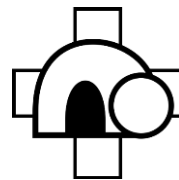




THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MAY 18, 2025



Pre-service Music

Welcome and Announcements

## Confession and Absolution

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### Confession and Absolution

- P** Christ is risen! He is victorious over the powers of sin and death. He did not come into the world in order to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. Therefore, let us go to our loving and victorious God and confess our sins knowing that,  
**C** **our God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- C** **Gracious and merciful God, we confess that while we have been made new creations through the waters of our baptism, we still live ensnared by sin, and are unable to free ourselves. We have not always lived our lives in accordance with the identity that you have given us in Jesus. We have not always done the things that you have called us to do. We have not always loved you above all else and with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. We have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us all our sins. Renew our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that our lives would show the identity you have given us in baptism, and the new creations that you have made us to be. Amen.**
- P** Sing to the Lord a new song, for He performs amazing deeds! He remains loyal and faithful to us. All the ends of the earth see our God deliver us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I, therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen**

### Peace of the Lord

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** **And also with you.**

# Service of the Word

## Gathering Hymn: LSB 700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into ev'ry troubled breast;  
Let us all in Thee inherit;  
Let us find Thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee,  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88  
Text: Public domain

## The Lighting of the Christ Candle

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**C** He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

## Kyrie

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** 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.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

## This Is the Feast

- C** **This is the feast of victory for our God.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**  
**Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- L** Let us pray.  
O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## Children's Message

## The First Reading

Acts 11:1–18

**A** The first reading is from the eleventh chapter of the book of Acts.

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> “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. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup> But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ <sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> 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.’ <sup>17</sup> 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?” <sup>18</sup> 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.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## The Psalm

*Psalm 148; antiphon: v. 13*

**L** Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**C** Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

**L** Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

**C** Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

**L** Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

**C** He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

**L** Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

**C** fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

**L** Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

**C** Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

**L** Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

**C** Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**L** Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

**C** He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

**L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

**C** as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## Epistle

*Revelation 21:1–7*

**A** The Epistle reading is from the twenty-first chapter of the book of Revelation.

<sup>1</sup> Then 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. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup> 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.” <sup>5</sup> 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." <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual

- L** Christ has risen from the dead.
- C** [God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor,
- L** He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;
- C** he has put all things under his feet.

### Solo: Soon and Very Soon

### Gospel Acclamation

- C** Halle, halle, halle\_lujah!
- Halle, halle, halle\_lujah!
- Halle, halle, halle\_lujah!
- Hallelujah! Halle\_lujah!

Text: arr. Mark Sedio

Text: © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: onelicense.net no. #A-724537

- P** Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;
- C** Death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.
- P** [Jesus said,] "If anyone loves me, they will keep my word, and my Father will love them,
- C** and we will come to them and make our home with them." Alleluia.

### Holy Gospel

*John 16:12–22*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>12</sup> "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>16</sup> "A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me." <sup>17</sup> Then some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying to us, 'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" <sup>18</sup> They said, "What does he mean by this 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." <sup>19</sup> Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, 'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'?" <sup>20</sup> Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. <sup>21</sup> When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. <sup>22</sup> So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Sermon

## Amazing Grace Intro

*St. John's Bell Choir*

### Hymn of the Day: LSB 744 Amazing Grace

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far,  
His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail  
And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail  
In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond  
Text: Public domain

### Nicene Creed

- L** We make confession of our faith together in the words of the creed.  
**C** **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

## The Blessing of Birthdays

### The Prayers of the Church

- L** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*(Each petition ends with the words, "Lord, in Your Mercy." The congregation responds with the words, "**Hear our prayer.**")*

- L** All these things and everything else for which we should ask, we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Offering

- C** Offer, offer, offering, we give our gifts to say,  
"Thank you Lord for loving us and blessing us each day."  
Time to share our gifts and say,  
"Thank you Lord for each new day."

### Offertory Prayer

- L** Victorious God, Jesus defeated death in His resurrection. In Your love and mercy, You have made us witnesses to this wonderful news. Help us to live lives of love and service to others, that point our neighbors to Jesus and the hope that we have in Him. Accept these offerings that we bring before You with thanksgiving and gratitude for all of Your blessings and gifts to us. Use them for Your glory and to further the work that You are doing in this place and all around our world. In Jesus' name, we pray.

**C** Amen.

### Offertory

- C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

# Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

- P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the

witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

### The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{I}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{I}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.  
**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

### The Lord's Prayer

- L** God, remember us in your love and teach us to pray:  
**C** 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.

### Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

### Agnus Dei

- C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

### Communion Distribution



## **Distribution Hymn: LSB 653 In Christ There Is No East or West**

In Christ there is no east or west,  
In Him no south or north,  
But one great fellowship of love  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

With God there is no tribe or race;  
In Him we all are one.  
He loves us as His children through  
Our faith in His dear Son.

So, brothers, sisters, praise His name  
Who died to set us free  
From sin, division, hate, and shame,  
From spite and enmity!

Join hands, disciples of the faith,  
Whate'er your race may be;  
Who serves my Father as His child  
Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west;  
In Him meet south and north.  
All Christian souls are one in Him  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

Text (sts. 1, 4–5): John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.; (st. 2): Mark A. Jeske, 1952; (st. 3): Michael A. Perry, 1942–96

Text (sts. 1, 4–5): Public domain

Text (st. 2): © 1993 Mark A. Jeske; (st. 3): © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000779

## **Distribution Hymn: LSB 722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me**

Lord, take my hand and lead me  
Upon life's way;  
Direct, protect, and feed me  
From day to day.  
Without Your grace and favor  
I go astray;  
So take my hand, O Savior,  
And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages,  
I need not fear,  
For You, the Rock of Ages,  
Are always near.  
Close by Your side abiding,  
I fear no foe,  
For when Your hand is guiding,  
In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen  
And night has come,  
I know that You will strengthen  
My steps toward home.  
Then nothing can impede me,  
O blessed Friend;  
So take my hand and lead me  
Unto the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

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## The Dismissal

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.
- C** Amen.

## Thank the Lord

- C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

## Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.  
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## Benedicamus

- L** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.
- L** Bless we the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.
- L** As we depart from this place, we celebrate the ways God has blessed us in this service.  
We have received forgiveness of all our sins and remembered the identity given to us in our baptism.  
**C** Our God has equipped us for life lived in His kingdom.
- L** We have heard the good news of the gospel and the word of God read and proclaimed.  
**C** Our God has encouraged us in discipleship and following Jesus.
- L** We have received the gifts of God given in Holy Communion.  
**C** As our God has served us, so we go from this place to be engaged in service to God, to one another and to our neighbors.
- L** As we depart from this place, we go as people who have been equipped for life, encouraged in discipleship, and engage in service.  
**C** We go as people who have been invited by God to join God in the work that He is doing in this place.
- P** As you go, receive the blessing of our God:

## Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## **Sending Hymn: LSB 837 Lift High the Cross**

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. Refrain

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.  
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