



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 18, 2025 | 10:30am

Welcome to St. John's. We invite you to join us as an active participant in the worship of God.

PRELUDE

We stand.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✚ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

And also with you.

GLORIA

Fast and lively

Org. *f* Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

5 peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, hea - ven - ly King, al -

9 - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

13 *mp* praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

18 Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

22 sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING

ACTS 11:1-18

A reading from Acts.

NOW the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴ Then 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. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The 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. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If 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?” ¹⁸ When 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.

Thanks be to God.

- ¹ Hallelujah!
Praise the Lord from the heavens; *
praise him in the heights.
- ² Praise him, all you angels of his; *
praise him, all his host.
- ³ Praise him, sun and moon; *
praise him, all you shining stars.
- ⁴ Praise him, heaven of heavens, *
and you waters above the heavens.
- ⁵ Let them praise the Name of the Lord; *
for he commanded, and they were created.
- ⁶ He made them stand fast for ever and ever; *
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
- ⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
- ⁸ Fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing his will;
- ⁹ Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;
- ¹⁰ Wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and winged birds;
- ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the world;
- ¹² Young men and maidens, *
old and young together.
- ¹³ Let them praise the Name of the Lord, *
for his Name only is exalted,
his splendor is over earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants, *
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

REVELATION 21:1-6

A reading from Revelation

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

⁴ he 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.”

⁵ And 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.” ⁶ Then 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.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

SEQUENCE

PUER NOBIS

That Easter day with joy was bright;
the sun shone out with fairer light
when, to their longing eyes restored,
the apostles saw their risen Lord!

GOSPEL

JOHN 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

WHEN he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little 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.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should

love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SEQUENCE

PUER NOBIS

All praise, O risen Lord, we give
To you, once dead, but now alive!

To God the Father equal praise,
And God the Spirit, now we raise!

We sit.

**CHILDREN’S SERMON
SERMON**

PASTOR MCCREIGHT

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

*O Holy and Creative God
(text by Angier Brock, contemporary)*

REPTON

1.O holy and creative God,
Your heart-song shapes our days,
delighting us, advising us,
surrounding and surprising us.
We sing to you in praise.

2.Your gifts are graces that we claim
when we have eyes to see –
a lively rain, a clearing sky,
the grayling fish and butterfly,
and faith that sets us free.

3.Now love, the greatest gift of all,
has called us to this place,
where hearts can covenant with Love.
and share a sacrament that
proves
the fullness of your grace.

4.Almighty and amazing God,
pray keep our vision strong,
and may your Christ abide in us,
and with the Spirit ever bless
and guide us with your song.

NICENE CREED

**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 Holy Spirit and 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.

We kneel or sit for the prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each intercession ends with these words:

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We stand.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

We sit.

GREETINGS

MEAL

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and
gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM *When I can read my title clear*

LORI LARSON

We stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Majestic

f

Org. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and

6 *ff*

might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

Slower

P

Org. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

4 *pp*

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting, and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With all your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.



Our Fa - ther who art in__ hea - ven, Ha - llow'd be thy Name;

Thy king-dom come; thy will be__ done, on earth as it is in hea - ven.

Give us this day our__ dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pass - es as

we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst__ us. And lead us

not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - li - ver us from e - vil. For thine is the

king - dom, the po - wer and the glo - ry, for e - ver and e - ver.

A - men. For e - ver and e - ver. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

All who believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine, forgiving sin and promising eternal life, are welcome to the Table of the Lord. Gluten-free wafers are available if requested.

We sit.

LAMB OF GOD

Slowly and gently

Org. *p* Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

7 *mp* world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

13 *mf* sin of the world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

19 *rit.* *p* *pp* *ppp* take a-way the sin of the world, grant us peace.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

HYMN

Based on Revelation 21

Death will be no more

JAMES HANSEN

Refrain based on a German folk song

Verses

1. Be - hold, the tent of God is hu - man,
2. I saw a new heav - en and a new earth; the
3. The cit - y ap - peared then as a bride made
4. Be - hold, the Al - pha and O - me - ga

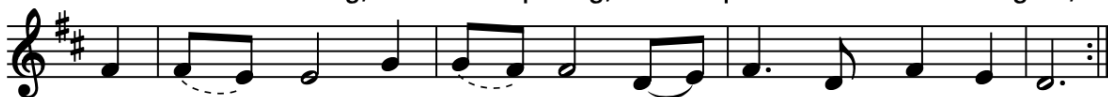
1. God in peo - ple dwells; and like the prom - ise
2. oth - er had passed a - way. The ho - ly cit - y,
3. read - y for the groom, and then I heard a
4. mak - ing all things new. To all the thirs - ty,



1. ev - er with — them here, Em - man - u - el.
2. new Je - ru - sa - lem, com - ing out from God.
3. great voice call — out from the throne a - bove:
4. I am wa - ter; know these words are true.



And they will be God's peo - ple, and God will be with them.
Nor mourn - ing, nor weep - ing, nor pain will come a - gain;



And God will wipe their tears a - way, and death will be no more.
nor mourn - ing, nor weep - ing, for the past has passed a - way.

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We stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know
and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION *When I survey the wondrous cross*

HYMN 803

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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St. Martin's Mass, David Bednall, Oxford Music Press

Lord's Prayer, Traditional Afrikaans, arr. Marnus Lively-Greyling

Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant The Rev. Martha McCreight

Organist Cantor Nathan K. Lively-Greyling

Worship Assistant

Reader Jen Leffers

Communion Assistant Eric Lane, Jen Leffers

Acolytes Max Leffers

Usher Sam Leffers

Altar Committee Janet Segerdell

Counters Lois Coffin, Gary Esposito, Pat Fisher

Little Free Pantry

Coffee Hour Susan Ylitalo

This week we pray for . . . Pastor Dennis and Carol Albrecht, Andrew, Beryl, Collette, Diane, Don, Jeanette, Joan, Lee, Marie, Nicolette, Sandra, and Shirley.

If you have pastoral needs, please reach out to Pastor Martha by email MMcCreight@sjlcstamford.com or on her cell phone (406)565-3592.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 20

5:15 pm Choristers Choir Room

7:00 pm Sneak Peak via Zoom

Wednesday, May 21

6:00 pm Handbells | 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 25

9:30 am Summer Worship Begins

Looking Ahead . . .

May 25	9:30 am Summer Worship Schedule Begins
June 1	5:00 pm Fourth Annual Pride Evensong
June 4	6:00 pm Weekly Midweek Worship Begins Chapel
June 8	9:30 am Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday
June 15	3:00 pm Pastor Martha's Installation Service
June 19	Movie Night Outside 6:30 pm Social 8:30 pm Movie Begins
June 29	Mass on the Grass
July 27	Mass on the Grass
August 7 - 11	Choir trip to Bruton Parish, Williamsburg, VA
August 24	Mass on the Grass & Blessing of Backpacks
September 7	Rally Sunday 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am God's Work Our Hands Service Project 11:30 am Church Picnic
September 14	Return to 8:30 & 10:30 am Worship

MISSION STATEMENT

All are welcome! We share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church Stamford CT is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee Lenape, Schaghticoke, Mohican, and Wappinger peoples. We give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial and wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Undie Sunday - Underwear and Socks Collection

We at St. John's are excited to again join a multi-church drive organized by Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church that will benefit several shelters and organizations in Stamford. It's called, "Undie Sunday." **From now until June 9**, we will collect donations of new underwear and socks of all sizes for men, women, and children. Suggested and accepted items include: bras, long john/thermal underwear, socks (cotton and/or thermal), t-shirts, tank tops/undershirts, underwear/briefs/boxers, feminine hygiene products (e.g. tampons, pads). **Please note:** All items must be new and in their original packaging. Donations can be brought to Sunday worship or to the church during office hours Mon-Thurs, 9am-12noon. Any questions, please contact Michele Effren at meffren0703@gmail or 203-515-0843.

WE NEED YOU!

ACOLYTE SIGN-UP



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS, READERS, USHERS, COFFEE HOUR, AND LFP SIGN-UP

