYMN

"This Is the Day"

Burgundy # 262

This is the day
That the Lord has made
We will rejoice

**This is the day
That the Lord has made
We will rejoice**

And be glad in it **And be glad in it**

*This is the day that the Lord has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it*

This is the day **This is the day**
That the Lord has made.

CCLI Song # 32754 CCLI License # 1713417

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather this day of celebration

in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Followers of Christ Jesus, our lives become snarled by our ignorance and corrupted by the evil inside and outside of us. Confess your errors and seek the mercy and renewal which God is pleased to give to those who seek it.

We have made bad decisions and made life difficult for those around us. We pursue goals that we know are evil. We have lost our way in situations that degrade. We withhold compassion from those who most need it. We cling to unworthy deeds. We betray the deep values of Christ for shallow pleasures. We dally with temptations which spoil our integrity. We disappoint ourselves, those around us, and your Holy Spirit. Savior of the world, open our hearts to your grace, mercy, and peace. Create a clean heart within us and renew a healthy spirit within us. Amen!

People of God, Jesus has not come to bind our mistakes and sins on us but to loose the bonds and give us liberty. In his name we may claim the forgiveness of sins and life eternal. If Christ sets us free, then we are free indeed.

Thanks be to God, by whose name we confess the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN

“All Who are Thirsty”

All who are thirsty, all who are weak, come to the fountain,
Dip your heart in the stream of life.
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away
In the waves of his mercy, as deep cries out to deep, (we sing)

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

As deep cries out to deep, as deep cries out to deep, as deep cries out to deep, (we sing)

CCLI Song # 2489542 CCLI License # 1713417

CO-MISSION KENYA

THE APOSTLES' CREED

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S SERMON “How Long Is ‘A Long’ Time?”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God of loving hearts, help us to practice what we preach. If this proves harder than we expect, please invigorate us with your Holy Spirit so that your truth and peace may both guide and reinforce us with calm courage. This we ask in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen!

READING: Acts 16:9-10, 11-15

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. He meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide for the founding of the church at Philippi.

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and

spoke to the women who had gathered there.

¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

HYMN

"There Is a Name I Love to Hear"

Burgundy # 250

There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

*Oh, how I love Jesus, oh, how I love Jesus, oh, how I love Jesus,
Because he first loved me.*

It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free;
It tells me of his precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea.

It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe,
Who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below.

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SERMON - *"We wait for someone to release us from our current mess. Who said we had to wait to be told when and where we must go for permission to be released? Jesus gives us a call to life, not rituals! Jesus calls us to a ministry which is powered by love!"*

HYMN

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

Green # 429

Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan,
Above the noise of selfish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.

In haunts of wretchedness and need, on shadowed thresholds dark with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed, we catch the vision of your tears.

From tender childhood's helplessness, from human grief and burdened toil,
From famished souls, from sorrow's stress, your heart has never known recoil.

The cup of water giv'n for you still holds the freshness of your grace;
Yet long these multitudes to view the true compassion in your face.

O Master, from the mountainside, make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide; oh, tread the city's streets again.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Ever present God, may your peace go with us wherever we go this day. Guide us through the challenges, protect us when in need, and inspire us with your love. We acknowledge your presence in all the human goodness we will see. May you bring us home rejoicing to our place of rest. With the Lord's supper to strengthen us, we now go into this day. Amen.

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Go into the world with good spirits! We will never be able to serve God as such a Holy One deserves; but we are not asked to. We are simply asked to offer that which we know of ourselves in all that we know of Christ, but most importantly, to do the best we can.

May we know the peace of Christ at all times and in all places.

Grace, mercy, and peace from the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit certainly are with us this day and always.

We go in Christ's name to love and serve the Lord. Amen!

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Worship, as an action, continues to change.

Use the space below to guide your thoughts as the Spirit may lead you.

Use this time to center your distractions in order to help activate your worship.

Last week's "inclusive" witness is taken even further in the Scriptures this week. We see a vision of hospitality as the model of God's work in those who love God, and of the life which flows from it. In Acts, Lydia, the new convert, immediately understands that a life of following Christ is a life of hospitality – and offers hospitality to Paul and friends. In Revelation, the vision of the New Jerusalem is one of God's hospitality offered to all nations, providing security,

healing and food. In the Gospel reading, the outworking of this hospitality of God is dramatically revealed in the healing of the sick man – who has, perhaps, become too “at home” with his illness.

Hospitality is the essential challenge of the Gospel. Matthew Fox, in his book *Original Blessing*, suggests that the true meaning of “holiness” is hospitality. Hospitality is, essentially, the offer of safety, comfort, nourishment and friendship to both friend and stranger. The Scriptures show that this is a high ideal in God’s purposes. What this means for us is, initially, an opening of our hearts to welcome the stranger and friend, offering safety, comfort and love.

This must overflow into practical hospitality, opening our ‘homes’ – our communities, our churches, our neighborhoods and, yes, even our literal homes, to those who need shelter, safety, nourishment, acceptance and friendship. How, in our church and its worship, can we become more welcoming and more hospitable to those who are homeless and friendless?

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