

May 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00am - Service with Holy Communion

Pastor Ben Groth, Preaching and Presiding

Matthew Harrison, Director of Music

Welcome!

Welcome! We are so glad you have joined us for worship! If this is your first time here, please fill out the yellow welcome card in the pew and place it in the offering plate if you would like to be contacted by Pastor Ben, would like more information about the church, or would like to sign up for our weekly news email.

Restrooms: Our restrooms are located downstairs at the bottom of the stairways at the back of the sanctuary. There are signs about which side has the men's and women's restrooms. There are any-gender solo restrooms in the education wing, one of which has a changing table. Please knock and ensure no one else is inside!

Care and Prayer: If you would like to request prayer or speak with Pastor Ben about struggles, joys, or anything else, please feel free to email him at bgroth@1stlutherannb.org or call/text at 860-348-3966.

Children: We love having children in worship! At the front of the sanctuary there is a "pray ground" with lots of space to spread out and sit comfortably, some toys, and a great collection of books for different ages. All children and caretakers are welcome to use that space anytime during the service!

Volunteering: We have lots of opportunities at First Lutheran to volunteer and serve our community. Our Monday Morning Mingle free meal takes place from 8-9am each Monday, while our free Pasta Dinners take place from 5-6pm each Wednesday. Both of these programs can always use volunteers. If you'd like to help out, or are interested in helping with worship or other things at First Lutheran, please contact Pastor Ben.

Coffee Hour: After the service, please join us downstairs for donuts, coffee, and a chance to get to know one another better!

Gathering _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as able

Easter Litany

- P** Praise God all you people.
God has triumphed over death and we are transformed!
- C** **The One who taught us how to pray, to serve, to love,
even unto death, has taught us how to live a new life.**
- P** The light of a new day dawns;
let shouts of praise burst forth from our hearts.
- C** **We have witnessed Love crucified and resurrected;
let the earth resound with delight.**
- P** The body that was broken is restored;
let us make a joyful noise.
- C** **The cross is vacant;
let us dance in celebration.**
- P** The tomb is empty;
let us sing alleluias with glad spirits.
- C** **The risen Christ greets us with love;
let us shed tears of joy.**
- P** We have received the gift of new life;
let us clap our hands in triumph.
- C** **We have been given grace in abundance;
let us rejoice with thanksgiving.**
- P** Praise God all you people.
God has triumphed over death and we are transformed!
- C** **The One who taught us how to pray, to serve, to love,
even unto death, has taught us how to live a new life.
Alleluia. Alleluia!**

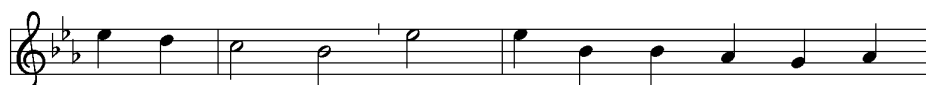
THE GATHERING HYMN # 424 Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones



1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright
 2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more
 3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye
 4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su -



ser - aphs, cher - u - bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain:
 glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es:
 pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: "Al - le - lu - ia!
 per - nal an - thems ech - o - ing: "Al - le - lu - ia!



"Al - le - lu - ia!" Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,
 "Al - le - lu - ia!" Thou bear - er of the e - ter - nal
 Al - le - lu - ia!" Ye ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyr
 Al - le - lu - ia!" To God the Fa - ther, God the



pow'rs, arch - an - gels, vir - tues, an - gel choirs:
 Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the Lord:
 strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the song:
 Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One:



"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

THE EASTER GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O Lord God,
C 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.

Please be seated

Word

THE FIRST READING

Acts 11:1-18

A A reading from Acts:

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴Then 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. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The 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. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered

the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If 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?" ¹⁸When 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." The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM 148

Read Responsively

A ¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

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

A ³Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

C ⁴**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

A ⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,

C ⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

A ⁷Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

C ⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

A ⁹mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

C ¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

A ¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

C ¹²**young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

A ¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

C ¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for
all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near
the LORD. Hallelujah!**

THE SECOND READING

Revelation 21:1-6

A A reading from Revelation:

¹I 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. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And 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;
⁴he 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.”

⁵And 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.” ⁶Then 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.” The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.*Please stand as able*

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

- le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

P The Holy Gospel according to John

C Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 13:31-35

P ³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little 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.’ ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

THE SERMON

Pastor Ben Groth

Please stand as able

HYMN OF THE DAY # 482

I Come With Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

THE PRAYERS

- A** 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.*

- A** 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.**

- A** Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward 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.**

- A** 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 Scott, Gini and Bill. Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

- A** 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.**

- A** We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love especially Jane Landry and Josephine Borselle. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

- A** 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.

C **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

**The ministers and congregation may greet one another
in the name of the Lord.**

P Peace be with you. **C** Peace be with you.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERING is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

OFFERING MUSIC

The offering is brought to the altar during the Offertory Response

Please stand as able

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

To All Those With Bread

To all those with bread give — hun - ger for jus - tice, and to

all those who hun - ger give bread. To

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Risen One,
 you call us to believe and bear fruit.
 May the gifts that we offer here
 be signs of your abiding love.
 Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
 through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

G Amen.

Meal _____

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE INITIAL DIALOG

The Lord be with you. **F** **Dm⁷** **Gm⁷** **And al - so with you.**
Dm⁷E^bmaj⁷ **Gm⁷** **C^{II}** **F**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Dm⁷ **E^bmaj⁷** **Gm⁷** **C^{II}** **F**

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of pow-er and might. Heav-en and
earth are full of your glo - - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Blest is the
one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

THE THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
- 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.**

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

- P** The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

Please be seated

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

THE COMMUNION HYMN # 437 On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand

1 On Jor-dan's storm-y bank I stand, and cast a wish-ful eye
 2 All o'er those wide ex-tend-ed plains shines one e-ter-nal day;
 3 No chill-ing winds or poi-s'nous breath can reach that health-ful shore;
 4 When shall I reach that hap-py place and be for-ev-er blest?

to Ca-naan's fair and hap-py land, where my pos-ses-sions lie.
 there God the Son for-ev-er reigns and scat-ters night a-way.
 sick-ness and sor-row, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.
 When shall I see my Sav-ior's face and in God's bos-om rest?

Refrain

I am bound for the prom-ised land, I am bound for the prom-ised land;

oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom-ised land.

Sending

Please stand as able

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C Amen

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.

C Amen

THE BENEDICTION

P Go out into the world in peace;
have courage;
hold on to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, and help the suffering;
honor all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
May the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
One God, mother of us all,
Bless you this day and always,

C Amen

THE SENDING HYMN # 361

The Day of Resurrection



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,

the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God,
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in,
 all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
 Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry,
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!
 and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

THE DISMISSAL

- A** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
A Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Thanks to
Worship Assistant
Nancy Peterson
Communion Assistant
Cheryl Brideaux
Reader
Walter Carlson
Ushers
Jane Holmstrom, Elaine Borselle
and
Videographer
Eric Nilsson
for volunteering
to be a part of the service this morning

People Power for 5/25/2025
Worship Assistant - John Prosen
Communion Assistant - Louise Patterson
Reader - Holly Erickson
Ushers - Paul Koerner, John Halverson

calendar

- May 19** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- May 20** - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company
- May 20** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- May 21** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- May 21** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- May 21** - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- May 21** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- May 23** - Friday, 2pm - Cleaning Company
- May 25** - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group
- May 25** - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion
- May 26 - MEMORIAL DAY - OFFICE CLOSED**
- May 26** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- May 27** - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company
- May 27** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- May 27** - Tuesday, 6pm - Bible Study
- May 27** - Tuesday, 7pm - Council Meeting
- May 28** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- May 28** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- May 28** - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- May 28** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- May 30 - SYNOD ASSEMBLY - OFFICE CLOSED**
- May 30** - Friday, 2pm - Cleaning Company
- June 1** - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group
- June 1** - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion
- June 2** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- June 3** - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company
- June 3** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- June 3** - Tuesday, 7pm - Executive Meeting

Monday Morning Mingle 8am-9am
 Wednesday Come-As- You-Are Worship Service 4:30pm
 Wednesday Pasta Dinner 5pm-5:45pm
 Clothing - Please call Marianne Farr
 for more information (860)-637-6460

PRAYER LIST

Please note: Prayer names will remain for two weeks unless renewed in the church office. Named in parentheses are those who submitted the names they follow.

Scott Johnson (Carol McQueeney);
 Gini & Bill Sonstrom (Sue Sonstrom).

The grieving family and friends of Jane Landry.
 The grieving family and friends of Josephine Borselle.

Serving in the armed forces: Kevin Dubois; Wesley Givens
 (Beverly Walsh); Zack; Millind; Kienen Dyer (Barbara Pond); Shawn
 Dubois.

OUR VISION

First for what is first: Christ, our Lord

First in nurturing youth and families in faith

First with inspiring worship, fellowship and service

First by reaching out to all

First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

A community of believers in Jesus Christ

77 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut
 (860) 224-2475 + www.1stlutherannb.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.