

## **EASTER 6**

Prince of Peace Ev. Lutheran Church  
Howell, MI 48843  
(517) 546-5265

**MAY 9, 2021**

2515 W. Grand River Ave  
Pastor Mark Franck  
[www.howellprinceofpeace.org](http://www.howellprinceofpeace.org)

### **WELCOME!**

If you are a friend who's been here before, welcome back. If you are a first-time visitor, welcome! We'd appreciate it if you would leave your name and address in one of our guest books located in either entry way. Children's bulletins and crayons are available on the counter beneath the mailboxes in the fellowship hall. If we can serve you in any way, please let us know God bless your worship!

### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

AS MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, OUR MISSION IS TO PROCLAIM GOD'S GOSPEL OF SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST TO WIN SOULS FOR CHRIST, NURTURE BELIEVERS, AND EQUIP THEM FOR LIVES OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE, ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

The time before worship begins is a sacred time for meditation, prayer, and worship preparation. As we gather in the sanctuary, lets quietly reflect on God's blessings and direction in the Scripture readings included in the worship folder.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP:** Service of the Word – page 38 in the front of the hymnal

**HYMNS:** 505, 499, 411, 506

**ORGANIST:** Sandi Lietzau

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Hymn 505:** Love is the Gracious Gift

**1** Love is the gracious gift of your goodness;  
Love is the patient fruit of your care;  
Love is the gentle work of your Spirit,  
Who is the source of love ev'rywhere.

**2** You loved me first, Lord, sending me Jesus.  
Then I responded, trusting you Son.  
Now you invite me to love my neighbor,  
Showing your true love to ev'ryone.

**3** Love means forgiveness, patience, and kindness;  
Love is not jealous, boastful, or rude.  
Love endures all things, bearing, believing;  
Love hopes forever, rejoices in truth.

**4** Love in a marriage, love freely given,  
Love of a husband, love of a wife—  
Made to continue, blossom, and flourish,  
Grow ever deeper throughout this life.

**5 Love among Christians, love in the fam'ly,  
Love for the Savior, whose blood was shed,  
Love and submission one to another  
As unto Christ, who reigns as our head.**

**Pastor:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Congregation:** And also with you.

### **CONFESSION**

**Pastor:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**Congregation:** Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

**Pastor:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. Bu the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**Congregation:** Amen

**Pastor:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**Congregation:** Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

**Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.**

**Your faithfulness continues forever.**

**Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.**

**Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

### **PRAYER**

**Pastor:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we commend to your care all the homes where your people live. Fill them with faith and love. Bind together in enduring affection those who have become one in marriage. Let children and parents have full respect and affection for one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation:** Amen

### **THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 11:19-26**

19 Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. 20 Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. 22 News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. 25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

### **RESPONSIVE READING**

**Pastor:** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise...

**CONGREGATION:** ...that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

**Pastor:** A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother.

**CONGREGATION:** Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.

**Pastor:** Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

**CONGREGATION:** May your father and mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice!

**Pastor:** A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more

than rubies.

**CONGREGATION:** Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.

**Pastor:** Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting.

**CONGREGATION:** But a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

**Pastor/CONGREGATION:** Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.

### **THE SECOND LESSON: 1 John 4:1-11**

1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. 4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit

of truth and the spirit of falsehood. 7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

### **THE VERSE**

**Pastor:** Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia!

**Congregation:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**These words are written that we may believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **THE GOSPEL LESSON: John 15:9-17**

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my

Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

**Congregation: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

### **HYMN 499: O God of Mercy, God of Might**

**1 O God of mercy, God of might, in love and mercy infinite,  
Teach us, as ever in your sight, to live our lives to you.**

**2 You sent your Son for all to die that fallen man might live thereby.  
Oh, hear us, for to you we cry in hope, O Lord, to you.**

**3 Teach us the lesson Jesus taught:  
To feel for those his blood has bought,  
That ev’ry deed and word and thought may work a work for you.**

**4 All are redeemed both far and wide,  
Since Jesus Christ for all has died;  
Grant us the will, and grace provide, to love them all in you.**

**5 In sickness, sorrow, want or care  
May we each other’s burdens share;  
May we, where help is needed, there give help as though to you.**

**6 And may your Holy Spirit move all those who live to live in love  
Till you receive in heav’n above all those who lived for you.**

**THE SERMON TEXT: John 15:9-17**

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

**Friend, I Command You!**

**1 Jesus is a friend to me?**

**Verses 9 and 16**

**Verses 13 and 11**

**2 I am a friend of Jesus?**

**Verses 10 and 14-15**

**Verses 11-13 and 17**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed, page 41 in the front of the hymnal**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

**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**

**The offering will be received as you are ushered out after the service in the fellowship hall so that offering plates are not passed.**

**PRAYER**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.

**HYMN 411: What a Friend We Have In Jesus**

**1 What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!**

**2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**3 Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—Take it to the Lord in prayer. Do  
your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer. In  
his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there**

**PRAYER**

**BLESSING**

**Pastor:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.  
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.

**Congregation: Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN 506: Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall**

**1 Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall,  
where Jesus Christ is all in all!  
A home that is not wholly his—  
how sad and poor and dark it is!**

**2 Oh, blest that house where faith you find.  
and all within have set their mind  
To trust their God and serve him still  
and do in all his holy will.**

**3 Oh, blest the parents who give heed  
unto their children's foremost need  
And weary not of care or cost.  
May none to them and heav'n be lost!**

**4 Blest such a house; it prospers well.  
In peace and joy the parents dwell,  
and in their children's lives is shown  
how richly God can bless his own.**

**5 Then here will I and mine today  
A solemn promise make and say:  
Though all the world forsake his Word,  
I and my house will serve the Lord!**

## Announcements

1. Bible Hour meets after worship this morning.

In adult Bible hour we continue our study of Proverbs and renew our focus on outreach as we continue the Bible Study “One By One” Part 4 – A One by One Approach to Growing the Church. Join us!

2. Confirmation meets on Monday, May 10th, 3:30-5:00 pm.

3. Online Bible Class Continues.

The Format:

I send out weekly study guides in a congregational email on Mondays.

You have an opportunity to work through the study guides at home.

I post an online video in which I work through the weekly study guide on Wednesdays. This video is sent out as a congregational email.

This week, we study the book of Jude.

4. Thursday morning Bible class meets at 10:00 am. We are continuing our study of Joshua. Join us!

5. The new Christian Worship Hymnal will be released this Advent Season. If you would like to learn more about this new hymnal, we have booklets entitled “Christian Worship Preview” on the counter beneath the mailboxes in the fellowship hall. You can also go to the hymnal website: **christianworship.com**.