

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Julia Stoner

Acolyte

Missionaries: The Rev. Dr. Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann

Sunday bulletins, news, puzzles, and sermons are available on our website listed above. Services are live-streamed on our Facebook page.

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The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prayer on entering church: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

In The Garden

Robert Lau

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

Hymnal p. 477

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim For the world's salvation bled
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:
See the ancient pow'rs of evil In confusion and retreat;
Once He died, and once was buried: Now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:
Alleluia to the Savior Who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia To the triune Majesty!

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CONGREGATIONAL GREETINGS

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross (+) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION¹

P: Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, You have brought us together into Your presence to offer You our prayers and praise, hear Your holy word, and partake of the blessed sacrament of Holy Communion. Prepare our hearts and minds to worship You and receive Your gifts by giving us the spirit of repentance. Help us to approach the mercy seat of Christ and sincerely confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by Your infinite goodness and mercy.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

(We take a moment of silence before the Lord as we call to mind how we have not properly loved Him, ourselves, or other people.)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I 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.

KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Hymnal p. 155

This Is the Feast

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor,
blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all Creation:
Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and
the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.
Alleluia. *Refrain*

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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.

FIRST READING

Acts 11:1–18

L: The first reading for the Fifth Sunday of Easter is from chapter eleven of Acts.

The Lord convinces Peter that Gentiles may be baptized into the one Church.
Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 148

L: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted;
His majesty is above earth and heaven.

**C: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted;
His majesty is above earth and heaven.**

L: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
Praise Him in the heights!
Praise Him, all His angels;
Praise Him, all His hosts!

**C: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted;
His majesty is above earth and heaven.**

L: Praise Him, sun and moon,
Praise Him all you shining stars!
Praise Him, you highest heavens,
And you waters above the heavens!

**C: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted;
His majesty is above earth and heaven.**

L: Let them praise the name of the Lord!
For He commanded and they were created.
And He established them forever and ever;
He gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was
in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**C: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted;
His majesty is above earth and heaven.**

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:1–7

L: The second reading is from chapter twenty-one of Revelation.

*John sees a vision of the new Jerusalem, adorned as a bride for her husband,
coming down from heaven.*

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE (*please rise and sing*)

Hymnal p. 156

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 16:12–22

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. John, chapter sixteen.

C: (*sung*) Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus prepares His disciples for His absence that will last for “a little while.”

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (*sung*) Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come

again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives

Hymnal p. 468

I am content! My Jesus ever lives, In whom my heart is pleased.

He has fulfilled the Law of God for me,

God's wrath He has appeased.

Since He in death could perish never,

I also shall not die forever. I am content! I am content!

I am content! My Jesus is my head; His member I shall be.

He bowed His head when on the cross He died

With cries of agony.

Now death is brought into subjection

For me by Jesus' resurrection. I am content! I am content!

I am content! My Jesus is my light, My radiant sun of grace.

His cheering rays beam blessings forth for all,

Sweet comfort, hope, and peace.

This Easter sun has brought salvation

And everlasting exultation. I am content! I am content!

I am content! At length I shall be free,

Awakened from the dead, Arising glorious evermore to be

With You, my living head.

The chains that hold my body, sever;

Then shall my soul rejoice forever. I am content! I am content!

SERMON

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Oh, How Blest Are They

Richard C. Resche

OFFERING PRAYER *(please rise and sing)*

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for ourselves, the church and the world.

Following each petition:

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) is being celebrated in today's service. In preparation for that, please be reminded that the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper are not merely representations or symbols of Jesus' body and blood but Jesus' body and blood sacrificed on the cross are present in, with, and under the bread and wine (The Real Presence). How is this possible? This is beyond human understanding, but we remember that with God all things are possible. This truth is a divine mystery instituted by Jesus, taught by his Apostles, fervently held by the Christian church, and one in which we participate through faith. To be properly prepared to receive this sacrament, you must

- 1) Recognize that you have indeed sinned against God and other people and are accountable to God for those sins;
- 2) Be sorry (repentant) for those sins;
- 3) Believe that in this sacrament Jesus bestows forgiveness, life, and salvation; and
- 4) Sincerely desire to live a godly life from this point forward.

If you are not a member of Christ Lutheran Church, please speak with the pastor before receiving communion here for the first time. If you choose to come forward to receive a blessing rather than the Lord's Supper, indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(sung)* **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: *(sung)* **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

C: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you in all ways.

C: *(sung)* Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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.

Prayer before communing: Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit one God now and forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

Form a line at the communion rail starting at the left side. When the line is half full, begin filling it in from the right side. When invited, approach the rail and kneel/stand. If you want to receive a gluten-free wafer at communion, let the worship assistant know as he comes by with the wafers. After communion, exit through the right doorway, place individual communion cups in the tray, and proceed down the stairs back to your seat.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Glory Be to God the Father

Hymnal p. 506

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit:
Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory While eternal ages run!
Glory be to Him who loved us,
Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to Him who bought us,
Made us kings with Him to reign!
Glory, glory, To the Lamb that once was slain!
Glory to the King of angels,
Glory to the Church's King,
Glory to the King of nations;
Heav'n and earth, your praises bring!
Glory, glory, To the King of glory sing!
Glory, blessing, praise eternal!
Thus the choir of angels sings;
Honor, riches, pow'r, dominion!
Thus its praise creation brings.
Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

God Loved the World

Hymnal p. 571

God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.
Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

**God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.
If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.
Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!**

VOLUNTARY

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

James J. Stanley

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

**Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ry-one what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your

Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

C: *(sung)* **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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: *(sung)* **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

Hymnal p. 837

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

**Come Christians follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ the Son of God. *Refrain:***

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign
The host of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *Refrain:***

**All new born soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain:***

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain:***

**Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. *Refrain:***

**So shall our song of triumph ever be.
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain:***

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Prayer after worship: Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen

POSTLUDE

Paeon on "Hymn to Joy"

David Lasky

¹*The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."* John 20:22-23. We take heart that the absolution proclaimed by the pastor is as from the Lord Himself.

²*It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.* Romans 10:10. Our response to the Word of God that has just been read is our confession of faith in the one, true, triune God.

³Martin Luther teaches us about hearing the Word: "Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God's commandment, who will require of you how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word." (Large Catechism) *Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!* Luke 11:28

Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.