

SIXTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

THEME: The Holy Spirit gives us a faith that can be taken into all the places we go in life.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN "Green Book" 501 He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

***He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.***

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters still, over troubled sea,
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

***He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.***

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

Refrain

***He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.***

And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.

Refrain

*He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.*

OPENING BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

OPENING UP TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

C: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

P: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

C: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

P: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.....In light of the words of Psalm 51, we too take time to admit our sins against God.

Silence for Reflection

P: Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

C: Holy and gracious God, I confess that I have sinned against You. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

P: Psalm 51 continues, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.....Restore to me the joy of your salvation.” God gives us a new heart and restores joy with the forgiveness of our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Jesus, I declare God’s grace to you. In the place and by the command of Jesus, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE “Red Book” 55 **Great is Thy Faithfulness**

**“Great is Thy faithfulness,” O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not,
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.**

**“Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!”
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord unto me!**

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness mercy and love.

“Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!”
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

“Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!”
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord unto me!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us Pray.....O God, from whom all good things come: Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to think those things which are right, and by your goodness help us to do them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament: Acts 17:16-31

Paul takes his faith to the marketplace in order to share with the Epicureans and Stoics

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So 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. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbling wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For 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. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And 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, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for

“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.’

Being 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. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because 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.”

Epistle: I Peter 3:13-22

Be prepared in all seasons of life to give a reason for your faith

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

For 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, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because 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. Baptism, 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, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

CHOIR ANTHEM

God Bless America

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

Jesus says, “if you love me, you will keep my commandments”

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even 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.

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN “Green Book” 333

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life’s way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day,
Without your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;
For you, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that you will strengthen My steps toward home,
And nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!
So, take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

SERMON

Pastor Lucke

[Sermon Part 1](#)

[Sermon Part 2](#)

APOSTLE’S CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And was born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate.
Was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 (We offer our thanksgiving for what God has first given us—our selves, our time, our possessions)

OFFERING SONG Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(repeat)

And now, let the weak say I am strong,

Let the poor say I am rich, because of what the Lord has done for us.

(repeat)

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,

Give thanks, because he's given Jesus Christ his Son,

Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Merciful Father,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (After each portion of the prayers, these words are spoken: P: Lord, in your mercy, C: **hear our prayer**)

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CLOSING SONG "Red Book" 14 Bind us Together

(Refrain)

Bind us together Lord, Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken,

Bind us together Lord, Bind us together

Bind us together with love.

(Verse)

There is only one God.
There is only one King.
There is only one body.
That is why I sing.
(repeat refrain above)

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.