



*“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

*~ John 14: 6*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 14, 2017**

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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? 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 – May 14, 2017**

*As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As First Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.*

***Today we commemorate the Apostle Matthias.** Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.*

**PRELUDE:** *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life* – Jacob Weber

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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

**Amen.**

Eternal and gracious God, we give you thanks.  
In countless ways you have revealed yourself in ages past,  
and have blessed us with signs of your grace.

**We praise you that through the waters of the sea  
you led your people Israel out of bondage,  
into freedom in the land of your promise.**

We praise you for sending Jesus your Son,  
who for us was baptized in the waters of the Jordan,  
and was anointed as the Christ by your Holy Spirit.

**Through the baptism of his death and resurrection you set us free  
from the bondage of sin and death and give us cleansing and rebirth.**

We praise you for your Holy Spirit,  
who teaches us and leads us into all truth,  
filling us with a variety of gifts,  
that we might proclaim the gospel to all nations  
and serve you as a royal priesthood.

**We rejoice that you claimed us in our baptism,  
and that by your grace we are born anew.**

By your Holy Spirit renew us,  
that we may be empowered to do your will  
and continue forever in the risen life of Christ. **Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN #619: *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* (stanzas 1-4)**

**\*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.**

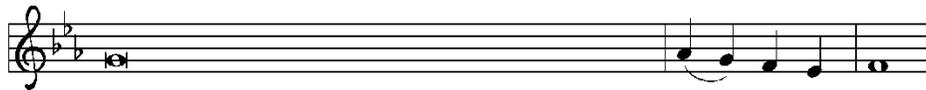
**\*KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



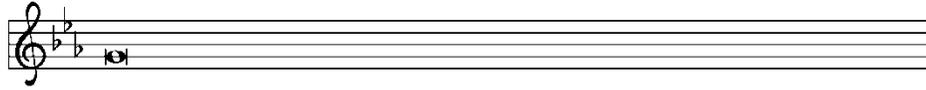
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

**\*THIS IS THE FEAST**



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



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 -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,**  
**your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.**  
**Give us grace to love one another,**  
**to follow in the way of his commandments,**  
**and to share his risen life with all the world,**  
**for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,**  
**one God, now and forever.**  
**Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING: Acts 7:55–60

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

<sup>55</sup>Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 31

*The cantor sings the refrain and all repeat it.*

*Verses are sung responsively; the congregation sings the **bold** verses.*



In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend my spir - it.

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;  
deliver me | in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup>**Incline your | ear to me;**  
**make haste to de- | liver me.**

<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my stronghold;  
for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup>**Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,**  
**for you are my tow- | er of strength. R**

<sup>5</sup>Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.

<sup>15</sup>**My times are | in your hand;**  
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine up- | on your servant;  
save me in your | steadfast love.” **R**



on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #816: *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life***

#### **\*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**

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church. Show us your ways. Teach us your truth. Enliven us in mission. Keep us from discord. Lead us to unity for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the earth. Turn us away from impulses to pollute this world. Protect fragile habitats. Nurture our planet to be a life-sustaining home for generations yet to be born. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations. Fill all leaders with a spirit of compassion for the poor and oppressed. Give courage to those who work for justice and equality. Bring an end to conflict and violence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in need. Draw near to those who struggle with depression. Comfort those for whom this day evokes heartache or sorrow. Console those who grieve, and heal those who are ill, especially Jim, Dan, Denise, Sally, Bill, Raymond, Francis & Grace, Jane, David & Ellen, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this assembly. Bless mothers and all who offer motherly care. Strengthen child care workers, nursery attendants, and those who teach our youth. Uphold our elders and those who care for aging parents. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith and those who have borne witness to your love, especially the apostle Matthias. Bring us with them to dwell with you forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **OFFERING**

**\*OFFERING HYMN #758: *You are the Way***

*All stand for the final refrain 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.**

### **\*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.**

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:

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.

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 ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

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.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## COMMUNION SONG: *The Disciples Knew the Lord Jesus*

*Refrain*



The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.



1. The bread which we break, al-le - lu - ia, is the com - mun - ion of the bod - y of Christ.
2. One bod - y are we, al-le - lu - ia, for though ma - ny we share one bread.

## COMMUNION HYMN #619: *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* (stanzas 5-8)

### \*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

### \*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*



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.

### \*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends in mission to the world.*

### \*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 #377: Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**POSTLUDE: Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!** – Robert Hobby

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**The flowers this week are given by Cindy & Dave Knauff in honor of all mothers.**

#### 8:00 am

**Assisting Minister:** Ruth Ann Tully

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Lector:**

**Usher:** John Tully

**Attendance Last Week:** 57

**Weekly Budgeted Expense:** \$ 3,185.02

**YTD Budgeted Expenses:** \$ 57,330.33

**YTD Actual Expense:** \$ 57,068.45

#### 10:30 am

**Assisting Minister:** Valerie Cardinal

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Lector:**

**Usher:** Cardinal's

**Attendance Last Year:** 61

**Last Week's General Giving:** \$ 5,860.45

**Last Week's Designated Giving:** \$ 660.56

**YTD Receipts:** \$ 63,763.21

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