



“³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13: 34-35

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter – April 24, 2016

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Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music Ministries

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

Fifth Sunday of Easter – April 24, 2016

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Lord is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today the Lord Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

PRELUDE: *Trumpet Tune on MIT FREUDEN ZART*—Michael Helman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

GATHERING SONG #368: With High Delight Let Us Unite

***GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

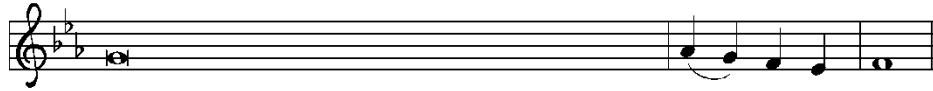
***KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



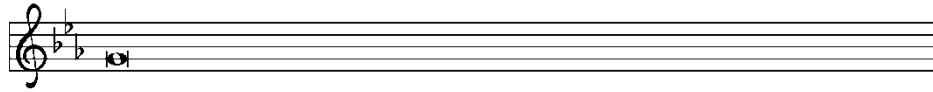
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



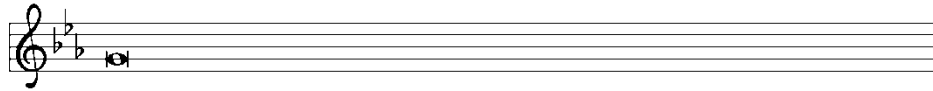
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

*THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



Refrain
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



Refrain
gun his reign. 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.

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of pagan believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' own testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



PSALM 148

*The cantor sings the refrain and all repeat it. The congregation sings the verses in **bold**.*



The splen-dor of the Lord is ov-er earth and heav-en.

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

²Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.

³**Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;**
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,**
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.

⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,

⁶who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.

R



The splen-dor of the Lord is ov-er earth and heav-en.

⁷Praise the LORD| from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
⁸fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God’s will;

⁹mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;
¹⁰wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;

¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;

¹²young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.

R

¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!

R

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1–6

John’s vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

¹I 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. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And 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;

⁴he 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.”

⁵And 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.” ⁶Then 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.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The cantor sings the refrain, and all repeat it.



Verse (cantor): Everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.

***GOSPEL READING: John 13:31–35**

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little 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.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY#367: *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

***NICENE CREED**

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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rooted in the abundant life and love of Christ Jesus, we pray for the life of the church, the lives of people in need, and the life of all creation.

Holy God, by your Holy Spirit reveal to us the saving work of Christ. Strengthen your church with the good news that leads to limitless life for all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send us to places far and near, and join our voices in chorus with all creation. Use us to show others your abundant goodness in the created world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

End war and the human desire to hold on to power. Free all people to love both neighbor and enemy, and make your church an example of such love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Surround people who are hurting with agents of your healing and messengers of your peace. Provide safe communities for all who are in any need, especially Winnie, Frieda, Raymond, Wanda Jean, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, David & Ellen, and all those we remember aloud or in our hearts. Embrace them with your compassion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen the bonds of shared service between congregations and social ministry organizations. Guide us in doing your work together. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In Christ's death and resurrection you have fulfilled your work for the sake of your saints. Come swiftly to dwell among us and to make all things new. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We deliver all this into your care, O God, trusting in the work of your Holy Spirit to bring all things into the risen life of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN #359: Where Charity and Love Prevail

All stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

Day by day you shower us with blessings.

As you have raised us to new life in Christ,

give us glad and generous hearts,

ready to praise you and to respond to those in need,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

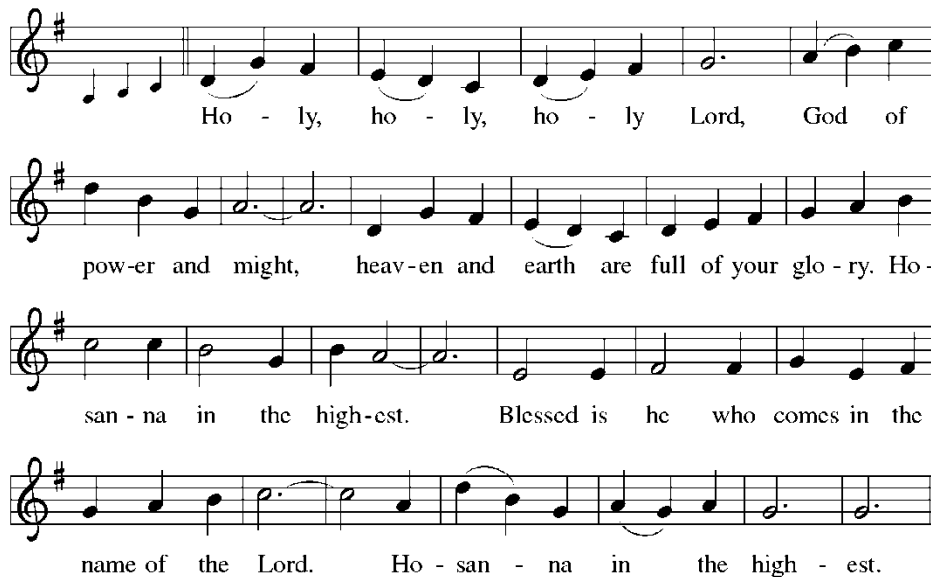
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
Amen.

***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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The table of life is spread before you.
Feast on the goodness and mercy of God.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*

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 #482: *I Come with Joy*

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.
Amen.

***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
ev - `ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.
Life-giving God,
in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness,

water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people.
Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection,
that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord,
bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the waters of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life,
make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer,
bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG #625: *Come, We That Love the Lord

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE: *Trumpet Tune on MARCHING TO ZION: "Then Let Our Songs Abound"* – Wayne L. Wold

The flowers this week are given by Clarence & Marlene Strabel for the glory of God.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Clarence Strabel
Communion Assistant: Marlene Strabel
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher: Chuck Olescyski
Attendance Last Week: 50
Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$3,374.14
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$53,986.18
YTD Actual Expense: \$42,608.56

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Martha Ward
Communion Assistant: Jim Ward
Acolyte: Sydney Brower
Lector:
Usher: Leikauf's
Attendance Last Year: 62
Last Week's Giving: \$ 2,606.00
YTD Receipts: \$45,898.35

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