

**Stewardship 2025
United in Christ**



**Yesterday,
Today and
Tomorrow**

Psalm 46:7 “The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.”

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 18, 2025
8:00 AM Traditional Worship**

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz

Lector: Sandy Grant

Acolytes: Lucas Peterson & Slayton Hoverson

Ushers: Jeffrey Morgan, Jerry Graffin, Jerry Buskager, Mark Holzhuter

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Våren” by Evard Grieg – Kyla Betts soloist

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

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.

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.

Stand

HYMN: "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones ELW #424 vs. 1 ,3 & 4

**Vs. 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!**

**Vs. 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!**

**Vs. 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!**

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

LITANY

P: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

P: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

P: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "You Servants of God" ELW #825 vs. 1 & 4

Vs. 1: You servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!

Vs. 4: Then let us adore and give him his right,
all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Sit

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

¹⁻³ The news traveled fast and in no time the leaders and friends back in Jerusalem heard about it—heard that the non-Jewish “outsiders” were now “in.” When Peter got back to Jerusalem, some of his old associates, concerned about circumcision, called him on the carpet: “What do you think you’re doing rubbing shoulders with that crowd, eating what is prohibited and ruining our good name?” ⁴⁻⁶ So Peter, starting from the beginning, laid it out for them step-by-step: “Recently I was in the town of Joppa praying. I fell into a trance and saw a vision: Something like a huge blanket, lowered by ropes at its four corners, came down out of heaven and settled on the ground in front of me. Milling around on the blanket were farm animals, wild animals, reptiles, birds—you name it, it was there. Fascinated, I took it all in. ⁷⁻¹⁰ “Then I heard a voice: ‘Go to it, Peter—kill and eat.’ I said, ‘Oh, no, Master. I’ve never so much as tasted food that wasn’t kosher.’ The voice spoke again: ‘If God says it’s okay, it’s okay.’ This happened three times, and then the blanket was pulled back up into the sky. ¹¹⁻¹⁴ “Just then three men showed up at the house where I was staying, sent from Caesarea to get me. The Spirit told me to go with them, no questions asked. So I went with them, I and six friends, to the man who had sent for me. He told us how he had seen an angel right in his own house, real as his next-door neighbor, saying, ‘Send to Joppa and get Simon, the one they call Peter. He’ll tell you something that will save your life—in fact, you and everyone you care for.’ ¹⁵⁻¹⁷ “So I started in, talking. Before I’d spoken half a dozen sentences, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as he did on us the first time. I remembered Jesus’ words: ‘John baptized with water; you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ So I ask you: If God gave the same exact gift to them as to us when we believed in the Master Jesus Christ, how could I object to God?” ¹⁸ Hearing it all laid out like that, they quieted down. And then, as it sank in, they started praising God. “It’s really happened! God has broken through to the other nations, opened them up to Life!”

P: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL CANTICLE: “I Love to Tell the Story” ELW #661 vs. 1

**Vs. 1: I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.**

***Refrain:* I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

The Gospel is announced...

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 13:31-35

³¹⁻³² When he had left, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is seen for who he is, and God seen for who he is in him. The moment God is seen in him, God’s glory will be on display. In glorifying him, he himself is glorified—glory all around! ³³ “Children, I am with you for only a short time longer. You are going to look high and low for me. But just as I told the Jews, I’m telling you: ‘Where I go, you are not able to come.’ ³⁴⁻³⁵ “Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Stand

HYMN: “Now the Green Blade Rises” ELW #379

**Vs. 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.**

**Vs. 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.**

**Vs. 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.**

**Vs. 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.**

APOSTLE'S 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

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

P: 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.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERTORY: "Christ Our Peace" Haugen

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: 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.

C: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORDS PRAYER:

“Fadervor” – Kyla Betts soloist
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 to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life. The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Music is played as those who wish to come forward for communion come forward and kneel at the communion rail. Others are invited to commune in your pew.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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.
C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING

P: 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.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

SENDING HYMN: "On Jordon's Stormy Bank I Stand" ELW #437

**Vs. 1: On Jordan's stormy bank I stand, and cast a wishful eye
to Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.**

**Refrain: I am bound for the promised land, I am bound for the promised land;
oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land.**

**Vs. 2: All o'er those wide extended plains shines one eternal day;
there God the Son forever reigns and scatters night away. *Refrain...***

**Vs. 3: No chilling winds or pois'nous breath can reach that healthful shore;
sickness and sorrow, pain and death, are felt and feared no more. *Refrain...***

**Vs. 4: When shall I reach that happy place and be forever blest?
When shall I see my Savior's face and in God's bosom rest? *Refrain...***

POSTLUDE: "Promised Land" Walker/Carlson