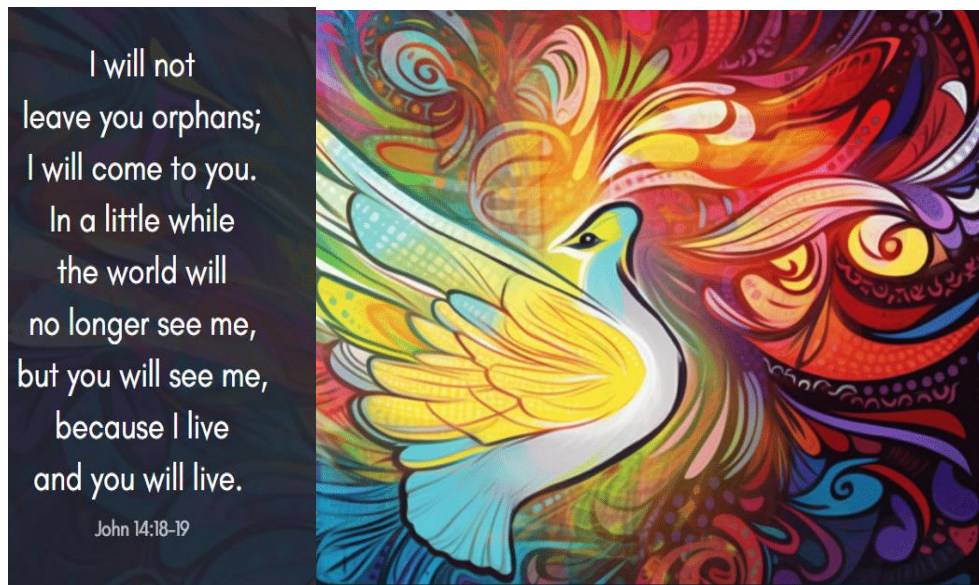


The Sixth Sunday of Easter



Saint John Lutheran Church

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

May 14, 2023

Welcome!

"How great is the Love the Father has lavished on us!" (1 John 3:1).

We are thankful you are joining in the worship with the people of God this day. We are glad to assist you at any time.

To better your experience while at St. John:

- Please check that cell phones are silenced.
- Restrooms are located on the right in the lobby and down the bell tower hallway to the right towards the fellowship hall.
- Prayer requests may be written on the white cards in the pew rack and given to an usher before worship begins, or as you leave.
- A self-staffed nursery is available to parents as needed, past the wooden double doors on the left.
- Activity bags to help keep young children occupied during the message are provided in the back right corner as you enter the sanctuary.
- If this is your first visit, please sign our Guest Book located in the lobby near the Sanctuary.



Saint John Lutheran Church

2001 Hardy Street

Hattiesburg MS 39401

Telephone: 601.583.4898

Email: stohnlutheranchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com

We are imperfect people, and we live in an imperfect world. We are all in this together. So when we believe or act wrongly towards someone, or when we feel that another has wronged us, we commit ourselves to the humble teaching and forgiving pattern of Jesus in Matthew 18.

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

+ GATHERING +

Prayer As We Begin *Please remain seated.*

☑ Heavenly Father, as we come before you this morning in Jesus' name, we pray all that we say and do in our worship will give you glory. Help us, Lord, to focus our thoughts on you, so your Word will find fertile ground in our minds and hearts. May the worship service today accomplish in us the purpose you desire. Amen.

God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

LSB 594



1 God's own child, I gladly say it: I am bap-tized
2 Sin, dis-turb my soul no long-er: I am bap-tized
3 Sa-tan, hear this proc-la-ma-tion: I am bap-tized
4 Death, you can-not end my glad-ness: I am bap-tized
5 There is noth-ing worth com-par-ing To this life-long



in-to Christ! He, be-cause I could not pay it,
in-to Christ! I have com-fort e-ven strong-er:
in-to Christ! Drop your ug-ly ac-cu-sa-tion,
in-to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad-ness
com-fort sure! O-pen-eyed my grave is star-ing:



Gave my full re-demp-tion price. Do I need earth's
Je-sus' cleans-ing sac-ri-fice. Should a guilt-y
I am not so soon en-ticed. Now that to the
To in-her-it par-a-dise! Though I lie in
E-ven there I'll sleep se-cre. Though my flesh a-



trea-sures man-y? I have one worth
con-science seize me Since my Bap-tism
font I've trav-eled, All your might has
dust and ash-es Faith's as-sur-ance
waits its rais-ing, Still my soul con-





more than an - y That brought me sal -
 did re - lease me In a dear for -
 come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your
 bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
 tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
 giv - ing flood, Sprin - kling me with Je - sus' blood?
 tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
 strength di - vine To make life im - mor - tal mine.
 in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

The Invocation, Salutation, and Collect Prayer — *Please stand.*

L In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L The LORD be with you.

C And also with you.

L We pray together...

C O God, the giver of all that is good, by your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, You Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 170



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:

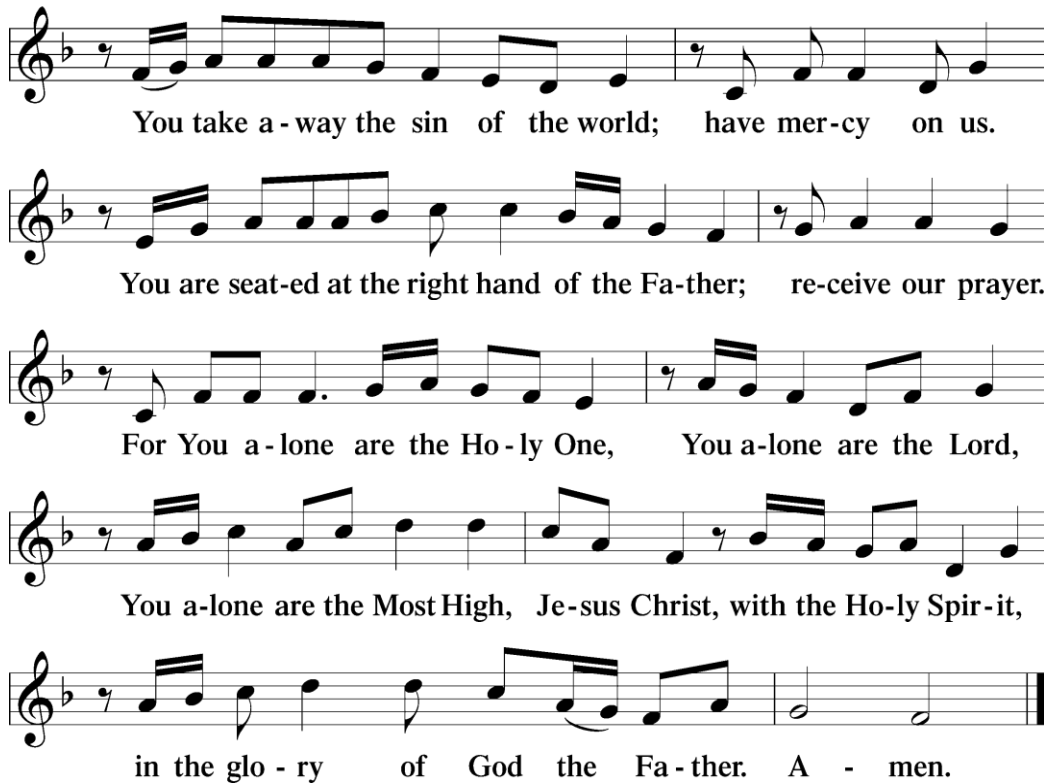


We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:





You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,

You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Please be seated.

+ WORD +

First Reading

Acts 17:16-31

L *The First Reading for the Sixth Sunday of Easter is from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 17, Verses 16-31. The apostle Paul declares the power of the resurrection of Jesus in the city meeting-place.*

¹⁶Now while Paul was waiting for Silas and Timothy 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.**

Choir Anthem

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

L *The Epistle is from First Peter, Chapter Three, Verses 13-22. The apostle Peter urges those who follow Jesus to bring hope for the city.*

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.**

Please Stand

Alleluia Verse

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 14:15-21

L The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 14th chapter.

C Glo - ry 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."

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

L The Holy Church throughout the world confesses this faith:

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Come, My Soul, with Every Care

LSB 779



1 Come, my soul, with ev - 'ry care, Je - sus loves to an - swer prayer;
 2 Thou art com - ing to a King, Large pe - ti - tions with thee bring;
 3 With my bur - den I be - gin: Lord, re - move this load of sin;
 4 Lord, Thy rest to me im - part, Take pos - ses - sion of my heart;



He Him - self has bid thee pray, There-fore will not turn a - way.
 For His grace and pow'r are such None can ev - er ask too much.
 Let Thy blood, for sin - ners spilt, Set my con-science free from guilt.
 There Thy blood-bought right main-tain And with-out a ri - val reign.

5 While I am a pilgrim here, Let Thy love my spirit cheer; As my guide, my guard, my friend, Lead me to my journey's end.	6 Show me what is mine to do; Ev'ry hour my strength renew. Let me live a life of faith; Let me die Thy people's death.
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The Message — Mr. Mark Keyl — *Jesus' Assurance: I Love You*

The Prayers of the Church and the Our Father

**☒ 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.**

+ SENDING +

Benedicamus and Blessing

L Let us bless the LORD.

C Thanks be to God.

L We speak the Romans 15 blessing to one another:

**May the God of HOPE
fill you with all JOY and PEACE
as you TRUST in him,
so that YOU may overflow with HOPE
by the POWER of the Holy Spirit.**

L 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

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

LSB 821



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the



scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the
earth our food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the



tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
sin - ful Flee to You from day to day.
tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.



Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re -
Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der



like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of
deem - er, hear our plea Where the songs of
like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of





ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."
 all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."

THIS WEEK						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>10:30am</u> <u>Worship</u>			<u>1:30pm Kaffee</u> <u>Klatsch</u>	<u>6:30pm B.O.D.</u> <u>Meeting</u>		

The Worship of the Holy Church During the Great Fifty Days of Easter

Easter, the oldest Christian feast, was understood anciently to be one continuous festival, the "Pentecost," the Great Fifty Days of rejoicing, corresponding to the Jewish "feast of Pentecost, which is the sacred festival of the seven weeks" (Tobit 2:1; Leviticus 23:15-21; Deuteronomy 16:9-11). It is a fifty-day long Sunday. There was no fasting during these days, no kneeling, and *Alleluia* was its characteristic and repeated song.

Our Easter liturgy reflects this season of rejoicing in our opening hymn of praise, *This Is the Feast of Victory for Our God, Alleluia!* For these eight Sundays we temporarily set aside the rite of confession and absolution. In this we reflect the practice of the ancient Church, which did not associate this rite with either the regular gathered worship of the faithful or the celebration of the Lord's Supper (Pfatteicher).

For fifty days after Easter, it is granted to us to live in the paschal joy, to experience time as the *feast*. And then comes the "last and greatest" day of Pentecost and with it our *return* into the real time of this world. At Vespers of that day the Christians are ordered – for the first time since Easter – to kneel (Schmemmann). Until then, we sing our *Alleluias* with great joy!



Take Home Announcements — Sunday, May 14, 2023

Serving the Lord Today

Pastor	Rev. Gary Weier 228.284.4314 garyweier@yahoo.com
Altar Guild	Thomas & Brenda Hesselgrave
Organist	Jason Sims
Lector	Lillian Smith

Today's Theme

Paul unmasks an entire culture of religious idolatry where objects of worship are rubbish and religious assertions are merely fabricated in the minds of men. In the midst of the ungodly, he preaches the counsels of God, the need for repentance, and confirms the resurrection of the dead. The resurrected Christ is the one we worship. His commandments are divine assertions. By Baptism, we are believers in all these things, loved by God and enabled to love.

Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 8:00am-12:00pm

Altar Flowers: Wayland & Jane Johnson —
Family Birthdays

Eternal Candle: Dewey & Lisa Case — In
memory of Rev. Richard Mcleroy

Scriptures for the Ascension:

Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

Birthdays

Lynne Longman	May 16
Karl Jahnke	May 20
Christopher Longman	May 20

Baptisms

Brooklyn Noffke	May 16
Brandon Lee	May 20

Wedding Anniversaries

Brian & Diahn Lee, 5yrs	May 14
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Live Streaming of Worship Services — www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com.

The Avenues Study Group — meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 10am at Saint John. They are studying Be Still & Know: A Study of Rest and Refuge.

Next meeting: May 24th.

Kaffee Klatsch — meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 1:30pm.

Next meeting: May 17th.

Next Sunday – Oktoberfest meeting after the worship service.

Online Giving — Online giving is available to members and friends of Saint John via the 'Give' tab on our webpage. Thank you for supporting our work together in Jesus' name.



Prayers Needed			
Chris Thiel	Serving Stateside (FL)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	10/1/16
Kelly Thiel	Serving Stateside (NC)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	11/20/16
Cory Thiel	Serving Overseas (Germany)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	11/20/22
Matt Geroux	Serving Stateside (TX)	Son of Kerry and Debbie Geroux	04.09.2022
Scott Chaney	Serving Stateside	Member	5/6/18
Bailey Walters	Serving Overseas	Member	10/31/18
Darrin Torrey	Serving Stateside	SIL of Jerry & Helga Herrington	10/31/18
Bill Lowry	Serving Overseas	Member	4/15/19
John Krahlung	Recurring Cancer	Son of Joyce Coll	7/15/18
Eric Martin	Cancer	Member	10/6/19
Kenneth Johnson	Prostate Cancer	Brother of Wayland Johnson	10/18/20
Lisa Case	Surgery/health & strength	Member	3/22/23
Warner Boortz	Health and Strength	Member	12/1/18
DuWayne Lemke	Lung Cancer	Brother of Shirley Thone	3/24/21
Doug Taylor, Bo Cleveland, Judy Lacey	Seriously ill	Friends of Don Shields	1/26/22
Faye Hill	Health and Strength	Mother of Chris Keiper	10/19/22
Campus Mission	For its advance and increase	For all students and educators	4/20/22
Pastoral Leadership	For wisdom, discernment, and	Transition and Calling of Next Pastor	7/26/20
Caregivers	Strength, Support, Encouragement	All those in need	7/26/20
Yvonne Lee	Health and Strength	Mother of Patrice Lovdahl	6/29/22
Josephine Nwachuku	Prayers for Health and Strength	Member	9/11/22
Ian VanWinkle	Started infusions/Crohn's Disease	Nephew of Terry & Patrice Lovdahl	10/9/22
Keri Allen	Stage four liver cancer	Niece of Dennis & Lillian Smith	12/20/22
Pete Harris	Cancer	Friend of Susan Perkins	1/3/23
Lynne Longman	Expecting: health/strength for mother and baby	Wife of Christopher Longman	1/3/23
Geraldine Wheeler	Health and strength	Member	2/12/23
Doris Schneider	Prayers for Health & Strength	Member	2/22/23
Cheyenne Thiel	Prayers for Health & Strength	Member	3/3/23
Julie Radavich	Prayers for Health & Strength	Member	3/13/23
John & Laura Hojem	Health and Strength	Cousins of Chris Noffke	3/23/23
Jason May	Recurring Cancer	Friend of Al & Diana Rymarz	3/2/23
Cindy Landry	Health & Strength	Member	4/23/23