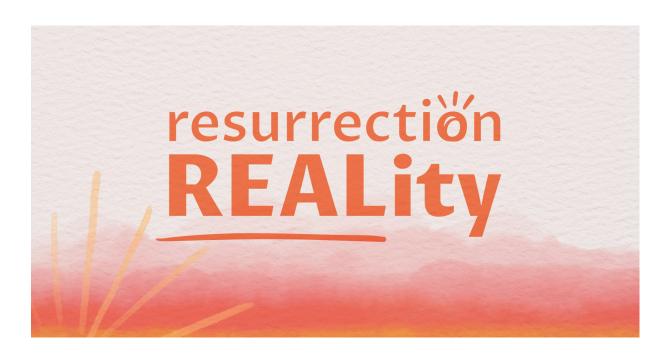
Sixth Sunday of Easter May 5, 2024





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POOLER, GEORGIA
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BRIAN PECHMAN, PASTOR



IN THE NAME OF JESUS

THE THEME OF OUR WORSHIP:

Resurrection REALity: Jesus' business is love...so is ours. The entirety of God's Word can be summed up in one word: love. God's Law is all about love. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart..." and "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37,39). The gospel is all about love: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..." (John 3:16). From his compassion for the sick and broken, to his sacrificial death on the cross, to the peace he provided after his resurrection...Jesus was the perfect embodiment of love. Love is his business. Therefore...love is our business too. The resurrection reality is that with the same supernatural power by which God raised Jesus from the dead, God now enables us to live a new life...one marked by radically selfless love. The motivation and ability to do this comes from seeing the endless love Christ has for us. We love only because he first loved us.

WELCOME! Thank you for joining us for worship on this morning. At Risen Savior, you will find a worship service designed to praise God and increase people's faith. While all styles of worship take some getting used to, we hope you will find that the *main message*—the unconditional love Jesus has for us—comes through clearly.

• **Connect cards** are available to you in this worship booklet and in the comment/chat box of whatever stream you are using. You may also directly fill out a <u>digital Connect Card</u>. Please take a brief moment to let us know that you have worshipped with us this morning.

PARTICIPATE. Many parts of our worship service are interactive. If you have downloaded the service folder to guide your worship, feel free to participate and sing along. There are also times in the service when Pastor and congregation speak back and forth. Please join together as you feel comfortable.

PARAMENTS. In Lutheran churches you often see *paraments...* the colored cloths with symbols on them. These change with the church seasons and celebrations as a visual reminder of what we are celebrating in our worship. White is the color of purity and completeness. The theme for the "great fifty days" of Easter is "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Christ's triumph from the grave on his day of resurrection is the cause for your rejoicing. His purity before his Father becomes your purity. White reinforces that message of joy.

PERSONAL CONVENIENCES. For your convenience, restrooms are located down the hall opposite the entrance into the sanctuary...feel free to ask for directions. Cell phones should be turned off or put on vibrate mode so as not to disrupt others during the service. Thank you for your cooperation.

To help you focus while you join us for worship, take the time to eliminate as many distractions around you as possible. While we share the promises of God's Word with you, we encourage you to create community. Use the comment and chat areas to let others know you are worshipping with them. We may be separated by in-person or livestream worship, but we can connect with each other here for Christian support and encouragement.

WORSHIP NOTES

THE SEASON OF EASTER

Easter is the pinnacle of the Church Year...the oldest festival and season celebrated by the worshipping Church. For a full week-of-weeks (49 days) the Church celebrates the resurrection of Christ on the Sundays of Easter which culminate on the 50th day, Pentecost.

The days between Easter and Pentecost are the most joyful of the year. You see it in what the Sundays are called. Normally, when there is a major festival in the Church Year...the succeeding Sundays are called *Sundays after* or *Sundays in*. For example, when you celebrate Pentecost, you will then have *First Sunday after Pentecost*, *Second Sunday after Pentecost*, and so on. But during Easter, you call it the *Second Sunday of Easter*, *Third Sunday of Easter*, etc. That's because the Sundays that follow Easter are meant to be subsequent celebrations of what began on Easter Sunday...recapturing the joy and hope



EASTERTIME

of that great day. The greatest theologian of the early Church, Augustine, called the season of Easter "a joyful week of weeks"...seven wonderful weeks, each seven glorious days long. It was considered one long celebration. The large paschal candle...positioned near the altar...symbolizes the resurrection victory over the darkness of sin and death. It further emphasizes the link between baptism and the resurrection (Romans 6:3-5). The paschal candle as a symbol of the resurrection, remains lit throughout the Easter season...and is also lit at all baptisms and at all funerals.

St. Paul writes, "Christ has *indeed* been raised from the dead" (1 Corinthians 15:20). Big word: *Indeed!* Paul is stressing that we must not think of Jesus' resurrection like a happy ending to another epic fable. The resurrection is not legend. It really happened. So, the reality: Jesus is exactly what he claimed to be...the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. So...the reality is Jesus' resurrection proves that *"all will be made alive"* (1 Corinthians 15:22). The reality of the resurrection does not just change our future...but the way we look at life now.

RESURRECTION REALITY		
Easter Sunday	March 31	Life Worth Living
2 nd Sunday of Easter	April 7	The Living Lord Gives Proof and Peace
3 rd Sunday of Easter	April 14	A Meaningful Message to Share
4 th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)	April 21	Providing Good Shepherding
5 th Sunday of Easter	April 28	Producing Active Faith
6 th Sunday of Easter	May 5	Jesus' Business is LoveSo Is Ours
7 th Sunday of Easter (Ascension)	May 12	Christ Is Closer than Ever

ORDER of WORSHIP DIVINE SERVICE

The *Divine Service* is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church where the Lord serves the Church with his Word and Sacrament.

OPENING HYMN

THIS IS MY WILL | 728

And also with you.

Dear friends in Christ, today we continue the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. Let us draw near to him in worship and in praise, in our thoughts and in our prayers.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

50 DAYS FOR OUR DELIGHT: F TELL. GOOD CHRISTIAN, SEE

CONFESSION OF SINS

As we come before our God and King, let us confess our sins.

Lord God, I humbly come before you.
I confess that I am sinful in thought, word, and deed.
I daily fail to do what you command, and continually do what you forbid.
Lord, I am sorry for my sins.
I believe that for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ,
you will have mercy on me.

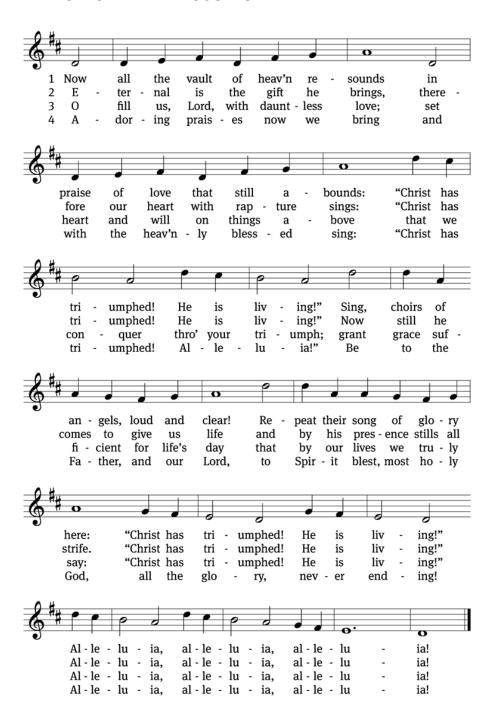
Upon this, your sincere confession, by Christ's command and authority, I assure you that your sins are all forgiven. The vacant cross and the empty grave are God's signs to you that he has accepted the sacrifice of his one and only Son. Whoever believes this simple truth of Scripture has eternal life.

Amen!

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



Now All the Vault of Heav'n Resounds



The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

This prayer comes from the Gelasian Sacramentary (ca 750 AD) and is appointed for the Sixth Sunday of Easter in all three years of the *Christian Worship* lectionary.

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 9:36-42

Jesus' love produces love in his friends. Consider Tabitha. The widows gathered around to demonstrate to Peter how much they appreciated the love Tabitha had shown them. What a wonderful way for a Christian to be described: "she was always doing good and helping the poor" (verse 36). That was her common practice. Those works just happened...they flowed from her because that's the kind of person she was. The normal custom in Jerusalem was burial on the day of death. Here...they waited. They didn't put her in the ground immediately but in an upper room. Why? Was this so Peter could get there? Did they expect Peter to raise her from the dead? We don't know. The called him and told him to hurry...seemingly after she died. So he came and he prayed. After praying, he spoke "to the body"...but called her by name. Peter's prayer was answered. God was given glory as Tabitha was given back to the church at Joppa so that she could continue to demonstrate his love. Consider the other effects of this miracle. What happened became known...and many believed in the Lord, not Peter. It was clear to believers where this power came from. There wasn't the same confusion here as with the miracle in Acts 3 (Easter 3). Tabitha's humble expression of faith and the teaching of the power of Jesus were clearly going hand in hand in Joppa. She was a demonstration that Jesus' love produces love in his friends.

³⁶ In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. ³⁷ About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. ³⁸ Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"

³⁹ Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

4º Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. 4¹ He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. 4² This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

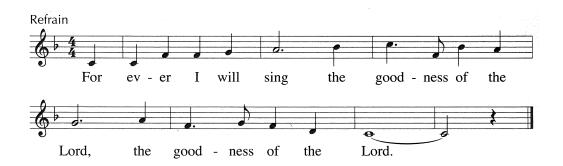
PSALM OF THE DAY PSALM 89

The Church sings this psalm in services where we thank God for keeping his promises over long periods of time.

It is the last psalm in Book III of the psalter.

Refrain

Refrain



I have found David my servant, with my holy oil I have anointed him, that my hand may ever be with him and my arm make him strong.

Refrain

Happy the people who acclaim such a God, who walk in the light of your face, who find their joy ev'ry day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss.

Refrain

He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me!" I will keep my love for him always; with him my covenant shall last.

Refrain

SECOND READING 1 JOHN 4:7-11,19-21

With the word John uses to address those reading these verses..."loved ones"...he sets love as the central theme in this part of his letter. This reminder that we are the recipients of God's love remains slightly hidden in the "dear friends" greeting of many translations. We are loved. God...who rules over all things...loves you. You are the object of his love. Even more...you are the channel of his love...a tool, an instrument through which he can show his love to other people too. John, then, urges us to love one another. This ought to flow naturally and logically from people loved by God...since love comes from him. When loves shows itself in our lives...it produces evidence of two truths: 1.) we have been born of God, the new birth of faith; and 2.) we know God, not just as an object of study or matter of factual information but personally and intimately. In the same way...an absence of love serves as evidence that we do not know God personally by faith. How could we, if God is love? It's tempting to define love by things we do. John counters that it is only God's love that enables our love. His love can be seen and experienced in many ways. Some people focus primarily on providential love. But the quintessential expression of his love is contained in sending his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Wrapped in that word atoning are notable demonstrations of God's love. He is willing to give the life of his own Son as our substitute. He makes amends for the wrongs committed against him by us. In view of such love shown to us...the conclusions John draws are modest: "We also ought to love one another" (verse 11). In other places Jesus tells us to love our enemies. Paul urges us to bless those who persecute us. John asks simply that we love one another. Jesus' love causes that.

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.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The cantor will sing the refrain and the verse...the assembly may join in the final refrain.

Refrain



And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.—1 Corinthians 13:13

Refrain



GOSPEL JOHN 15:9-17

What incredible love Jesus has toward us! "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you", he tells us (verse 9). With the same perfect, intimate, all consuming love that the Father shows Jesus...Jesus loves us. Amazing! Especially when we reflect on the fact that he showed us his love even when we were not yet his friends. Paul tells us in Romans 5:8, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Yes...it is hard to imagine greater love a person could show than to lay down his life for his friends. Yet Jesus' love for us was even greater. While we were still sinners...he died for us! Now he wants us to remain in that love so that we may have his joy and that our joy may be complete. We remain in his love by keeping his commands. As much as our flesh rebels against them...they are all designed that we may have more of his love in our lives. Yet our relationship with Jesus is not merely a matter of obedience. We are not servants. He calls us friends. We were God's enemies...but Jesus made us friends through the gospel. He revealed to us his Father's work of saving us through his Son. He chose us. He appointed us and gave us a purpose: to bear fruit...to show love. Jesus' love produces love in his friends. His love fills us so that we can't help but love one another just as he loved us.

9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept 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: to lay down one's life for one's 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 so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

An ancient Christian practice is the Paschal Greeting. Throughout the 50 days of Easter...whenever the pastor says... "Christ is risen!" the people respond, "He is risen indeed!" Connecting ourselves with the believers who have gone before us, you are asked to join in the Paschal greeting each time you hear "Christ is risen!"

SERMON

JOHN 15:9-17

"LESSONS IN LOVE"

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

WE LOOK FOR THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

AND THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME. Amen.

CONNECT

We would kindly ask everyone to fill out a <u>Connect Card</u> now. If you are worshipping with us virtually, you may also find a digital Connect Card link in the chat and comment boxes. What will be the "next steps" you can take as a response to the message you have heard today? You can also let us know how we can pray for you or ask for more information on one of the ministries or programs we are offering. Thank you!

OFFERING

If you're visiting today...we're glad to have you as our guest. Please don't feel any obligation to participate in this part of the service. In fact...we hope you'll consider this service our gift to you! This offering is an opportunity for those of us who are regular attenders to invest tangibly in what God is doing here. If you do wish to give an offering... please feel free to do so.

Giving Options:

- download the "Church Center" app. Search "Risen Savior Lutheran—Pooler".
- give your gift online.
- via text message: text any dollar amount to 84321 to give and follow the text instructions.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The Prayer of the Church is one of the three responses to the Word that worshippers have heard in the readings and sermon. We respond with faith (speaking the Creed), with offerings, and with prayer. In the Prayer of the Church, God's people do the work of priests, making intercession for themselves...for others...and for the world.

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

The words of the Preface mark the beginning of the Sacrament section of the service and lift the worshippers' heart in praise. The opening sentences are among the oldest in the Christian liturgy.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is good and right so to do.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus...Sanctus means "holy." Used possibly as early as the second century...this canticle was in wide use among Christians in worship by the 14th century.—Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

After a brief musical introduction, the congregation joins to sing:



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth.
We praise and thank you for sending your Son,
Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love
through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us. By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will. By his innocent death, he overcame hell. By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.



CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei...Jesus is God's Lamb (Agnus Dei), who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

After a brief musical introduction, the congregation joins to sing:



THE DISTRIBUTION

Through the Apostle Paul Jesus gives specific instructions about this special Supper. He says, "Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself"—1 Corinthians 11:27-29. So that this Supper remains a blessing and not a harmful thing to those who partake of it — we feel a loving, Godgiven responsibility to instruct and train all who wish to receive this Supper prior to their participation. If you haven't had the chance to receive instruction offered in this congregation or one of our sister congregations in our national church body (Wisconsin Synod), we ask that you speak with Pastor Pechman before taking the Lord's Supper. Pastor Pechman is eager to meet with you. We thank you kindly. And we greatly look forward to celebrating the Lord's Supper with you.

After the first group of communicants receives the Lord's Supper...the congregation will join in singing the hymn.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

DEAR CHRISTIANS, ONE AND ALL, REJOICE | 557

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

And his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

Amen.

BLESSING

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.

HYMN OF DEPARTURE

MAY WE YOUR PRECEPTS, LORD, FULFILL | 697

Announcements

THUNDER GOLF CLASSIC: The Thunder Classic benefitting RSCA will be held at Savannah Quarters on Monday, May 20th. Shotgun start @ 9:00a. Registration is open for golfers, those wanting to attend the awards lunch, and volunteers. For those golfing, you may register as a single or as a golf foursome (preferred) for the tournament. Golfers, your dinner cost is included in the green fee. *Deadline to sign up* and *submit payment is tomorrow*. You can register for the Thunder Classic at: www.risensaviorgeorgia.com/thunder-classic. Here you will find instructions and payment options.

DIVINE CALL: Pastor has received a call to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Howards Grove, Wisconsin. He has taken some time to decide where he can serve and grow best in God's Kingdom. There will be a Q&A session during Power Hour today. Your prayers for Pastor's deliberation have been appreciated.

MOTHER'S DAY RECEPTION: The men of Risen Savior are being asked to help provide snacks and refreshments for Mother's Day. We also need some volunteers to arrive early next Sunday to help get things set-up, make coffee, etc. The Academy's 2024 graduation will be taking place...so we expect there to be a number of guests. This is a special day when we can show our appreciation...not only to wives/mothers...but to the ladies who do so much here at Risen Savior.

RSCA GRADUATION: Next Sunday, the class of 2024 will graduate from Risen Savior Christian Academy. The graduation ceremony will take place as part of the morning's worship service. After the service, there will be a reception in our graduates' (and mothers') honor. Make sure to take part in this special day!

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flower arrangement today is given in thanksgiving to God by Greg & Teresa Long on occasion of their 45th wedding anniversary. Thank you for beautifying our worship space this morning.

YOUR KINGDOM COME: Our world has its power-wielders. Wielding power has the potential to accomplish great good or great abuse. It was into this world...our world...that Jesus Christ, the Son of God came to establish an eternal, spiritual kingdom. In his kingdom, Jesus rules with grace and peace and righteousness only by the power of his Word. Through believing in Jesus, you are a member of his kingdom. And it is by your King, Jesus that you pray, "Your kingdom come. May your saving rule be strengthened in my heart and spread to the hearts of many others." A new "Meditations" booklet is available and begins June 2nd. You are invited to take home your own booklet from the information table in the entryway. In an effort to help defray the cost of these devotions, please drop \$4/booklet (\$5/large print) in the basket. May you find comfort and strength from the Lord who promises to be with you.

SERVING @ RISEN SAVIOR

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Acolyte	Snacks	Livestream
Today	Deines	B. Wethington B. Byrd	A. Pechman	K. Wellman J. Wray	E. Lucas
05.12 (Ascension/Graduation)	Mula	C. Zimmerman D. Zimmerman	B. Smalley	Mother's Day/ Graduation Reception	M. Lopez
05.19 (Pentecost/Confirmation)	Wray	M. Deines B. Duggar	S. Miller	Confirmation Reception	Hefti
05.26 (Trinity Sunday)	Schneider	B. Rife M. Schultz	G. Hefti	S. Rebers S. Keyes	G. Deines



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