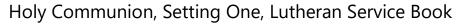
Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024 - 10:30 a.m.





Prayer before worship:

Risen Lord Jesus Christ, we come before you this day thankful for your glorious resurrection. Scatter doubt and uncertainty, and confirm our faith and trust in you. Come into our midst this day with your life-giving presence and bestow upon us your saving peace. Amen.

Prelude

"Open Now the Gates of Beauty" (J. Neander/C. Moklebust)
St. John's Handbell Ensemble

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross made be made in remembrance of Baptism

- ightharpoonup In the name of the Father, and of the ightharpoonup Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given His Son to die for you and, for His sake, forgives you all your sins. 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.

Processional Hymn "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" (LSB 465) of 1 Now all vault heav'n the re - sounds In 2 E ter nal is the He There _ gift brings, 3 O fill Lord, with us. daunt - less love: Set \triangle 4 A dor - ing prais - es And now we bring love that still praise of a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed! heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has fore our tri - umphed! heart and will on things a - bove con - quer That we the heav'n-ly bless-ed "Christ has with tri - umphed! sing: Sing, an - gels, loud He is liv ing!" choirs of and He is liv _ ing!" Now still He comes to give us through Your tri Grant suf - fi - cient for life's umph; grace le - lu ia!" Be to the Fa - ther and our clear! Re their song of peat glo ry life And by His all pres ence stills day That our lives 1y by we tru Lord, To Spir it blest, ho 1y most here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has umphed!" tri Christ has strife. tri - umphed! He liv is ing! tri - umphed! liv ing!" say: "Christ has He is God. All the glo - ry, nev - er end ing! al - le - lu al - le - lu Al - le - lu ia, ia! ia, Al - le - lu ia, al - le - lu ia, al - le - lu ia! Al - le - lu al - le - lu al - le - lu ia! ia, ia, Al - le - lu al - le - lu ia. al - le - lu ia! ia, Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt. Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln Text: © 1958 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318

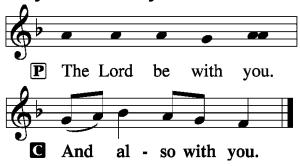
Greeting

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- **G** He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **C** And also with you.





Prayer of the Day



P 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

First Reading Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. 33In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See,

here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

I This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm (read responsively)

Psalm 150

- Praise the LORD!
 Praise God in his sanctu- | ary;*
 praise him in his mighty | heavens!
- Praise him for his | mighty deeds;*
 praise him according to his excellent | greatness!
- Praise him with | trumpet sound;* praise him with | lute and harp!
- Praise him with tambou- | rine and dance;* praise him with | strings and pipe!
- Praise him with sounding | cymbals;* praise him with loud clashing | cymbals!
- **Q** Let everything that has breath | praise the LORD!* Praise | the LORD!

Epistle 1 John 4:1-11

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is

love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

I This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel John 15:1-8

Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.

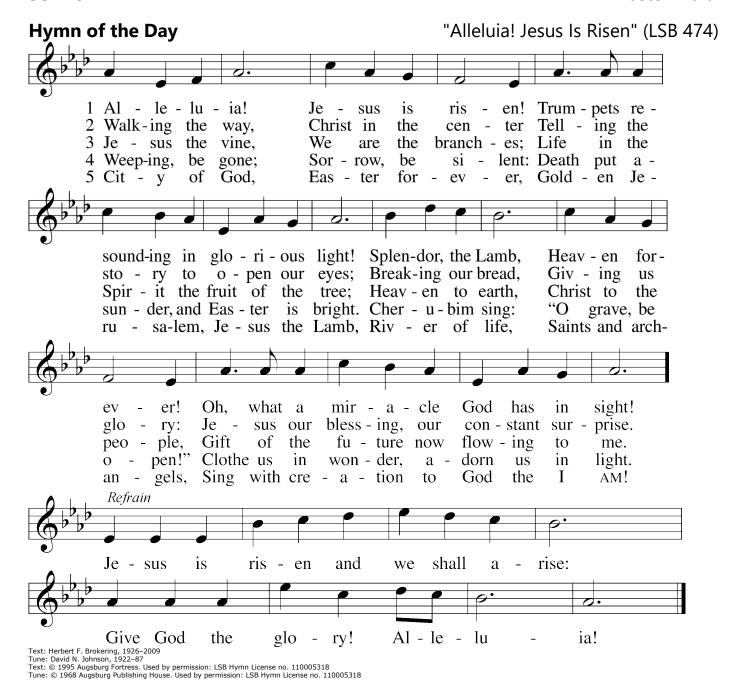
P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.



¹[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ¹If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ¹By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."



Sermon "Easter Fruit"



Profession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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.

Prayers of the People

P Rejoicing with all the witnesses of the resurrection, let us pray in confidence for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer.

During the season of Easter each petition ends with the phrase: "Hear us, O God."

Please respond by saying: "Your mercy is great."

The prayers end with the words:

- P In resurrection hope we commend to you all for whom we pray, trusting in the promise of new life; through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
- C Amen.

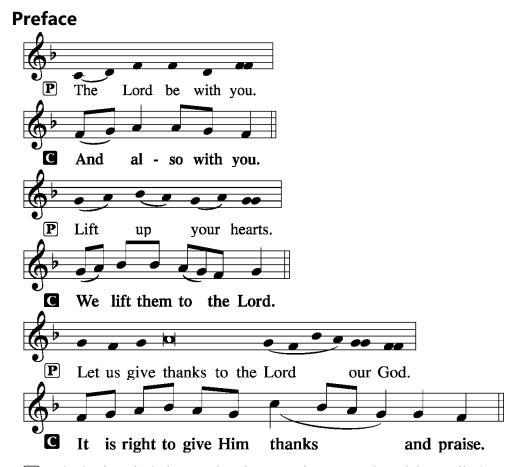
Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Announcements

Offertory 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.

Service of the Sacrament



P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his 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:







Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CAmen.

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 + 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 + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So

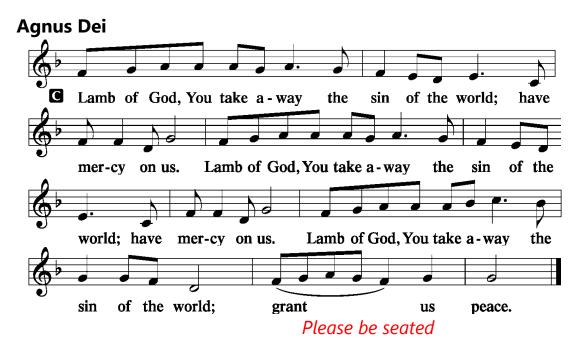
remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Pax Domini

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



Distribution of Holy Communion

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by

individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

Music at Distribution

Choir Anthem

"Easter Bells" (Michael Ryan) St. John's Handbell Ensemble

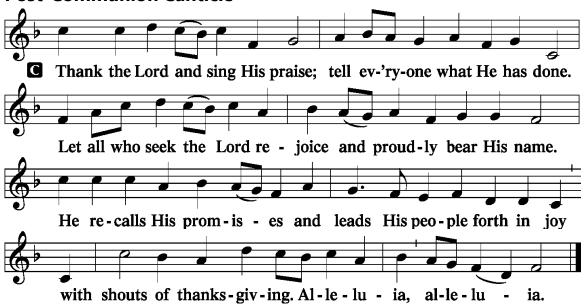


- Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
 Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
 Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
 Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God.
- Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
 The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
 The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
 Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.
- 7 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
 Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
 Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
 The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

 Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89, alt. Tune: Henry Lawes, 1595-1662, Text and tune: Public domain

"O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee" (LSB 632) bless - ed Thee Je - sus, Lord, My heart - felt to 2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth Who thanks for be, hast lov ing ev er SO dwells this day! My Sav - ior with come to me Thy 1y be - stowed On me bod - y and Thy blood. How blessed I! How good Thou heart: art! in my am Text: Thomas Hansen King, 1634–1703; tr. Arthur J. Mason, 1851–1928
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

Post-Communion Canticle



Post-Communion Collect

L Let us pray:

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

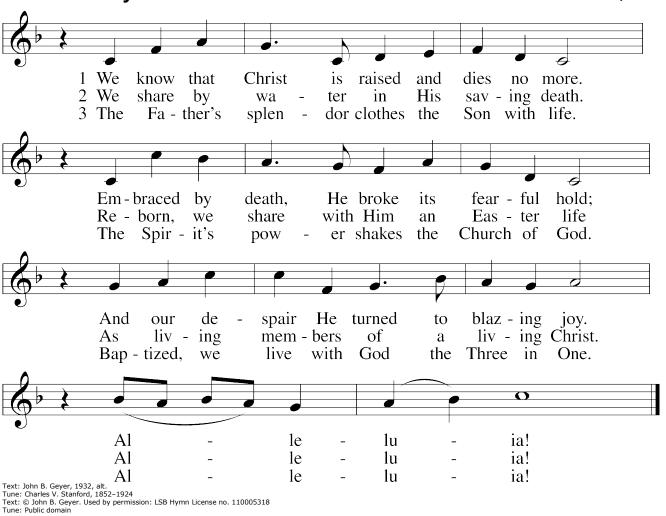
Benediction

- **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.



"We Know That Christ Is Raised" (LSB 603)



Please be seating for Congregational Voters' Meeting

+ + +

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher Pastor Meehan

Welcome/Children's Message Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship

Lay Assistant PJ Baunach
Communion Lay Assistant Jennifer Hills

Organist/Pianist David Leahey, Director of Music

Acolyte Olivia Holthoff
Crucifer Pheonix White

Usher Angela del Pielago

Arnaldo del Pielago

Altar Care Jean Gilbertson

AV Operators Greg Auld

Andrea Godwin

Welcome Host Andrea Klanderman

Nursery Angie Vazquez

+ + +

To **Give** to St. John's Lutheran Church scan this QR Code





To download our SJLC app text: "APP" or "App" or "app" to (877) 776-1304

+ + +



This weekend's **altar flowers** are given in donation to the flower fund.

+ + +

To **view** the current edition of our electronic weekly newsletter, *Midweek Update*,
scan this QR Code



Acknowledgments

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A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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