

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025; 9 a.m.



St John's
Lutheran Church

(An usher rings the church bell at 8:55 a.m.)

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

(Acolytes light the candles)

Linda Ranney

Confession and Forgiveness *(please stand)*

(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,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(silence is kept for reflection)

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

ELW #361; *The Day of Resurrection* vs. 1-3

- 1 The day of resurrection!
 Earth, tell it out abroad,
 the passover of gladness,
 the passover of God.
 From death to life eternal,
 from sin's dominion free,
 our Christ has brought us over
 with hymns of victory.
- 2 Let hearts be purged of evil
 that we may see aright
 the Lord in rays eternal
 of resurrection light,
 and list'ning to his accents,
 may hear, so calm and plain,
 his own "All hail!" and hearing,
 may raise the glad refrain.
- 3 Now let the heav'ns be joyful,
 let earth its song begin,
 the round world keep high triumph
 and all that is therein.
 Let all things, seen and unseen,
 their notes of gladness blend;
 for Christ the Lord has risen,
 our joy that has no end!

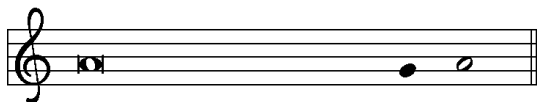
Apostolic Greeting

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

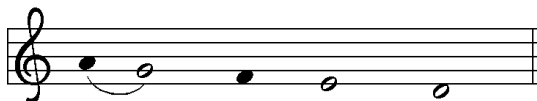
And also with you.

Kyrie

ELW Setting Four p.147



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Canticle of Praise

ELW Setting Four; p.149

Refrain
Assisting minister

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

All

1 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.

Refrain

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

2 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.

Final refrain

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God of peace, **you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Psalm 23

ELW #780; *Shepherd Me, O God*

(assembly joins in singing the refrains)

Refrain

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.

- 1 God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
 I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
 I walk by the quiet waters of peace. *Refrain*
- 2 Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
 you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
 my spirit shall sing the music of your name. *Refrain*
- 3 Though I should wander the valley of death,
 I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
 your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. *Refrain*
- 4 You have set me a banquet of love
 in the face of hatred,
 crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. *Refrain*
- 5 Surely your kindness and mercy follow me
 all the days of my life;
 I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. *Refrain*

Reading: Revelation 7:9-17 *(please sit)*

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in

white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶ They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Lord's Prayer Milestone

Gospel Acclamation (*please stand*)

ELW #386; *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing* vs. 1

1 O sons and daughters, let us sing
with heav'nly hosts to Christ our king:
today the grave has lost its sting!
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 10:22-30

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²² At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶ but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷ My

sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *(please sit)*

"*Sheepish*" Pastor Christine Emerson

Hymn of the Day *(please stand)*

ELW #768; *Lead Me, Guide Me* vs. 1-2

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, along the way;
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
To help over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by
the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the
third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right
hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I
believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Petition:

Hear us, O God,

your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always!

And also with you.

Offering

Linda Ranney

(Ushers take up the collection)

Offertory *(please stand)*

(Ushers bring collection forward for acolytes to receive)

ELW #207; *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*

Thankful hearts and voices raise;

tell ev'ryone what God has done.

Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice

and bear the name of Christ.

Send us with your promises

and lead your people forth in joy

with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Risen One, **you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.**

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

WOV Setting 5; p.36

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Table

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Lamb of God

WOV Setting 5 p. 39

♩ 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.

Communion Hymn

ACS #966; *Loves Were Broken*

- 1 Loaves were broken, words were spoken
by the Galilean shore.
Jesus, Bread of life from heaven,
was their food forevermore.

Refrain

By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

- 2 Loaves were broken, words were spoken
in a quiet room one night.
In the bread and wine you gave them,
Christ, you came as Light from Light. *Refrain*

- 3 Loaves are broken, words are spoken,
as in faith we gather here.
Jesus speaks across the ages:
"I am with you; do not fear!" *Refrain*
- 4 By the loaves you break and give us,
send us in your name to share
bread for which the millions hunger,
words that tell your love and care. *Refrain*

Post-Communion Blessing & Prayer *(please stand)*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Living One, **in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.**

Benediction

The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.
Amen.

Sending Hymn

(Acolytes extinguish the candles)

ELW #881; *Let All Things Now Living*

- 1 Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,

who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

- 2 God rules all the forces:
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

Sending

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Linda Ranney

Altar Flowers

In honor of my mother Joanne by Pastor Christine Emerson

Serving at Worship Today

Presider	Pastor Christine Emerson
Assistant	Kathy Freitag
Lector	Brandi Fuchs
Acolytes	Lauren Leonardson, Ned Ernster
Ushers	Bryan Wagner, Larry Krause

Greeters	Gary Kersten, Julie Kerstin
Communion Servers	Cora Klawiter, Ruth Lundblad, Jenna Boeckmann, Louise Alt
Media & Streaming	Scott Olsen
Screen Operator	Brett Isaacson
Musicians	Linda Ranney, accompanist; St. John's Choir

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