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**6th Sunday of Easter**

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” *Psalm 119:105*

**AS WE GATHER**

Who am I? Who are you? Who is God? These are questions surrounding identity—questions we and others wrestle with on and off throughout our lives as we live through life’s chapters that may include being a child, sibling, spouse, parent, employee, employer, hobbyist, or retiree, with the spiritual journey that accompanies them. These identity questions also have added meaning today as the society we live in especially wrestles with one’s identity. When God baptizes us into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we receive our most important identity as a baptized child of God.

**PSALM** 66:8-20

**+ Preparation +**

**INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES** *John 14:19b; Acts 17:28; Romans 6:3–4*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Jesus said, “Because I live, you also will live.”

**People: In Him we live and move and have our being.**

Pastor: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

**People: 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.**

**CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father, seeking His forgiveness through our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

**People: 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.**

Pastor: 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!

**People: Alleluia! Amen.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won”* (*LSB* 490)

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**FIRST READING** Acts 17:16-31 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below Collect of the Day)*

**EPISTLE** 1 Peter 3:13-22 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 14:15-21 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**NICENE CREED** (*back, inside cover*)

**HYMN** *“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”* (*LSB* 594)

**SERMON *“Hope in You: Baptism Now Saves You”***

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(after each petition):* Pastor: Christ is risen!

 **People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**LORD’S PRAYER, SUNG** (*LSB*,front inside cover)

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION**

 *“Children of the Heavenly Father”* (*LSB* 725)

 *“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”* (*LSB* 821, vs. 1-3)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We thank You, our Maker, for creating us and for re-creating us through the cleansing waters of Baptism. We specifically thank You this day for serving us the body and blood of Jesus, in bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. Empower us to join You in the work You are doing in our world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN** *“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”* (*LSB* 821, vs. 4-5)

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**