



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 2024 | 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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

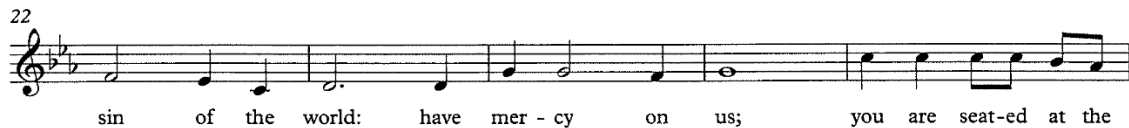
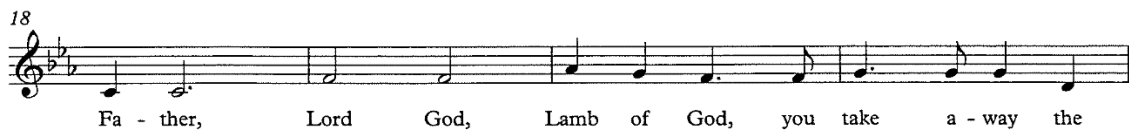
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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



27 Org.

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

32 *f*

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

35

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,

40

with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

44 *ff* *rit.*

A - - men, a - - men, a - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.
 O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING

ACTS 10:44-48

A reading from Acts.

WHILE Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL PSALM

Sung by the Congregations to the tune of AZMON.

PSALM 98

1All nations, shout with joy to God,
Lift up your voice and sing;
Sing to the Lord now with the harp
Let harp and voices ring.

2With trumpets and the sound of horns
Rejoice before the Lord;
From all who dwell on land and sea
Let praises be outpoured.

3Let hills ring out with joy to God,
Let rivers clap their hands;
In righteousness shall all be judged,
In equity all lands.

SECOND READING

1 JOHN 5:1-6

A reading from First John.

EVERYONE who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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 15:9-17

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS said: ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love 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.

SERMON

PASTOR GRORUD

HOLY BAPTISM

Quinn Skylar Bolella

Parents: Erica & Garrett Bolella Sponsors: Alex & Gina Dunn

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

PRESENTATION

Parents and sponsors: We present Quinn Skylar Bolella for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Parents and sponsors: I do.

As you bring Quinn to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with your child among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that your child may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help this child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and sponsors: I do.

Sponsor, do you promise to nurture Quinn in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Quinn and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Parents and sponsors: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Parents and sponsors: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Parents and sponsors: I renounce them.

Assembly stands

As the whole people of God, let us profess our baptismal faith:

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Water is poured into the font.

We give 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, and 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 the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen. *Assembly is seated.*

BAPTISM

Quinn Skylar, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The minister places hands on head of newly baptized.

Let us pray: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Quinn with the gift of your Holy Spirit, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of newly baptized.

Quinn, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

A representative of the congregation lights and presents the baptismal candle.

Representative: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Representative: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Minister presents the child to the congregation.

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.

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

Beautiful Savior

HYMN 838

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

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

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

Slower

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

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

19

take a - way the sin of the world, grant us _____ peace.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

VOLUNTARY

Communion

KATE BOUNDY

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

O God beyond all praising

HYMN 880

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 Afrikaan’s, arr. Marnus Lively-Greyling

Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant	The Rev. Mark Grorud
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Janet Segerdell
Reader	Betsie Harkins
Communion Assistant	Shirley Schulz
Acolytes	Emily Brandt, Sofia Medeiros
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Janet Segerdell
Counters	Lois Coffin, Gary Esposito, Pat Fisher
Little Free Pantry	Sheila Koch
Coffee Hour	Karen Weinseiss

WEEKLY CALENDAR

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, May 6

Quilting Group -5:30 pm Welcome Room

New Member Orientation - 6:00 pm Sweden Room

Tuesday, May 7

Choristers -5:15 pm Choir Room

Wednesday, May 8

Confirmation - 5:30 pm Sweden Room

Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 pm Choir Room

Sunday, May 12

Worship - 8:30 & 10:30 am

Fellowship Hour - 11:30 am Welcome Room

“Just One More” Stewardship Campaign

Members should have received a letter from Pr. Grorud along with a pledge card for our upcoming stewardship campaign. This campaign is critical to future ministries of St. John's. Please read the letter carefully and contact Pr. Grorud if you have any questions.

Looking Ahead . . .

May 6	New Member Orientation - 6:00 pm
May 13	Adult Forum - 7:00 pm via Zoom
May 19	Last Day of 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday
May 26	9:30 am Summer Worship Schedule
June 2	5:00 pm Third Annual Pride Evensong
June 30	Mass on the Grass Outdoor Worship
July 28	Mass on the Grass & Blessing of the Animals
August 3-12	St. John's Choir in Residence at St. Patrick's Cathedral - Dublin
August 25	Mass on the Grass & Blessing of Backpacks
September 8	Rally Sunday (worship at 8:30 and 10:30 am)

New Member Orientation

On Monday, May 6, 6:00 -7:00 pm, a new member orientation session will be held for anyone interested in membership at St. John's Lutheran. This will be a brief overview of our mission and who we are as the people of God at St. John's. Please join us.

New worship assistant and acolyte robes



The Worship and Music Committee has ordered new robes for our acolytes and worship assistants to replace the current white robes, which are twenty years old. The new robes are here and match the same color as the current blue choir robes, making them interchangeable for different sizes and will also be fitted with a white scapular that is worn over the robe.

If you would like to help, each robe is \$235, totaling \$3,000. Gifts of any size can be made to the church, marked “robes” in the memo.

PACIFIC HOUSE

Carla Haugen and John Dexheimer, along with Julie from the Interfaith Collaborative, will be cooking for Pacific House on Sunday, May 12th. (This is Mother's Day) Julie has a group that will help her serve the meal at the shelter, but we need 2-3 more people to help cook at the church at 3:00pm to get the meal ready to be delivered to Pacific House. It is only about 1 1/2 hours of work. If you can help, please contact Michele Effren at 203-515-0843 or meffren0703@gmail.com.

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.