

Littleton United Methodist Church
May 17, 2009
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Service of the Word

Prelude *Thine Is The Glory* arr. Page
During the prelude, please silently prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

Members and guests please sign the friendship pad located at the end of the pew.

+Introit *Alleluia, Alleluia (verses 1&2)* Page 162

+Greeting

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen**

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

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: O sing a new song to the Lord our God, a song resounding to the ends of the earth!

People: **A song of birth and gladness,**

Pastor: A song of life and peace!

People: **A song of love and victory, a song of faith and power!**

Pastor: O let your voices roar with the seas! Clap hands with the floods and shout with the hills!

People: **For our blinded eyes are opened, and our deafened ears unstopped; our crippled feet are leaping, and our muted tongues have found their song!**

+Entrance Hymn #139 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* LOBE DEN HERREN

Prayer of the Day

Martha Hayes

Creator of friendships, whose love lifts us from mindless servitude to caring community, we thank you for the guidance of your commandments and the promise of joy in Jesus Christ. We seek to love as we have been loved, to risk life itself for the sake of our sisters and brothers, and to bear fruit that will last. Grant us the strength and courage we need. AMEN.

The First Reading

Acts 10:44-48

Lois Weaver, Lay Reader

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus

Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Reader: This is the word of God for us, the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalter

Psalm 98



O sing to the Lord a new song,
for the Lord has done marvelous things!
God's right hand and holy arm
have gotten the victory.

**The Lord has declared victory,
and has revealed his vindication in the sight of
the nations.**

The Lord has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

**All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.**

R

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the Ruler, the Lord!**

R

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell in it!

**Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord,
who comes to judge the earth.**

**The Lord will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.**

R

The Second Reading

1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

Reader: This is the word of God for us, the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

We Have Been Told

HAAS

We have been told, we've see His face, and heard His voice alive in our hearts;
"Live in my love with all your heart, as the Father has loved me, so I have loved you."
"I am the vine, you are the branches, and all who live in me will bear great fruit".

We have been told, we've seen His face, and heard His voice alive in our hearts,
"Live in my love with all your heart, as the Father has loved me, so I have loved you".

"You are my friends, if you keep my commands, no longer slaves, I call you friends".
We have been told, we've seen His face, and heard His voice alive in our hearts;

"Live in my love with all your heart, as the Father has loved me, so I have loved you."

+Gospel Acclamation #2043

Alleluia

CELTIC ALLELUIA

+The Holy Gospel

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord, the word of God for us, the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Lovers and Friends"

Rev. Rob Licht

+Hymn #369

Blessed Assurance

ASSURANCE

+The Apostles' Creed

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Prayer of Confession

Ever-present God, we confess to you our unloving thoughts and deeds. We live by standards that we bend and break in our own favor, while ignoring the commandments that you have given. We find it hard to love everyone, for so many act in unloving ways. It is easier to treat people as things than to listen for their needs. We withhold ourselves rather than offer our lives, even for our friends. We hoard the gifts you entrust to us instead of letting them bear fruit for you. Cleanse us from these destructive ways, freeing us to love as you have loved us, we pray in Jesus' name. **AMEN.**

A Moment of Silent Confession

Words of Pardon

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet Sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

All: **Glory to God. Amen.**

The Offertory

Offertorium

YOUNG

A special note to our guests: The ministries and work of our church are supported by the generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends. You are our GUEST today. Please do not feel compelled to make a contribution. Please accept this time of worship as our gift to you. We hope that it has been meaningful and that you will worship with us again.

+The Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

+The Prayer of Dedication

The Prayers

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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+Closing Hymn #548

In Christ There Is No East or West

McKEE

+Dismissal with Blessing

+Congregational Response

Alive

PARKS

Alive! Alive! Jesus Is Alive!

No greater affirmation could a mortal tongue impart;

Alive! Alive! Jesus Is Alive!

Triumphant over sin and death

He lives within my heart!

+Taking God's Light Into The World

+Chiming of the Trinity

+Postlude

Postludium

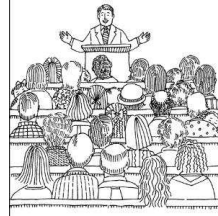
YOUNG

+The congregation will stand as you are able

*** Printed copies of the sermon are available after the service in each narthex*

Our Presence

Attendance last week
Worship service: 46



- Today: 10:00 AM Worship Service
11:20 Sunday school
6:00 PM Bell Ringers concert at Lakeside Lutheran Church
- Monday: 1:00 PM Blanket Bee / Sewing Circle
- Wednesday: 6:00 PM Bible study
7:30 PM Choir practice
- Sunday (5/24): Summer schedule starts with Early Casual Service at 8:45AM
and Traditional Worship at 10:00 AM.



Our Gifts

Offerings last week: \$1,165.02

The flowers today were given by
Norm & A.J. Lunde
in memory of their parents.

Our Mission Statement

Littleton United Methodist Church strives to provide all-inclusive worship of
God through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We are committed to deepening our spiritual growth.

We are to minister in Christ's name to the needy, the sick, the dying, the
unchurched, and to each other.

We are to be active Christians, spreading the Good News.

We are to strive to witness for Jesus in our daily lives, in our community and
throughout the world.



Our Service

Serving in Worship:

Choir Director / Organist: Tom Parker
Organist emeritus: Trudi May
Acolyte: Martha Sherman
Greeters: Connie Henry (west)
Jean Houston (east)
Ushers: Sherman Merchant (west)
Lee Reinhardt (west)
Matt Johnston (east)
Nursery: Susannah Sherman
Loretta Woodburn
Sound: Dick O'Sullivan
Ed Angel

2009 Committee Chairpersons:

Administrative Council: Richard Sherman
Congregational Care: Jean Houston
Shepherding: Elizabeth Solovieff
Discipleship: Helen Burtchell
Age Level: TBA
Outreach: Helen Burtchell
Missions: Richard Sherman
Finance: Mike Herman
Pastor-Parish: Sherman Merchant
Lay Leadership: Rob Licht
Trustees: Shirley Anschutz
Kitchen: Marie Fields
Membership: Marj Prescott
Scholarship: Marvin Newsom III
Memorials: Matt Johnston
Newsletter: Susan Merchant
Sunday School Superintendent: Jean Jarvis

Serving in our Church, Community and World

If you are interested in knowing more about our mission projects, our church, or becoming a member, please call Pastor Rob at 252 586-5385.

Thanks to all who helped with "spring cleanup" at church and at the parsonage last Friday!

There will be a **Bell Ringers Concert** this evening at Lakeside Lutheran Church at 6:00 PM.

The **Sewing Circle / Blanket Bee** will meet on Monday at 1:00 PM in our fellowship hall.

Next weekend is **Memorial Weekend** and we will start our summer worship schedule on Sunday. **Early / Casual Service will be at 8:45 AM** and as always our **Traditional Service will be at 10:00 AM.**

Due to an accidental omission in the Birthday/Anniversary section of the last newsletter, Richard & Susannah Sherman's May 20th anniversary was not listed. *Happy Anniversary!*