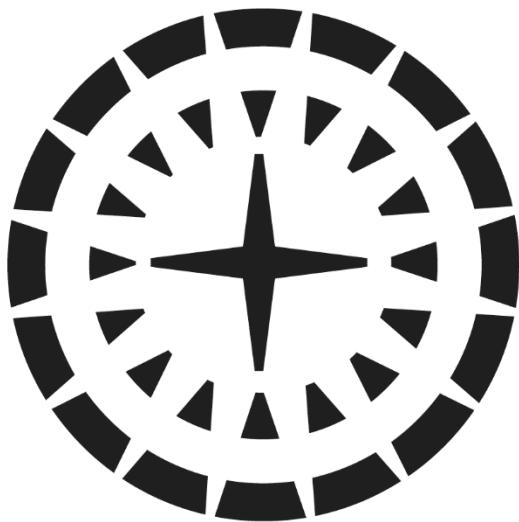




St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 25, 2025

10:30 Holy Communion

Jesus asked his disciples who people say that he is. They list John the Baptist, Elijah or one of the other prophets. Then he asks them who they say he is. Peter replies, "The Messiah of God." That's quite inciteful on Peter's part! But what does that actually mean? Jesus goes on to explain it but the disciples don't know what to make of what he says.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is available in the nursery.

✠ GATHERING ✠

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn Gather Us In

(For music turn to Hymn 532 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**
2. **We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.**
3. **Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**
4. **Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

Thanksgiving for 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 into the baptismal font or a bowl as we continue.

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.

Hymn of Praise I Am the Resurrection and the Life

(For music turn to Hymn 16 in the Songbook binder)

Chorus

**I am the resurrection and the life
all who believe in Me will never die
I am the resurrection and the life
all who believe in Me will live a new life.**

1. I have come to bring the truth

**I have come to bring you life
if you believe then you shall live.**

Chorus

2. In My word all men will come to know

**it is love which makes the spirit grow
if you believe then you shall live.**

Chorus

3. Keep in mind the things that I have said

**remember Me in the breaking of the bread
if you believe then you shall live.**

Chorus

Text and music: Ray Repp, CCLI #9189, Copyright 1967 K & R Music Publishing

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading Hebrews 2:10-18

B: It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying,

‘I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.’

¹³ And again,

‘I will put my trust in him.’

And again,

‘Here am I and the children whom God has given me.’

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters^[f] in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 31:1-8 (*read responsively*)

D: Shelter me, Lord,
save me from shame.

**C: Let there be justice:
save me!**

D: Help me! Listen!
Be quick to the rescue!
Be my fortress, my refuge.

**C: You my rock, and fortress,
prove your good name.**

D: Guide me, lead me,
free me from their trap.

**C: You are my shelter;
I put myself in your hands,
knowing you will save me,
Lord God of truth.**

D: You hate the slaves of idols,
but I trust in you.

C: I dance for joy at your constant love.

Second Reading Romans 1:16-23

E: [Paul writes:] For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, ‘The one who is righteous will live by faith.’

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse; ²¹ for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools; ²³ and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Galatians 6:14)

C: Alleluia. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Luke 9:18-27

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 9th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹⁸ Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, 'Who do the crowds say that I am?' ¹⁹ They answered, 'John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.' ²⁰ He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered, 'The Messiah of God.'

²¹ He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, ²² saying, 'The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.'

²³ Then he said to them all, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves? ²⁶ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words, of them the Son of Man will be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. ²⁷ But truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.'

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day O Jesus, I Have Promised

(For music see Hymn 810 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me,
my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.**
- 2. Oh, let me feel you near me;
the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer
to shield my soul from sin.**
- 3. Oh, let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control
now speak and make me listen,
O Guardian of my soul.**
- 4. O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you
that where you are in glory
your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised**

**to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow,
my master and my friend.**

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1974, alt. Music: *Neuvermehrtes*, Meiningen, 1693

Nicene Creed

P: Let us confirm our faith with the Nicene Creed

**C: 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 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.**

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: We share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Special Music and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

You are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.

✠ MEAL ✠

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord

For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

**Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.**

**Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.**

**Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Issues raised by the congregation are prayed for.

The prayer concludes:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has embodied the promise of 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 all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)

**C: 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.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, 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: Come, the Lord invites all people to the table.

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. We use wheat bread and wine for communion. If you would prefer a gluten free wafer instead of bread please tell the communion assistant. Also, if you prefer grape juice to wine, it is available pre-filled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

515 *Break Now the Bread of Life (Red Hymnal)*

516 *Almighty God, Your Word is Cast (Red Hymnal)*

Communion Blessing *After all have communed the pastor will say:*

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

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray:

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

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

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.

Sending Hymn On What Has Now Been Sown

(For music see Hymn 550 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. On what has now been sown
your blessing now bestow;
the pow'r is yours alone
to make it sprout and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise,
and yours alone shall be the praise!**

2. To you our wants are known,

from you are all our pow'rs;
accept what is your own
and pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers
receive and to your word a blessing give.

3. Oh, grant that each of us,
now met before you here,
may meet together thus
when you and yours appear,
and follow you to heav'n our home.
E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807 alt. Music: John Darwall, 1731-1789

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Sue Kaufmann
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Emma Deibler
Communion Assistants	Linda Flood
Counters	Anne Stromstad and Michele Myers
Coffee Hour	

Worship assistants for next Sunday, May 25

Greeters and Ushers	Linda Flood
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour	

Scripture readings from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States, unless otherwise noted. Psalm from *The Psalter* copyright 1994, Liturgical Training Publications. Variable worship texts from *Sundays and Seasons 2025* copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress.

St. John's Lutheran Church

888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192

The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
William Shi, Pianist