



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2025

10:30 Holy Communion

In today's gospel we read of Easter evening when Jesus appears to his frightened and confused followers. How will he treat these followers who promised undying loyalty yet abandoned him at the first sign of trouble?

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 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight
(For music turn to Hymn 675 in the Blue Hymnal)

1. **We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e're spoke:
"My peace be with you here."**
2. **We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"**
3. **Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found:**
4. **And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.**

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.; Music: Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816; arr. With one Voice, 1995. Arr. copyright Augsburg Fortress 1995

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

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow 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 Isaiah 50:4-7

B: ⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—

wakens my ear

to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord God has opened my ear,

and I was not rebellious,

I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,

and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord God helps me;

therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,

and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

he who vindicates me is near.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 47 (*read responsively*)

D: All the peoples, clap your hands,

shout your joy to God.

**C: For God Most High is awesome,
great king of all the earth.**

D: The One who conquers peoples

and sets them at our feet

chooses for beloved Jacob

a land to be our pride.

**C: God ascends the mountain
to cheers and trumpet blasts.**

D: Sing out your praise to God,
to the king, sing out your praise.

**C: For God rules the earth;
sing praise with all your skill.**

D: God rules over nations,
high on the sacred throne.

**C: Foreign rulers join
the people of Abraham's God;
all the powers on earth
belong to God on high.**

Second Reading Hebrews 4:12-16

E: ¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. ¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (John 2:11)

C: Alleluia. Jesus revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him. Alleluia

Gospel Reading Luke 24:36-53

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

³⁶While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?" ³⁹Look at my

hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish,⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.⁵² And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Thy Holy Wings

(For music see Hymn 613 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Thy holy wings, O Savior,
spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely
through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion,
my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment
be lived within thy grace.**
2. **Oh, let me nestle near thee,
within thy downy breast**

where I will find sweet comfort
and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me
and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn
and need thy tender care.

3. Oh, wash me in the waters
of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit,
a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping
thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber,
enfold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Ber, 1832-1903, sts. 1,3; Gracia Crindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite. Text Copyright 1983 Gracia Grindal, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc. Music: Swedish folk tune; arr. hymnal version. Arr. Copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress

✠ BAPTISM ✠

We celebrate the baptism of Lucie Faustine Malahieude

Please turn to the Service of Holy Baptism on page 227 in the front of the Red Hymnal.

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

✠ MEAL ✠

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Risen One,

C: 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

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)

491 *Come Let Us Eat (Red Hymnal)*

485 *I Am the Bread of Life (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 I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me
(For music see Hymn 860 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**
2. **Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**
3. **When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

Text and music: African American Spiritual

Dismissal

**P: Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.
C: God's Work. Our Hands.**



Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Mary and Greg Zuege
Acolyte	Charlotte Stroup
Altar Care	Emma Deibler
Communion Assistants	Mary Zuege
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson

Worship assistants for next Sunday, May 11

Greeters and Ushers	John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Elijah Young
Counters	Mary and Greg Zuege
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.

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