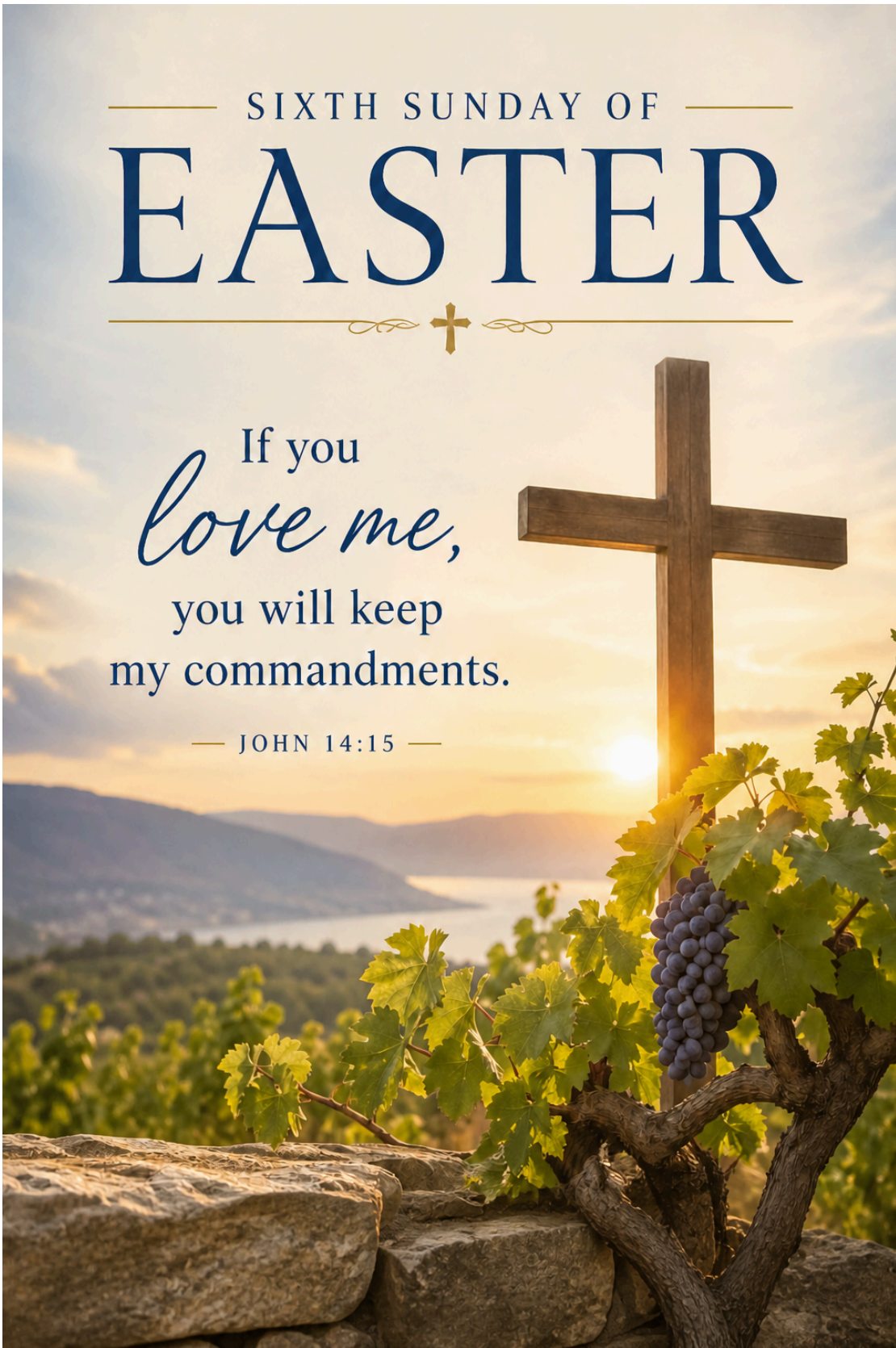


SIXTH SUNDAY OF
EASTER



If you
love me,
you will keep
my commandments.

— JOHN 14:15 —



May 10th, 2026

Welcome to St. Paul's! We are glad you are with us today. May God bless you with His grace and peace as we worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus. If you have questions or would like to speak with Pastor Free, please feel free to reach out 608.630.5058 or pastorjoelfree@stpaulsixonia.org.

Service of Word and Sacrament

Red CW 26

Please follow along in the Red Hymnal on page 26 or the screen in front.

♪ He's Risen, He's Risen

Blue CW 445

Stand

The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Confession of Sins

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

♪ Lord, have mercy.

For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

♪ Christ, have mercy.

For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

♪ Lord, have mercy.

Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

♪ Amen.

Prayer and Praise

The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

♪ **Our Lord, Our Lord**

Red CW 28

Prayer of the Day

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.**

Be Seated

The Word

First Reading

Acts 17:22–31

²²Then Paul stood up in front of the council of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. ²³For as I was walking around and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar on which had been inscribed, ‘To an unknown god.’ Now what you worship as unknown—this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made with hands. ²⁵Neither is he served by human hands, as if he needed anything, since he himself gives all people life and breath and everything they have. ²⁶From one man, he made every nation of mankind to live over the entire face of the earth. He determined the appointed times and the boundaries where they would live. ²⁷He did this so they would seek God and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘Indeed, we are also his offspring.’

²⁹“Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and planning. ³⁰Although God overlooked the times of ignorance, he is now commanding all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has set a day on which he is going to judge the world in righteousness by the man he appointed. He provided proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

♪ **Psalm 66** Red CW 90

Shout with joy to God / all the earth

Sing the glory of his name; make his praise / glorious!

Praise our God, O / peoples,

Let the sound of his ‘praise be heard.

He has pre / served our lives
And kept our feet from / slipping

Refrain: At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Come and listen, all you who / fear god;
Let me tell you what he has done for me.

If I had cherished sin / in my heart,
The Lord would not have / listened;

But God has surely / listened
And heard my / voice in prayer.

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

Refrain: At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Second Reading *Peter 3:13–22*

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should happen to suffer because of righteousness, you are blessed. Do not be afraid of what they fear, and do not be troubled. ¹⁵But regard the Lord, the Christ, as holy in your hearts.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is in you.

¹⁶But speak with gentleness and respect, while maintaining a clear conscience, so that those who attack your good way of life in Christ may be put to shame because they slandered you as evildoers.

¹⁷Indeed, it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil, ¹⁸because Christ also suffered once for sins in our place, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in flesh but was made alive in spirit, ¹⁹in which he also went and made an announcement to the spirits in prison. ²⁰These spirits disobeyed long ago, when God's patience was waiting in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In this ark a few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water. ²¹And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ²²He went to heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

♪ Verse of the Day *Red CW 30*

Stand

Gospel *John 14:15–21*

¹⁵“If you love me, hold on to my commands. ¹⁶I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. ¹⁷He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot

receive because it does not see him or know him. You know him because he stays with you and will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will see me no longer, 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. ²¹The one who has my commands and holds on to them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I too will love him and show myself to him.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:

♪ Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be Seated

♪ Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise CW Blue 614

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed CW Blue 31

**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 fully 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.

Be Seated

Offering

*To Our Guests: If you choose to give, offerings may be given to the **General Ministry of St. Paul's** or designated for the **ECM Little Sprouts Expansion Fund**. Gifts may also be given by QR code, text (844-489-3585) or there are envelopes in back of church.*



Stand

Prayer of the Church

Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 Sacrament

The Lord be with you.

♪ **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

♪ **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

♪ **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Red CW 34

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.**

♪ **O Christ, Lamb of God**

Red CW 35

Be Seated

Distribution

To Our Visitors:

We're glad you're here! In keeping with God's Word, we practice close communion and invite members of our congregation and sister WELS/ELS churches to receive the Lord's Supper.

If you are visiting from another church or are new to the faith, please speak with the pastor before communing. This practice reflects our desire to be united in faith and faithful to Scripture (1 Corinthians 10:17; 11:27-29).

Thank you for your understanding, and please feel free to ask any questions.

♪ **Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice**

Blue CW 557

♪ **O Christians, Haste** (*Favorite Hymn*) Blue CW 901

Stand

Closing Prayer

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

♪ Amen.

Blessing

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 on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

♪ God Be with You till We Meet Again *(Favorite Hymn)*

Red CW 327

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