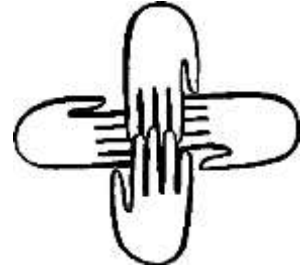


God's Service Sunday, May 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter

ELW Holy Communion Setting One



WELCOME

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. Let us take a moment to adjust our eyes to this new light as we listen to the prelude and prepare our hearts and minds to see our risen Lord in God's Service this morning.

PRELUDE “Thy Will, O Lord” by Oley

GATHERING

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

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

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

Amen.

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 beloved 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 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,
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.

GATHERING SONG "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones" (ELW 424)

1 Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,
raise the glad strain: "Alleluia!"
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, pow'rs,
archangels, virtues, angel choirs:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 O higher than the cherubim,
more glorious than the seraphim,
lead their praises: "Alleluia!"
Thou bearer of the eternal Word,
most gracious, magnify the Lord:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
ye patriarchs and prophets blest:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!"
Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong,
all saints triumphant, raise the song:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 O friends, in gladness let us sing,
supernal anthems echoing:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!"
To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text & Music: Public Domain

GREETING

Alleluia Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
The joy and peace of our risen savior be with you today and always.
And also with you.

KYRIE (ELW p. 98)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

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

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 mercy.

For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen, amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 101)

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

**Power and riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor, glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 102)

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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.

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.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 148

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD¹ from the heavens;
praise God¹ in the heights.

² **Praise the LORD,¹ all you angels;
sing praise, all you¹ hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the LORD,¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you¹ shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the LORD, heav-¹ en of heavens,
and you waters a-¹ bove the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name¹ of the LORD,
who commanded, and they¹ were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forev-¹ er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not¹ pass away. R**

⁷ Praise the LORD¹ from the earth,
you sea monsters¹ and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail,¹ snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do-¹ ing God’s will;**

⁹ mountains¹ and all hills,
fruit trees¹ and all cedars;

¹⁰ **wild beasts¹ and all cattle,
creeping things and¹ flying birds;**
¹¹ **sovereigns of the earth¹ and all peoples,
princes and all rulers¹ of the world;**
¹² **young¹ men and maidens,
old and¹ young together. R**
¹³ **Let them praise the name¹ of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over¹ earth and heaven.**
¹⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all¹ faithful
servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.¹ Hallelujah! R**

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6

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

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.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: John 13:35

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for¹ one another. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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.

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.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us" (ELW 358)

1 Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

2 We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined
yet seeking hope for humankind.

3 Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own
not through some merit, right, or claim,
but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
and find you kneeling at our feet.

4 Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

5 Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair,
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.

Text © 1977, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. ONE LICENSE: #734503-A valid 4/17/2024-4/16/2025 Music © Oxford University Press

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

We give thanks to God today for all who are graduating this year. We are especially grateful for those graduates who are connected to our Faith Lutheran family, **Claire Buchanan, Gage Hampton, Naomi Nelson, Cole Peterson, Hannah Peterson, Luke Polson and Claire Whelan.**

We are eager to see where the Spirit will lead each of them. That the same Spirit who came to them at baptism is still with each of them to comfort, lift, lead, stir them up and” intercede with sighs too deep for words.” Amidst the noise of this world listen for oft quiet voice of the Spirit and know that Jesus Christ, like this community, will continue to enfold you in his ever-loving arms refusing to ever let go of you.

In his letter to the Philippians St. Paul Writes:

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in everyone of my prayers for you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident in this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” (Phil 1:3-6)

Let us pray,

Dear God whose love knows no ending, together we rejoice with our graduates today giving thanks to you for their lives among us. This life is both beautiful and difficult sometimes at the very same time. We ask that you support and protect them as they find their way. May they feel the strength and assurance of your ever-loving arms around them as you fill their wings that they may fly with you on this heart-thumping journey. Grant them ears to hear your words of grace and acceptance for them as well as for others. Grant them hands that reach out that they might experience and share the

abundant life you have for each of them. Bless them and those that surround them that together we may all know and share your abundant and life-giving love. Amen
Congratulations and God Speed Graduates in your life ahead.

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.

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 we pray for the family and friends of Shirley Smith, Anna, Ernie, Chris, Kay, Carolyn, Cheryl, Gene, Darla, Karla, Jim, and these others we name now in our hearts and with our voices. 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. Grant strength, perseverance and justice for our indigenous brothers and sisters who's loved ones have been murdered or are missing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love (*especially Erik, King of Sweden who we commemorate today*). Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of our risen Lord be with you now and always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

SHARING GOD'S ABUNDANCE

The stone is rolled back again and again, as many times as it takes for us to see our Lord. He calls us by name, again and again, as many times as it takes for us to hear him. And in the love poured out for us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus we receive grace upon grace, new life and unimaginable abundance that we are sent to share with this hurting world in the hope that all may live in new life through Jesus Christ our Lord. If you have abundance to share this morning please raise your hand and an usher will be by to collect it.

OFFERING MUSIC “You are the Way” arr. by Miller

SETTING OF THE TABLE “Now the Green Blade Rises” (ELW 379)

1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

2 In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 107)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE (ELW p. 108)

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 (ELW p. 108)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 108)

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

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

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

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

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

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

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

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

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 112)

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

Receive who you are, become what you receive. Come all who hunger to know the love of God. Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life. For all are always welcome at this table.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 112)

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 112)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC “Idyll” by Ashdown

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 114)

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.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are *sick/homebound/imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG “A New Commandment” (WOV 664)

A new commandment I give unto you,
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this shall people know you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another;
by this shall people know you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another.

Text & Music: Public Domain

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Upcoming Commemorations

Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.

Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783; scientists

Saturday, May 24, 2025

These two men were both scientists who helped to explain the wonders of God's universe. Copernicus is best known for promoting the idea that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of our solar system. Euler was one of the founders of pure mathematics, and contributed to many other fields.

GATHERING SONG “Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones” (ELW 424) Text & Music: Public Domain **HYMN OF THE DAY “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us” (ELW 358)** Text © 1977, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. ONE LICENSE: #734503-A valid 4/17/2024-4/16/2025 Music © Oxford University Press **SETTING OF THE TABLE “Now the Green Blade Rises” (ELW 379)** Text from Oxford Book of Carols, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved. ONE LICENSE: #734503-A valid 4/17/2024-4/16/2025 Music: Public Domain **SENDING SONG “A New Commandment” (WOV 664)** Text & Music: Public Domain From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.