

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 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)

The Journey Home by Paul A. McKlveen

JuBellation Handbell Choir & Frank Larrabee, recorders

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 #424; *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* vs. 1, 2, 4

- 1 Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
 bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,
 raise the glad strain: "Alleluia!"
 Cry out, dominions, principedoms, pow'rs,
 archangels, virtues, angel choirs:
 "Alleluia! Alleluia!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 2 O higher than the cherubim,
 more glorious than the seraphim,
 lead their praises: "Alleluia!"
 Thou bearer of the eternal Word,
 most gracious, magnify the Lord:
 "Alleluia! Alleluia!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 4 O friends, in gladness let us sing,
 supernal anthems echoing:
 "Alleluia! Alleluia!"
 To God the Father, God the Son,
 and God the Spirit, Three in One:
 "Alleluia! Alleluia!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

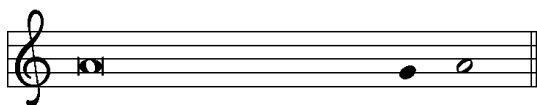
Apostolic Greeting

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

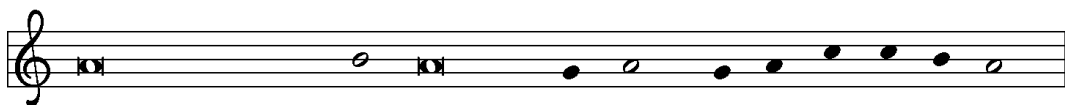
ELW Setting Four p.147



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



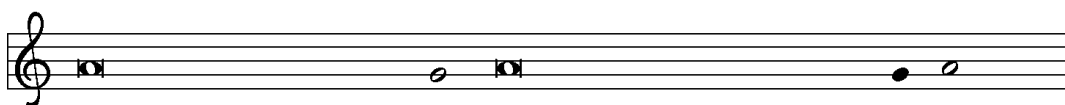
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



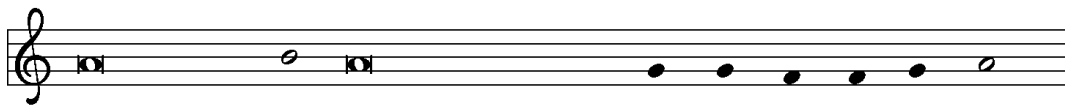
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



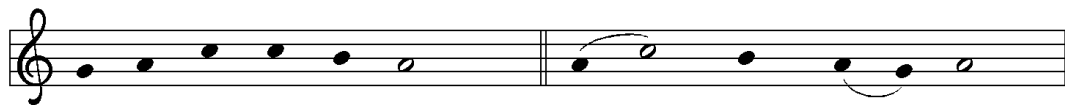
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

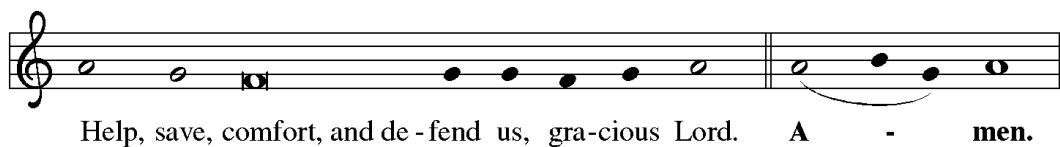


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



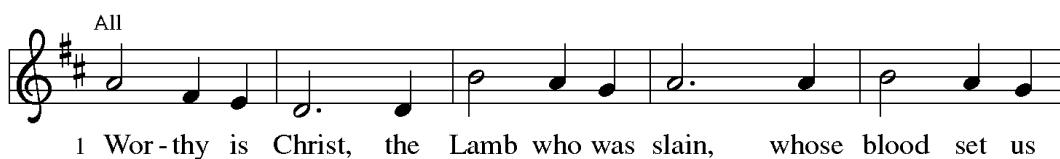
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Canticle of Praise

ELW Setting Four; p.149



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 Lord God, **you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Reading: Acts 11:1-18 *(please sit)*

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I

looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all

things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Children’s Time

Gospel Acclamation *(please stand)*

ELW #174; *Celtic Alleluia*



Gospel: John 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 13th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *(please sit)*

Pastor Christine Emerson

Hymn of the Day *(please stand)*

ELW #622; *Neither Death Nor Life* vs. 1, 4, 5

Refrain

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come,
neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation
can ever separate us from the love of God
poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

- 1 Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead;
though your body shall die, in Christ you shall rise
through the Spirit who brings you to life. *Refrain*
- 4 All of creation awaits the new birth,
the fullness of redemption, through labor pains of love,
and so we wait in patience and hope. *Refrain*
- 5 Who can separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship or distress, persecution or famine,
or nakedness or peril or sword? *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

Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace; text: St. Francis of Assisi; music: Lloyd Larson; St. John's Choir

(Ushers take up the collection)

Offertory *(please stand)*

(Ushers bring collection forward for acolytes to receive)

ELW #674; *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

- 1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

- 2 Christ is able to make us one,

at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. *Refrain*

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

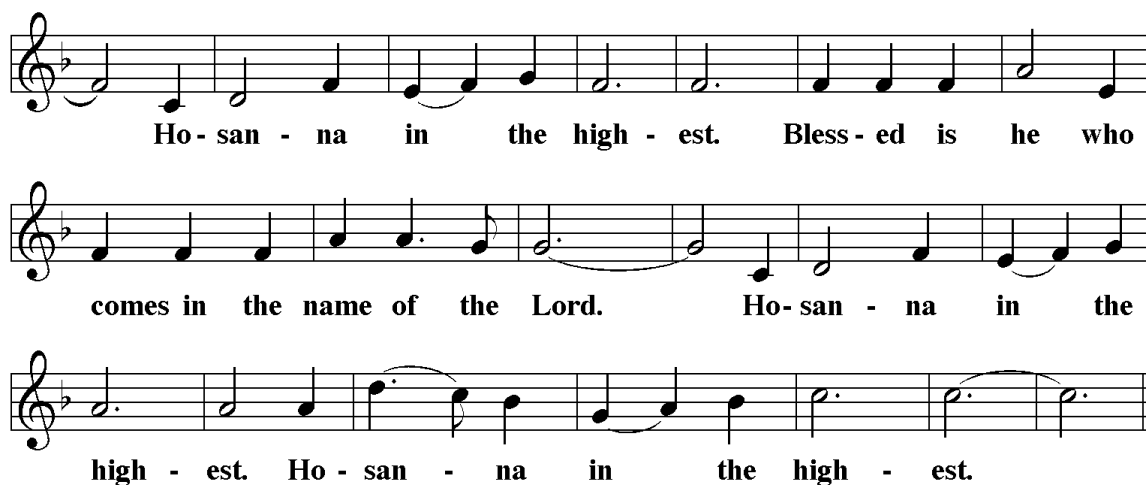
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.



Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

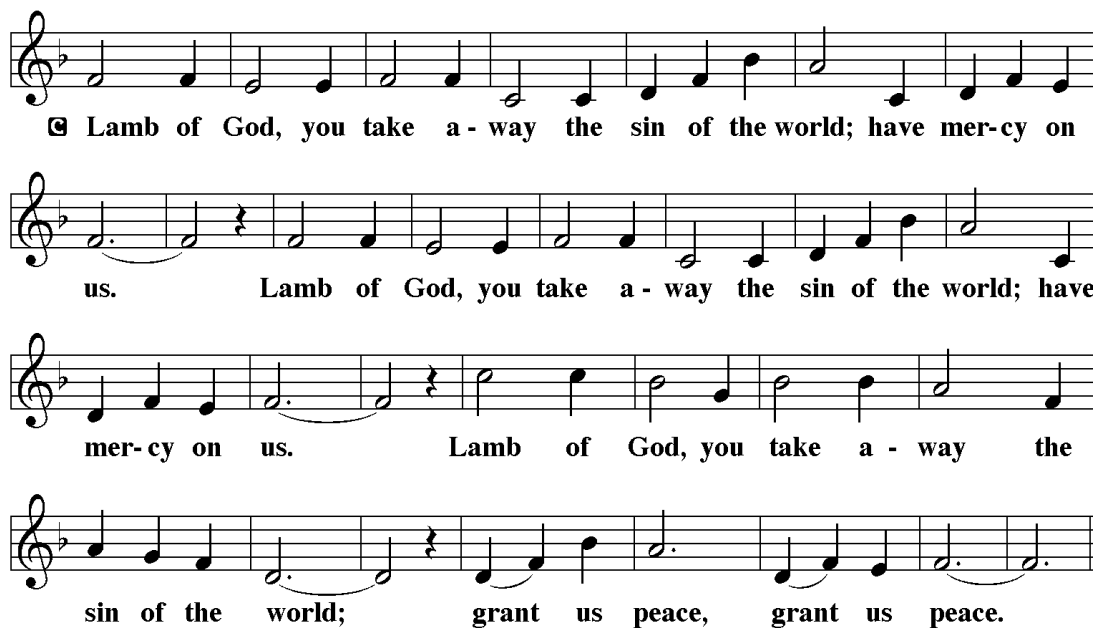
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,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



Communion Hymn

ELW #826; *Thine the Amen*

- 1 Thine the amen thine the praise
 alleluias angels raise
 thine the everlasting head
 thine the breaking of the bread
 thine the glory thine the story
 thine the harvest then the cup
 thine the vineyard then the cup
 is lifted up lifted up.

- 2 Thine the life eternally
 thine the promise let there be
 thine the vision thine the tree
 all the earth on bended knee
 gone the nailing gone the railing
 gone the pleading gone the cry
 gone the sighing gone the dying
 what was loss lifted high.

- 3 Thine the truly thine the yes
 thine the table we the guest
 thine the mercy all from thee
 thine the glory yet to be
 then the ringing and the singing
 then the end of all the war
 thine the living thine the loving
 evermore evermore.

- 4 Thine the kingdom thine the prize
 thine the wonder full surprise
 thine the banquet then the praise
 then the justice of thy ways
 thine the glory thine the story
 then the welcome to the least
 then the wonder all increasing
 at thy feast at thy feast.

5 Thine the glory in the night
 no more dying only light
 thine the river thine the tree
 then the Lamb eternally
 then the holy holy holy
 celebration jubilee
 thine the splendor thine the brightness
 only thee only thee.

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)

ACS #1043; *Spirit, Open My Heart*

Refrain

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.

- 1 God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. *Refrain*

- 2 Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory. *Refrain*

- 3 May I weep with those who weep;
share the joy of friend and neighbor.
As I live from day to day,
love will be my finest labor. *Refrain*

Sending

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Linda Ranney

Altar & Chancel Flowers

In Honor of St. John's Highland Church Building's 70th Birthday

Serving at Worship Today

Presider	Pastor Christine Emerson
Assistant	Rozie Bejin
Lector	Pam Sorebo
Acolytes	Wesley Ziegler, Ned Ernster
Ushers	Sam Pederson, Penny Erickson
Greeters	Bryan Sedlander, Larry Schaefer
Communion Servers	Cora Klawiter, Diana Hogenson, Shari Englebert, Cheryl Mattison
Media & Streaming	Lydia Elko
Screen Operator	Lois Mai

Musicians

Linda Ranney, accompanist; Mark Lundin, director;
St. John's Choir; JuBellation; Frank Larrabee,
recorders

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