

FIRST READING. Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is 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 too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

SECOND READING. 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, 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 made subject to him.

GOSPEL. John 14:15-21

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’



## Sixth Sunday Of Easter

Sunday, May 14, 2023

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“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

### Welcome!

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Although mask mandates are now lifted in most Ontario indoor settings, our Bishop encourages “all congregations to continue using masks for the time being.” For now, we strongly recommend wearing a mask.

### Thank you

Thank you, Sheila Brown, for playing the organ for us today.

### Happy Mother’s Day

The flowers are placed to the Glory of God in honour of all the mothering women in our lives.

If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.

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## St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church



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Vice-Chairperson: Dianne Yungblut

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Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. Amen.

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Psalm 66:9-18 - Tune: 380 Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! (Fred til Bod)

To the Lord all voices raise; | Sing the glory of his name.

Leader: O God, you have tested us as silver is purified by fire. When we were entrapped and burdened, trampled and tested, you brought us to a place of safety.

With great joy proclaim God's praise; | Tell abroad his glorious fame.

I will bring burnt offerings to your house, O God. I will offer you everything I promised when I was in trouble.

Shout aloud God's loving deeds | For his servants in their needs.

Listen to what God has done for me: I cried to him for help; I praised him with songs.

To the Lord all voices raise; | Sing the glory of his name.

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But God did listen; he gave heed to the words of my prayer.

With great joy proclaim God's praise; | Tell abroad his glorious fame.

Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer, or removed his steadfast love from me!

Shout aloud God's loving deeds | For his servants in their needs.

Sing Psalms! By Arden W. Mead. © Copyright 1999/2005 by Creative Communications for the Parish

Offering Prayer - read in unison

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fortress.

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Dates to Remember

May 28 Church Council meeting after the service  
June 11 Outdoor worship service and picnic, (more details coming soon!)

Thank you to everyone who helped put together another successful Ladies' Night Out. The efforts of this committed team of volunteers are greatly appreciated. Our attendees were generous, and we are pleased to support Rose City Kids with almost \$2,500.



Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Holy Communion Setting 4 - Page 147

Prelude and Announcements

GATHERING

Thanksgiving for Baptism .....Printed  
Gathering Song .....631 Love Divine,  
All Loves Excelling

Greeting .....Page 147  
Kyrie .....Page 147  
This is the Feast .....Page 149  
Prayer of the Day

WORD

First Reading ..... Acts 17:22-31  
Psalm 66:9-18 .....printed in bulletin  
Second Reading ..... 1 Peter 3:13-22  
Gospel Acclamation .....Page 151  
"Glory to you, O Lord."  
Gospel .....John 14:15-21  
"Praise to you, O Christ."

Sermon  
Hymn of the Day .....449 We Know That  
Christ Is Raised

Nicene Creed .....Page 104  
Prayers of Intercession  
Prayer Response "Your mercy is great."  
Peace (non-contact  
gestures)

MEAL

Offering Prayer .....Printed  
Great Thanksgiving.....Page 152  
Eucharistic Prayer  
The Lord's Prayer .....Page 154  
Communion  
"Lamb of God" .....Page 154  
Communion Hymns .....613, 397  
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing  
Sending Song ...840 Now Thank We All...

Dismissal: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.  
Thanks be to God.