



**The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 18, 2025—11:00 am**

FAITH LUTHERAN

An Evangelical Lutheran Church

3374 Maybank Highway

John's Island, SC 29455

Church: (843) 559-1242

Email: faithjohnsisland@gmail.com

Website: www.FaithJohnsIsland.org



Ministers: *The Disciples at Faith Lutheran Church*

Pastor: *The Rev. Thulie Beresford*

Organist: *Helena Bradford*

Flutist: *Andrea Brisbin*

INTRODUCTION

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

WE PREPARE

WORSHIP PREPARATION

When you hear the Prelude, please be seated and observe silence as we prepare ourselves for the beginning of our worship service.

PRELUDE **“Cornet Voluntary”** **Willam Walond**

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Guest Musician Mr. Lee Kohlenberg

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 424

The assembly stands.

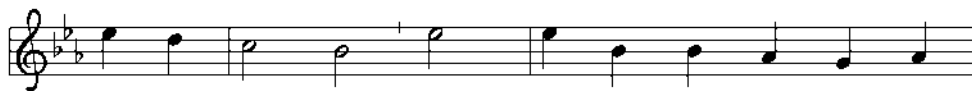
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones



1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright
2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more
3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye
4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su -



ser - aphs, cher - u - bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain:
glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es:
pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: "Al - le - lu - ia!
per - nal an - thems ech - o - ing: "Al - le - lu - ia!



"Al - le - lu - ia!" Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,
"Al - le - lu - ia!" Thou hear - er of the e - ter - nal
Al - le - lu - ia!" Ye ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyrs
Al - le - lu - ia!" To God the Fa - ther, God the



pow'rs, arch - an - gels, vir - tues, an - gel choirs:
Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the Lord:
strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the song:
Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One:



"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: J. Athelstan Riley, 1858–1945

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P The joy and peace of God be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

P In the name of ✙ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

C **Amen.**

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

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

P 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,

C **make us one as you are one.**

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

C **make us one as you are one.**

P We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night 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,

C **make us one as you are one.**

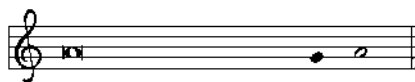
P Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

C **Amen.**

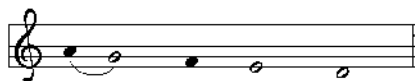
WE PRAISE GOD

KYRIE

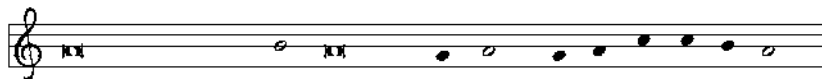
ELW pg. 147



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



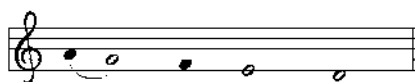
Lord, have mer - cy.



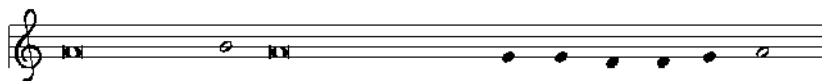
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God.



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 wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

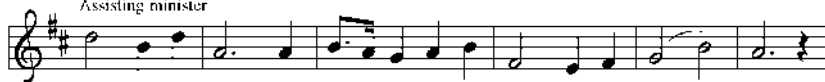
Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - - men.

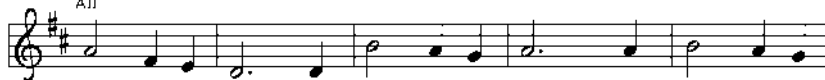
CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 148)

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



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



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

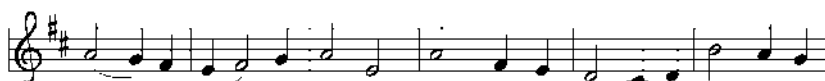
Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. 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 and hon - or and glo - ry and



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

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

C **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.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish 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' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

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."

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 148

The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.
- ² **Praise 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, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**
- ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,
- ⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**
- ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
- ⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**
- ⁹ mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
- ¹⁰ **wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**
- ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
- ¹² **young men and maidens,
old and young together.**
- ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ **The 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!**

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.

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.”

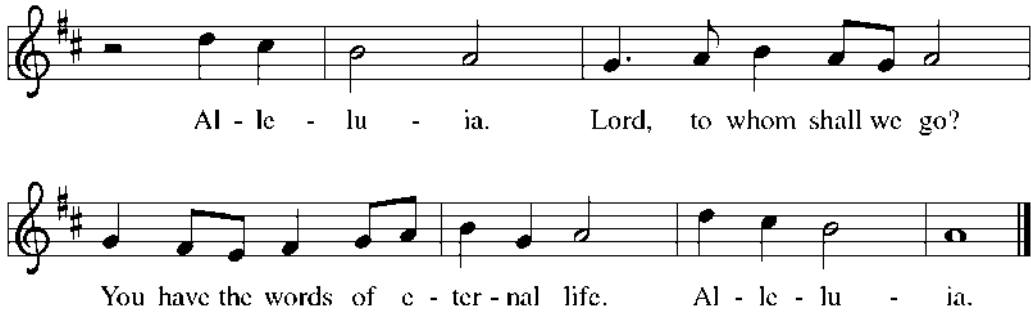
⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



Gospel: John 13:31-35

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.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 13th Chapter.

C 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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

All children are invited to come to the Altar steps for a special "Children's message".

SERMON

Rev. Thulie Beresford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 377

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



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 - est;
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 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,



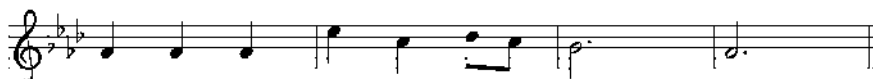
Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry;
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



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!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1989 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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THE APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

L 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.

L 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.

C Your mercy is great.

L 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.

C Your mercy is great.

L 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.

C Your mercy is great.

L Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness. Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

L Gracious God, hear the prayers we now offer, silently or aloud.
(*Brief silence for personal prayers.*) Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

L 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.

C Your mercy is great.

L We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C Amen.

SHARING OUR LORD'S PEACE

The minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C And also with you.

OFFERING (ELW p. 152)

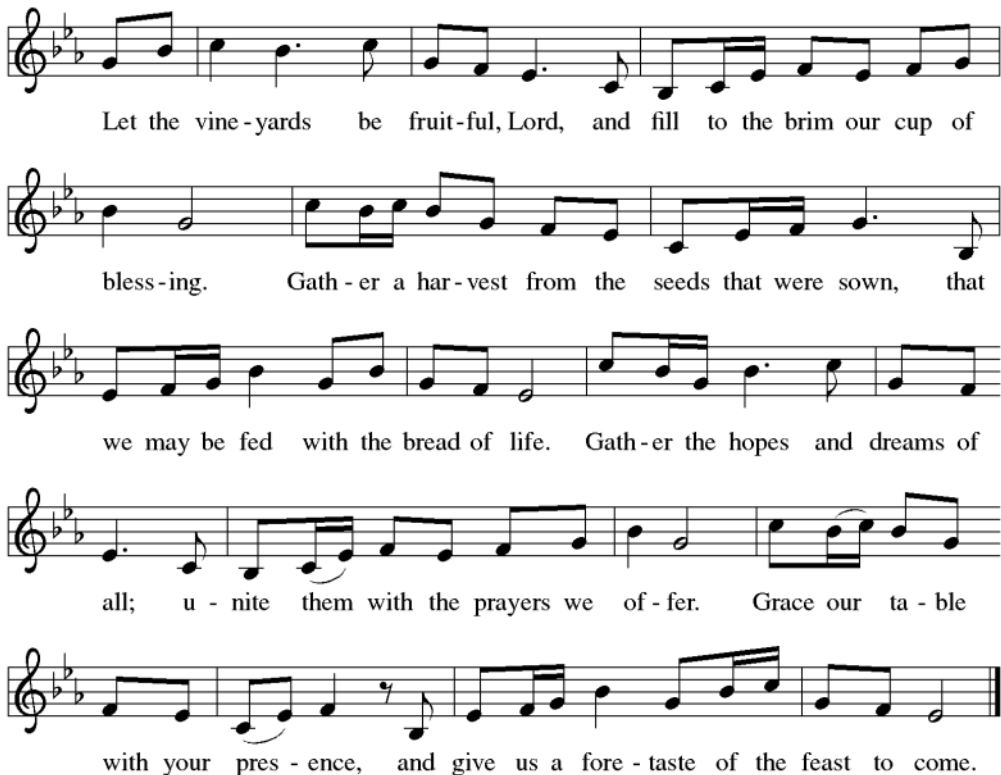
An offering is gathered for the mission of the church.

MUSICAL OFFERING “Trio in Eb:Allegro” Johann S. Bach

OFFERTORY

The offertory is sung as the offering is presented and the altar is prepared.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

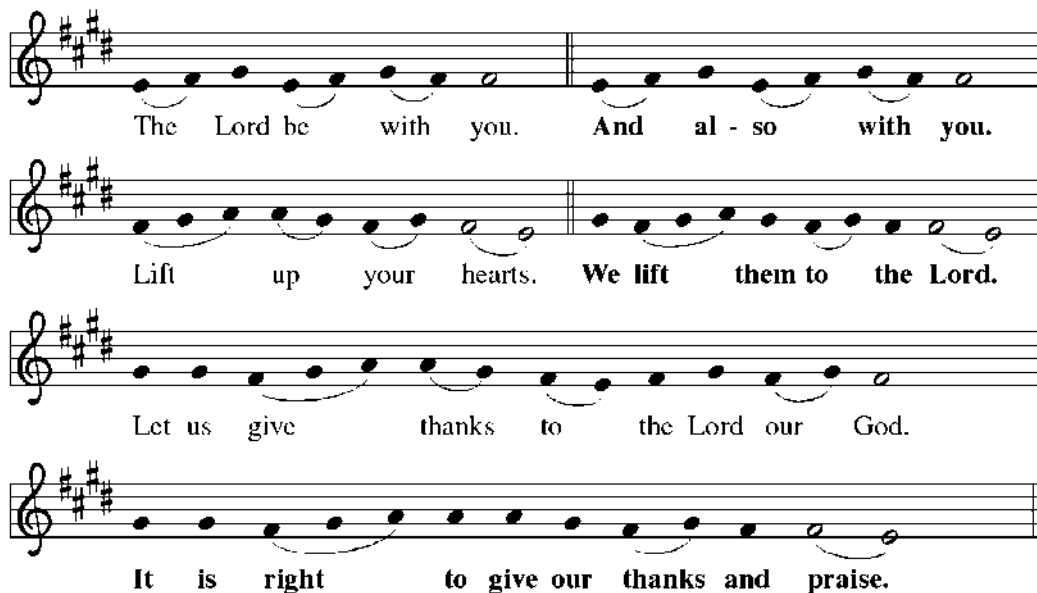
P Let us pray.

C Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

WE RECEIVE GOD'S GIFT

HOLY COMMUNION

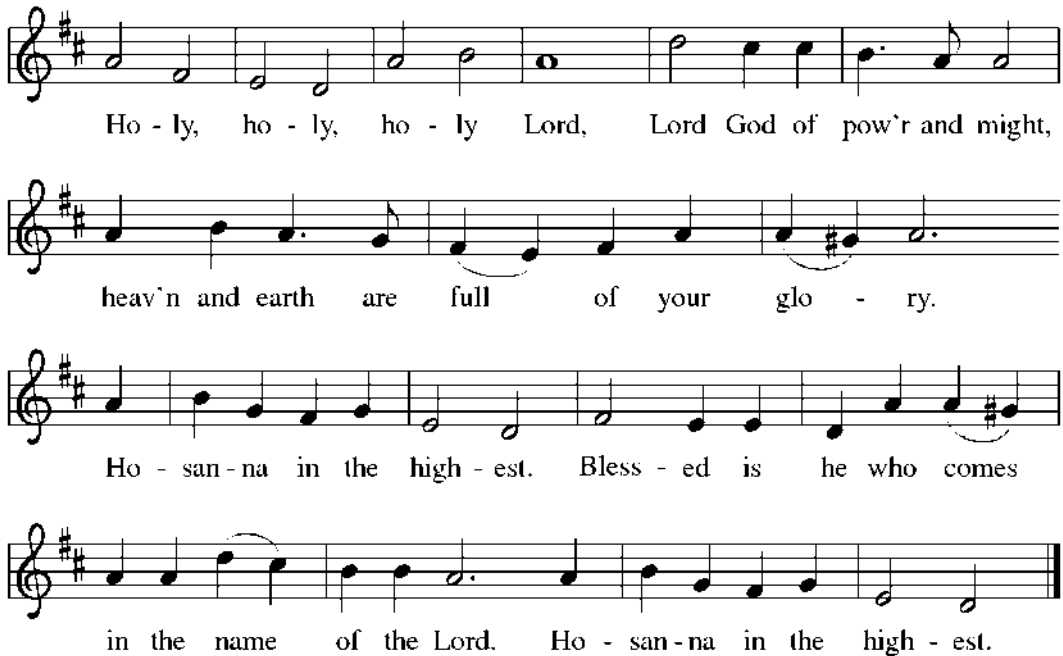
Great Thanksgiving



The presiding minister continues:

P 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 LORD



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Pastor leads us in the Words of Institution. Please direct your attention to the altar.

P 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord remember us in your kingdom 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The Gifts of God for the People of God.

C Thanks be to 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.

WE RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Distribution

Please be seated. All who celebrate with us the presence of the risen Christ in Holy Communion are invited to join us for this sacrament.

We receive communion at the communion rail. Please remain seated until the ushers invite you to commune by pew. Please return to your seat by the outside aisle. Children are invited for a blessing.

If you are visiting today, please be our guest. We welcome you to share in communion, and we invite you to sign our guestbook or speak with an usher for more information about Faith Lutheran.

If you would like communion brought to you in your pew, please notify an usher.

Communion Hymns

ELW 482 “I Come with Joy”

ELW 642 “Ubi Caritas”

Communion Blessing

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

Communion Prayer

P Let us pray.

C Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

WE ARE SENT **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

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you now and always.

C **Amen.**

P Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE “Symphony I: Finale” Louis Vierne

Statement of Purpose

As servants of Christ, we are called
to proclaim God’s saving Word in a caring, nurturing way,
to spread God’s love throughout our community, and
to provide opportunities for people to grow in Christ.

Our Worship Ends + Our Service Begins



The Fifth Sunday of Easter — May 18, 2025

The Deceptive Simplicity of Love

As the Gospel of John portrays Jesus, the rabbi often speaks in cryptic terms, and his teachings in today's reading are no exception. "The Son of Man has been glorified"? "Where I am going, you cannot come"? (John 13:31, 33). The disciples must have heard Jesus' instructions about love with a sigh of relief—finally, clear words. They are given a new commandment, to love one another, just as Jesus has loved them. All they must do is love each other, and everyone will know they're Jesus' disciples.

One wonders how long it took before the disciples realized just how complicated this was going to be. If we're honest, we have to ask, Have we figured it out in the past 2,000-plus years? After all, Jesus' love often mystifies us. Whom does he love? The leper. The tax collector. The outcast. The rich young man. The person living with addiction. The collections agent. The teen who just tagged your wall with spray paint. The wealthy CEO.

Suddenly, this loving doesn't look so easy.

The context of this week's passage makes it clear that Jesus isn't averse to speaking truth in love. Just before today's exchange, Jesus signals to Judas that he knows what he's up to. Just after, he cautions overeager Peter that despite his best intentions, he too will betray Jesus. Love isn't syrupy and bland, slathered across our world in rosy hues that cover up injustice or hard times.

Love is a commitment. Love extends outward from Jesus, through us, to bring everyone whom Jesus loves into the communion of saints. That means Judas, and Peter, and the graffiti tagger, and the CEO—and you. Us. Every person, in every pew, and every child of God who couldn't identify a pew if they skinned their shin on one.

Each of our communities is a little different. Our everyday "each others" are different too. But the good news is, "each other" always includes everyone—even us.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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