



“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”

~ John 13:34

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 18, 2025

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshipping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, “Peace be with you.” You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Connection cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord’s Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service.*

This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

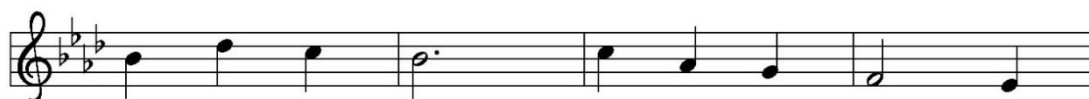
*GATHERING HYMN *Alleluia! Jesus is Risen* (ELW 377)



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Refrain
 Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

***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.

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
**waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness,
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.**
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
**waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love
and cross barriers of our own making.**
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
**waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path,
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.**
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

Amen!

Let us sing for joy at God's victory over death!

*THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of

vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. 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, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be - 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.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

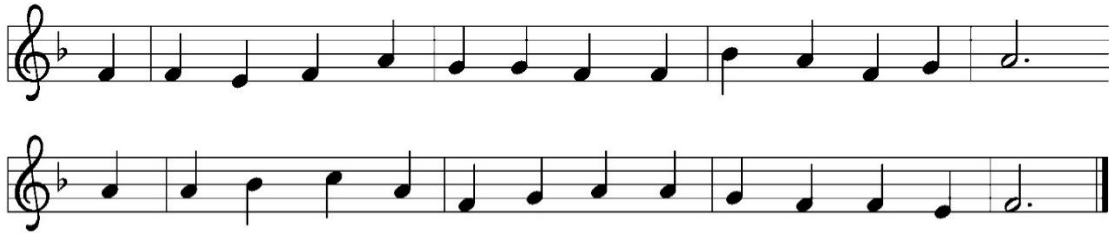
A reading from Acts.

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.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148 *Metrical Psalter*



**1. Hallelujah! Give praise to God
From heaven and in the heights;
Praise God all angels, sun, and moon,
Give praise, you shining lights.**

**2. Praise God, high heavens and floods
above,
Yes, let them praise God's Name;
You, Lord, commanded by your word;
You spoke and forth they came.**

**3. You gave them being, they stand fast
In your eternal sway;
For you have given them a law,
Which shall not pass away.**

**7. God's splendor spans all earth and
heaven,
All those who come to dwell
With God receive both strength and
praise:
God's people Israel**

SECOND READING:: Revelation 21:1-6

A reading from Revelation.

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.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL READING: John 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to John.

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.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *Spirit, Open My Heart* (ACS 1043)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected)

Refrain

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of

liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's

2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my

3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and

goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and

friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.

deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.

day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

***NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the 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**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need. (*a brief silence for reflection*)

Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts and all who suffer in any way. Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Living God, we carry in our hearts joys and concerns known only to you. We offer the prayer we bring into this space on this day (*blue prayer cards are read*) and all the prayers we do not yet have the words to speak. Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcome to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.

MEAL

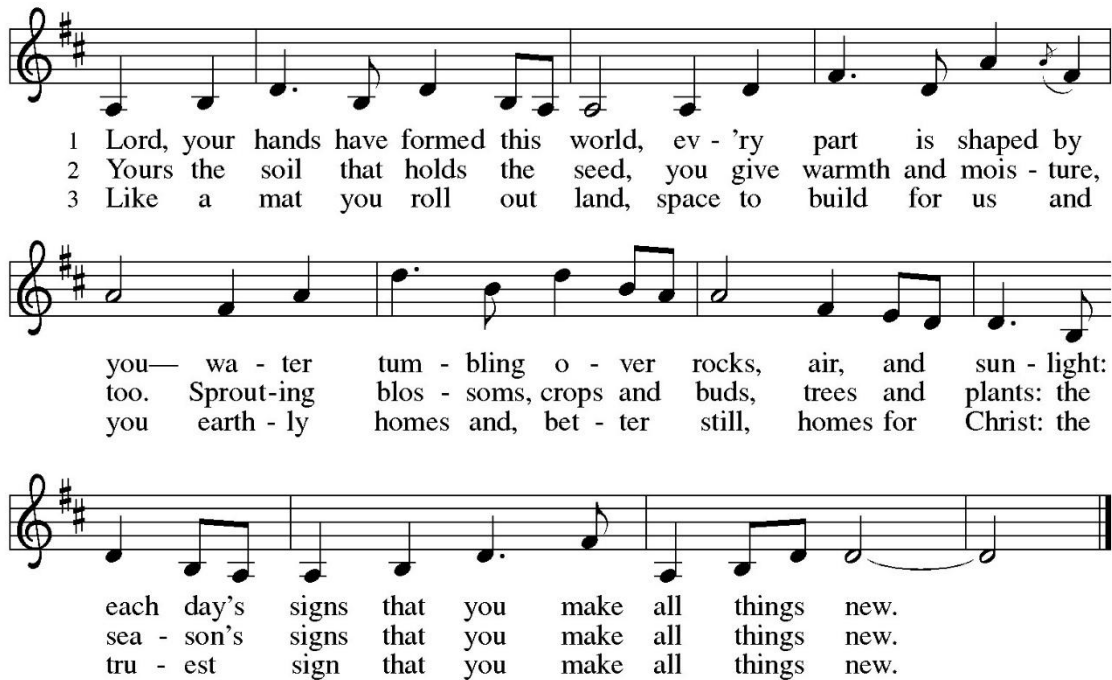
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

You are invited to share a gift to support the ministries of this congregation. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Ongoing prayer requests, guest connection cards, and communion records are also collected in the plates at this time.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Lord, Your Hands Have Formed* (ELW 554)

**Stand on verse 3*



1 Lord, your hands have formed this world, ev - 'ry part is shaped by
2 Yours the soil that holds the seed, you give warmth and mois - ture,
3 Like a mat you roll out land, space to build for us and

you— wa - ter tum - bling o - ver rocks, air, and sun - light:
too. Sprout-ing blos - soms, crops and buds, trees and plants: the
you earth - ly homes and, bet - ter still, homes for Christ: the

each day's signs that you make all things new.
sea - son's signs that you make all things new.
tru - est sign that you make all things new.

*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:

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est." The score ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

We remember the ways he showed us your love,
**living among us, healing the sick, feeding the hungry,
and with a love stronger than death, giving his life for others.**

For 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore,
his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,
we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:
carry us in your arms from death to life,
that we may be formed to live as your holy people,
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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 risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Now come. Not because you must, but because you can. Come to the table of grace and receive the gift of new life. Taste and see that the Lord is good. You are invited. God's love is for you!

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

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, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMN *I Come With Joy* (ELW 482)



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

COMMUNION HYMN *Jesu, Jesu Fill Us with Your Love* (ELW 708)

Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh - bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
 2 Neigh - bors are wealth - y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

Refrain



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 neigh - bors are near - by and far a - way.
 all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
 this is the way we will live with you.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise* (ELW 207)**



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 us in mission to the world.

***BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May the God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you now and always. **Alleluia! Amen.**

***SENDING SONG *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* (ELW 383)**



1 Christ is ris-en! Shout Ho-san-na! Cel-e-brate this day of days!
 2 Christ is ris-en! Raise your spir-its from the cav-erns of de-spair.
 3 Christ is ris-en! Earth and heav-en nev-er-more shall be the same.



Christ is ris-en! Hush in won-der: all cre-a-tion is a-mazed.
 Walk with glad-ness in the morn-ing. See what love can do and dare.
 Break the bread of new cre-a-tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des-ert all-sur-round-ing, see, a spread-ing tree has grown.
 Drink the wine of res-ur-rec-tion, not a ser-vant, but a friend.
 Tell its grim, de-mon-ic chor-us: "Christ is ris-en! Get you gone!"



Heal-ing leaves of grace a-bound-ing bring a taste of love un-known.
 Je-sus is our strong com-pan-ion. Joy and peace shall nev-er end.
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho-san-na, ev-'ry-one!

***DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

***DISMISSAL SONG: *Be Not Afraid* (ELW 388)**



Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le-lu-ia!



Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le-lu-ia!

The flowers on the altar today are presented by Jeff and Deb Martin as they are grateful for the many talented St John Lutheran members supporting our community.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Volunteer

Acolyte: Ava N

Young Reader: Ava N

Offering: Anna K & Nathan K

Greeters: Cora Steigerwalt

Last Week's Attendance: 65 + 1 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

From abandonment to homecoming and from a narrow scope to a broader vision of God's realm, these are the promises proclaimed. The early church and our faith communities are called to engage this reality. A community of Jewish Jesus-followers overcomes fear and expands to include the much larger Gentile world. In the hymnody of the psalm the whole creation and her people are ushered into praise and the trumpeting of a new community. An exiled follower of Jesus sees in the midst of his situation a vision of the Holy One who proclaims a new heaven and earth, stripped of tears and death. Finally, Jesus shares that he will no longer be physically present with his disciples, and points them to a new way of being a community of love for one another. Through the depth of the texts for this day, people are invited to explore the beauty and the messiness of community. The church, like any other human organization, is filled with the challenges of what it means to live together (for example, who is welcome? What rules do people need to follow? How do we care for one another?). Unlike other human institutions, however, we are called to be centered and re-centered in the unapologetic love for others. In our imperfection we are welcomed and called to invite others. We offer, in a spirit of humility, signs of welcome and love to others, just as God in Christ has been revealed to us.

Today's Music

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen! Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926, Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987. Augsburg Fortress.

Psalms 148. Text: *The New Metrical Psalter*, Christopher L. Webber, © 2008. Music: ST. FLAVIAN, J. Day, *Psalter*, 1562, Public Domain.

Spirit, Open My Heart. Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947, Music: Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953. Pilgrim Press/United Church Press.

Lord, Your Hands Have Formed. Text: Ramon and Sario Oliano; para. James Minchin, b. 1942; tr. Delbert Rice, Music: Ikalahan (Philippines) traditional. Augsburg Fortress /Public Domain .

I Come With Joy. Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936, Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP) / Public Domain.

Jesu, Jesu Fill Us with Your Love. Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt., Music: Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP).

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise. Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927. Augsburg Fortress.

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936, Music: Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP) / Augsburg Fortress.

Be Not Afraid. Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community, Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994. GIA Publications, Inc..

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