



May 18, 2025

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Preschool Commencement

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Lift High the Cross”

~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. ~Lift high the cross...
- ♪ Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. ~Lift high the cross...
- ♪ All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. ~Lift high the cross...
- ♪ O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. ~Lift high the cross...
- ♪ Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. ~Lift high the cross...
- ♪ So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! ~Lift high the cross...

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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Confession and Absolution

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

The Lord has made known His salvation;

He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Psalm 98:1–2, 4

We have come together to praise and thank God for His overwhelming grace and mercy. Singing and rejoicing are natural for us, but we cannot come to God with our sins and failures. Let us therefore confess our sins and ask for mercy for the sake of Christ.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.

Amen.

A Time of Silence

God has called you to life, He has given His Son to pay for your sins, and He has given you and all believers in Christ the faith to trust all His promises. 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.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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. Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“Amazing Grace”

- ♪ Amazing grace—how sweet the sound— That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!
- ♪ The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.
- ♪ Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
- ♪ Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven’s joy and peace.
- ♪ When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’d first begun.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 744—Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5):
A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond; Text: Public domain*

First Reading

Acts 11:1–18

¹Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, ³“You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” ⁴But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ⁵“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. ⁶Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ⁷And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ ¹⁰This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹²And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ ¹⁵As

I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?” ¹⁸When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Revelation 21:1–7

¹Then I 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, 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, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶And 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 from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

- ♪ Now all the vault of heav’n resounds In praise of love that still abounds:
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
“Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!” Alleluia, alleluia, allelu-ia!
- ♪ Eternal is the gift He brings, Therefore our heart with rapture sings:
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Now still He comes to give us life
And by His presence stills all strife.
Christ has triumphed! He is living! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- ♪ O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer Through Your triumph; Grant grace sufficient for life’s day
That by our lives we truly say:
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Please Stand

- ♪ Adoring praises now we bring And with the heav’nly blessed sing:
“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!” Be to the Father and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most holy God,
All the glory, never ending! Alleluia, alleluia, allelu-ia!

Holy Gospel

John 16:12–22

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

¹⁶“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” ¹⁷So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” ¹⁸So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” ¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’?” ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

- ♪ Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!
- ♪ Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been Sent by His gracious ordaining?
- ♪ Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief? Wings of His mercy did shade you.
- ♪ Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with His love He befriends you.
- ♪ Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him!

Proclamation of the Word

“Let the Punishment Fit the Crime”

Revelation 21:7–8

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Christ is risen,

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

- ♪ Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev’ry trembling heart.
- ♪ Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev’ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.
- ♪ Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy host above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.
- ♪ Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav’n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 700 -Text: Charles Wesley 1707-88; Text: Public domain

Postlude