



Saint Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.stmatthewlemont.org

Vacancy Pastor Reverend Dr. Robert Sorensen
305 Lemont Street Lemont, Illinois
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The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 9-10, 2026
5:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.

FOR OUR GUESTS REGARDING COMMUNION

As we receive the Lord's Supper in this church, we joyfully confess that our Lord gives us His body and blood, with the bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sin. Also, we believe that when a person communes at an altar, he or she is confessing unity with the teachings of that church. Therefore, we welcome members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and respectfully ask members of other Christian denominations to speak with Pastor before communing with us. At the same time, all are welcome to stand at the Communion rail and receive a blessing, for the forgiveness of Jesus is also yours. We're glad you're here and join you in praying for the day when we will be perfectly united together as one in heaven.

LITURGY

During this Easter Season, we are using Divine Service, Setting 2.

AS WE GATHER

Throughout our lives, we look for a helper. Maybe that’s a parent who can hold our hand to cross the street, a spouse who can open the pickle jar, or an expert who delivers wisdom we don’t have. Our Lord Jesus Christ sends us a helper, the promised Holy Spirit. The Spirit opens our heart to faith and then fills it with heavenly wisdom. Present in our Baptism and present today in worship, the Spirit keeps our hand firmly in our Savior’s, so that linked by love, we can walk confidently in His promises.

PRELUDE

- “Come, My Soul, with Every Care”.....*Thomas Canning*
- “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice”.....*Paul Manz*
- “Jesus Came, the Heav’ns Adoring”*Carl Schalk*

✠ The Gathering ✠

BELL AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

EASTER GREETING

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
 People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
 People: **And also with you.**

(We rise.)

OPENING HYMN

“Jesus Came, the Heav’ns Adoring”*LSB 353*
Hymns are found in this worship bulletin beginning on Page 12.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 People: **Amen.** *Matthew 28:18-20*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
 People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8-9*

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
 People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*
 People: **Amen.**

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

INTROIT 

Psalm 119:89-93; Ps. 119:105

Cantor: Your word is a lamp | to my feet*
and a light | to my path.

People: **Forever, O | LORD, your word***
is firmly fixed | in the heavens.

Your faithfulness endures to all gener- | ations;*
you have established the earth, and it | stands fast.

By your appointment they | stand this day,*
for all things are your | servants.

If your law had not been | my delight,*
I would have perished in my af- | fliction.

I will never forget your | precepts,*
for by them you have giv- | en me life.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Your word is a lamp | to my feet*
and a light | to my path.

KYRIE ~ Lord Have Mercy

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE This is the Feast



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are His.
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:
Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Silence is kept.

Pastor: Let us pray.

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, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

(We are seated.)

FIRST READING Acts 17:16 – 31

(Paul preaches Jesus and the resurrection, pointing Athenians to the “unknown God” who has been raised from the dead.)

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them 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.” (ESV)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead.

People: **God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,**

Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

People **He has put all things under his feet.**

EPISTLE | Peter 3:13-22

(Saved by Baptism, believers are prepared to give a reason for their hope in Christ the Lord.)

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. (ESV)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(We rise.)

ALLELUIAJohn 6:68



Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL St. John 14:15-21

(Until He returns, Jesus promises to surround His disciples with truth by sending the Holy Spirit.)

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." (ESV)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(We are seated.)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice".....LSB 556

Stanzas 1,3,5,7,9,10

SERMON

(We rise.)

NICENE CREED

**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 ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS

Pastor: Lord in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

(Refer to The Bridge Builder for the complete Prayer List)

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.

Matthew 6:9-13

(We are seated.)

OFFERING AND SIGNING OF THE FELLOWSHIP BOOK

(Please sign the fellowship book located in your pew and pass it to your neighbor.)

OFFERTORY (SATURDAY AND SUNDAY)



What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

✠ The Lord's Supper ✠

(We rise.)

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts

Colossians 3:1

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalms 136

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS *(Holy, Holy, Holy)*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LSB 178

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To

You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE SACRED WORDS OF CHRIST

PAX DOMINI *(The Peace of the Lord)*

John 20:19

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

We greet one another with the peace of the Lord.

AGNUS DEI (*Lamb of God*)

John 1:29

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
 have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
 sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
 God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

(We are seated.)

COMMUNION HYMNS

- "Come, My Soul, with Every Care".....LSB 779
- "Children of the Heavenly Father".....LSB 725

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: THANK THE LORD

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
 He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
 joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
 es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
 giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, whose Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, rose victorious from the dead, conquering for us death and the grave and opening to us the gates of everlasting life, we praise you for bestowing upon us, through the gift of this Sacrament, the blessing of His death and resurrection victory. Grant that through it, we may be strengthened always to love and serve You – in this life and in the life to come. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION AND EASTER ACCLAMATION

Numbers 6:24-26

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: He is risen, indeed. Alleluia.

CLOSING HYMN

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”**LSB 655**

SILENT PRAYER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”.....**Jan Bender**

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*Reaching the lost and encouraging the found
With the saving grace of Jesus Christ*



“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”LSB 353



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
 2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
 3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
 4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
 worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
 sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
 hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
 To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Text and tune: Public domain

“Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice”LSB 556

Stanzas 1,3,5,7,9,10



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, With ex - ul - ta - tion
 2 Fast bound in Sa-tan's chains I lay; Death brood-ed dark - ly
 3 My own good works all came to naught, No grace or mer - it
 4 But God had seen my wretch-ed state Be - fore the world's foun -



spring-ing, And with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly
 o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; In sin my
 gain - ing; Free will a - gainst God's judg - ment fought, Dead to all
 da - tion, And mind - ful of His mer - cies great, He planned for



rap - ture sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God has done, How
 moth - er bore me. But dai - ly deep - er still I fell; My
 good re - main - ing. My fears in - creased till sheer de - spair Left
 my sal - va - tion. He turned to me a fa - ther's heart; He



His right arm the vic - t'ry won. What price our ran - som cost Him!
 life be - came a liv - ing hell, So firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.
 on - ly death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suf - fered.
 did not choose the eas - y part But gave His dear - est trea - sure.

- 5 God said to His beloved Son:
 "It's time to have compassion.
Then go, bright jewel of My crown,
 And bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free;
Slay bitter death for them that they
 May live with You forever."
- 6 The Son obeyed His Father's will,
 Was born of virgin mother;
And God's good pleasure to fulfill,
 He came to be my brother.
His royal pow'r disguised He bore;
A servant's form, like mine, He wore
 To lead the devil captive.
- 7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me,
 I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I Myself will be;
 For you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, and you are Mine,
And where I am you may remain;
 The foe shall not divide us.
- 8 "Though he will shed My precious blood,
 Me of My life bereaving,
All this I suffer for your good;
 Be steadfast and believing.
Life will from death the vict'ry win;
My innocence shall bear your sin,
 And you are blest forever.
- 9 "Now to My Father I depart,
 From earth to heav'n ascending,
And, heav'nly wisdom to impart,
 The Holy Spirit sending;
In trouble He will comfort you
And teach you always to be true
 And into truth shall guide you.
- 10 "What I on earth have done and taught
 Guide all your life and teaching;
So shall the kingdom's work be wrought
 And honored in your preaching.
But watch lest foes with base alloy
The heav'nly treasure should destroy;
 This final word I leave you."

Text and tune: Public domain

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”LSB 655

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and

by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
 Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
 u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son And bring to naught all He has done.
 we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text and tune: Public domain

“Children of the Heavenly Father”LSB 725

1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
 2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
 4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His

in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
 ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
 Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
 chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose

heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
 show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
 sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Tune: Public domain



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.

Text and tune: Public domain