



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

We Have Deep and Lasting Joy

May 25, 2025



"Winning souls for Christ. Coaching Christians for life."

4651 Kernan Blvd S, Jacksonville, FL 32224 • (904) 642-8900

A place to call home: Victory Lutheran

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through Jesus. We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'" (Psalm 122:1). May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

Please sign the Connection Card inside the Worship Folder and return it in the basket on the Worship Table ... Members, please update your contact info if there is a change.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the left as you exit the Sanctuary. Changing Tables are available in both Restrooms.

A **Quiet Room** for children who need a moment to get settled with a Parent/Guardian is located on the right before entering the Sanctuary.

Visit our website: www.victorylutheran.org or find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!



Easter Season Focus: Because He Lives

It is easy to become so engrossed in the details of historical events—who, when, where—that we miss their significance. For example, consider World War II. There are many compelling stories. Lots of dates and data to remember. However, for a moment, set all that aside, and just imagine the Allies had lost. How would the world be different today? What would life be like for those of Jewish heritage? Would freedom exist in Europe? Would we be speaking German? With historical events, you miss out if you focus only on the details: who, when, where. You also need to focus what that historical event means. The Allies won. That means something!

In this season of Easter, it is good we review the details: who, when, where. That reminds us that the resurrection of Christ is not fairytale or fable. It is a historical event... the historical event. However, we do ourselves a disservice if we simply recall the historic details of Easter without thinking long and hard about Easter's significance. Jesus won. That means something! It is our privilege and pleasure to use the fifty days of Easter to discuss this fact: because he lives, not only is our eternity secure, but we have abundant resources to face the present.

Today's Worship Focus – 8:00AM: We Have Deep and Lasting Joy

Conventional wisdom says that joy is a direct result of circumstance. Our disposition is nothing more than the product of the events, conditions, and relationships of which our life consists. Therefore, it would seem that for our disposition to change, our circumstances need to change. But Jesus offers a joy that is superior. It is not a product of circumstance; it's a product of Easter.

Easter proves that God can take what normally causes people to weep and turn it into what causes people to rejoice. Sin, death, and shame went into Jesus' tomb. Forgiveness, life, and glory came out. Our risen Savior gives us a joy that remains constant in the highest of life's highs and the lowest of life's lows. Because he lives, we have deep and lasting joy.

Confirmation Focus – 10:30AM

If you have gone through Confirmation, you no longer need to spend time in the Word of God. While that is not accurate, how many people who have gone through the process of Confirmation believe and or act like that is the case? Confirmation as we celebrate it in our church is just another steppingstone in what is to be our lifelong relationship with Jesus. Confirmation is an indication that we have been maturing in our faith and in Bible knowledge; it is a time when we publicly promise to stay connected to the Word of God through the church (3rd Commandment and Hebrews 10:23–25), and it is an opportunity for these Confirmands to now receive Holy Communion. We know that challenges to the faith remain after Confirmation, yet with what we have learned, and with what we continue to learn through the Bible, we can endure through them and hold on to God's gift of eternal life. If you have been confirmed, may you continue to take seriously all that goes with it; and if you have not been doing that but are here today, may God renew your heart to do so. Keep today's Confirmands in your prayers.

Our Path for Worship

Minister: My soul finds rest in God alone;

Congregation: My salvation comes from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation;

He is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

We worship today in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Psalm 62



Hymn Sing Sunday

For this month's hymn sing, we include singing this year's confirmands' favorite hymns.

Breck Baker, Corinne Krull, Emily Rice

CW607 v. 3 | *Ten Thousand Reasons*

Claire Makouske

CW633 v. 3 | *Speak, O Lord*

Tristan Steinbrenner

CW880 v. 1 | *For All the Saints*

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

My salvation and my honor depend on God;

He is my mighty rock, my refuge.

Trust in him at all times, O people;

Pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

Beloved in the Lord: Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment, both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

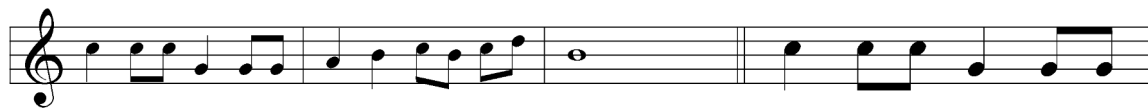
God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, hear the word of Christ through his called servant: All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Glory to God

Gloria in Excelsis



Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



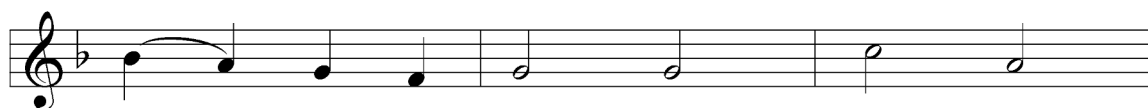
praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



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, re -

ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. 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. Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you are the giver of everything good. Inspire us, your humble servants, to long for what is right and, through your gracious guidance, accomplish it to your glory; **through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 14:8-22

As a witness of Christ's resurrection, Paul's joy and his ministry were unaffected by circumstance

⁸In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. ⁹He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed ¹⁰and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

¹¹When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" ¹²Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul

they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. ¹³The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

¹⁴But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: ¹⁵“Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. ¹⁶In the past, he let all nations go their own way. ¹⁷Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.” ¹⁸Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

¹⁹Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. ²⁰But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

²¹They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, ²²strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Sentences

Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart

and wait for the LORD.

Second Reading

Revelation 21:21–27

The great joy we have now will soon be made perfect and complete

²¹The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

²²I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.

²⁷Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

John 16:16–24

Jesus promises that our grief will be turned to perfect joy

¹⁶Jesus went on to say, “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”

¹⁷At this, some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father?’” ¹⁸They kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand what he is saying.”

¹⁹Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’?” ²⁰Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. ²¹A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. ²²So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. ²³In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ²⁴Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.
Glory be to you, O Christ!

10:30 Service

Children's Church

Children ages 3–5 can be dismissed to the kitchen classroom for Children's Church. Children will return from Children's Church to the sanctuary after the conclusion of the sermon.



Hymn of the Day

CW446 | *Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense*

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Kolander

“Certainty Amidst Uncertainty”

Acts 14:8–22

Confession of Faith

*based on the **First Article of the Apostles' Creed***

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

Thank Offering

Guests: *This is the moment in our worship when members and friends of Victory Lutheran respond to God's good news with gifts to support his saving work in Jacksonville, St. Johns County, and beyond. If you are our guest today, you are welcome to participate in this offering, but don't feel forced to! You can also give an online thank offering by using the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.*



Please also fill out the Connection Card found inside your worship folder and drop it in the basket on the back (blue) table. You can also scan the QR code on the left to fill out an online Connection Card.

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Brief intercessory prayers may be added

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

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.

- The 8:00 Service continues with the Sacrament on page 15 -

10:30 Service

Rite of Confirmation

The pastor speaks to those being confirmed:

Dear Confirmands: When you were baptized, your gracious Lord connected you to the forgiveness of sins Christ won for you through His death on the cross and covered you with the robe of Christ's righteousness. Through water and Word, he created faith in your hearts and adopted you into the family of believers. As you matured and heard and studied the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit enlightened your minds and preserved you as children of God.

You have expressed the desire to confess the truths you believe before your Savior, your family and friends, and this congregation. You are ready to say with St. Paul, "I believed; therefore, I have spoken." You have learned to examine your thoughts, words, and actions in the light of God's law, and you have experienced the comfort of forgiveness in the Savior's gospel. With this preparation you are ready to receive the Savior's body and blood in the Sacrament.

As we worship with you on this day, we are filled with joy as we see how the Lord has grown your faith and love. We are bringing our prayers to the Savior's throne of grace and imploring him to keep you faithful to him and his Word until you join us and all believers in the glories of heaven.

I now ask each of you:

Are you ready and willing to confess your faith before the triune God and those who are worshipping with you today? Then answer: **I am.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Yes, I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

Yes, 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.

Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises? Then answer: **I do.**

Do you believe that all the books of the Bible are the inspired and inerrant Word of God?
Then answer: **I do.**

Do you believe that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know them from Luther's Small Catechism, are faithful and true to the Word of God? Then answer: **I do.**

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus and his Word all the days of your life?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to live a life that pleases God, to value his Word and Sacraments, and to witness to your Savior wherever you go?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

We now hear the *Essays of Faith* written by each of these confirmands.

Following the essays, the confirmands will come forward to receive a blessing, together with a word of encouragement from the Scriptures.

Breck Baker

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you his Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God.

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2)

Corrine Krull

Our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your heart and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. (Romans 8:25)

Claire Makouske

The Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, renew and increase in you the gift of the Holy Spirit for your strengthening in faith, your growth in grace, your patience in suffering, and for the blessed hope of eternal life.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38–39)

Emily Rice

Our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your heart and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Tristan Steinbrenner

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you his Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5–6)

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with each one of you.

Amen.

Let us pray. Gracious Father, in Holy Baptism you created faith in the hearts of these young people and gave them a new birth as members of your family. Help them remember their baptisms every day and find comfort in your promise that you will never leave them or forsake them. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Protect them from Satan when he tempts them to be careless with your Word and Sacrament, to make plans for this life and not for the life to come, or to find popular human theories more appealing than your truth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Empower them by the gospel of your Son to be kind, humble, and patient that others may see their good works and glorify you in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Help us provide fitting examples of faithfulness to your Word and Sacraments. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer. Amen.

The Sacrament

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.



Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Distribution

Guests: *Scripture teaches that when Christians partake of the Lord's Supper together, they are expressing their unity of faith. Through this act they are confessing that they agree on all the teachings of Scripture. We do not wish to put our guests in the position of making such a confession without knowing our teachings. Therefore, we ask that only those who are members of this or another WELS or ELS congregation come to receive communion at this time. If you desire communion fellowship with us, please speak to our pastor. We are eager to help anyone take this step.*

Distribution Hymns

CW707 | *Cling Tightly to the Word of God*

CW696 | *Take My Life and Let It Be*

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

And his mercy endures forever.

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

CW713 | *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Serving in Worship

Pastor

Assisting with the Rite of Confirmation

Accompanist

Rev. Jonathan Kolander

Rev. Phil Hoyer (Ret.)

Mrs. Rachel Cochran

Acknowledgments

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VBS Registration Open Through 6th Grade!

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is just around the corner! Our theme this year will be **Road Trip: Route 3:16!** Children aged 3 through entering 6th grade are invited to sign up for this fun event taking place on **Saturday, June 14, 2025** from **10am–12:15pm**.

Please sign your children up via the QR code, link (qr.codes/sDwbH3), or a paper registration form (located by the mailboxes). Completed paper forms can be returned to the church office or the Mielkes' mailbox.

Please sign up by Saturday, May 31.



VOLUNTEER!

Adult and teen (entering 7th grade and up) volunteers are needed! Please sign up via the QR code or link (qr.codes/pvQxkR) by **Saturday, May 24, 2025**. We will happily sign off on service hours!



REGISTER!

Contact us with any questions!

Leah Mielke: leahmielke21@gmail.com or (414) 539-0971

Elena Oravetz: (850) 339-0752



MY WORSHIP NOTES



For children to use during worship.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

What is the name of the church season or special day today? _____

What is the color of the church today? Circle one:

Blue White Purple Red Green

The Sermon Text Was: _____

This is in the: ☐ Old Testament ☐ New Testament



What was the sermon about? _____



My favorite song today was:



Did we have a Sacrament today?



Baptism?

☐ Yes
☐ No



Communion?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Draw a picture of something you heard or saw today:

What did you learn about God today?

Upcoming Service Themes



| | |
|--------|---|
| Jun. 1 | Christ Creates Unity within Diversity |
| Jun. 8 | <i>Pentecost:</i> Christ Sends Us His Spirit |



| <i>New Worship Series: Undivided Attention</i> | |
|--|--|
| Jun. 15 | <i>Holy Trinity Sunday:</i> On the Majesty and Mystery of Our God |
| Jun. 22 | On the Mission Right Before Us |
| Jun. 29 | On Christ's Call for Commitment |

For reflection based on today's Scripture readings...

- 1st: What are some things you note about the man Paul healed in the name of Jesus? What example do Paul and Barnabas pass down to us, and why is this important to note? Discuss some of the misnomers, and then also the comfort, which comes with verse 22? Read 2 Corinthians 12:1–10.
- 2nd: Describe what John was allowed to see? Why is the use of the word 'temple' significant? The way into heaven is made clear, and that is what? Read Matthew 5:13–16.
- 3rd: Why do you think the disciples would have been confused as they heard these words of Jesus? When would their grief come? When would it dissipate? How does the Lord turn our grief into joy? Read Psalm 23.



Sunday Service Times

8:00am Worship
9:15am Bible Class and Sunday School
10:30am Worship with Livestream

Contact Information

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Victory is a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

