



**Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

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**Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor**  
**David B. Richards, Parish Musician**  
**Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant**



**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*During the Prayers of Intercession, you are invited to add your own prayer(s) either in speech or in silence. You may wish to use this insert to write down your prayer(s) which you may then offer aloud during that time. If you wish to have your prayers added to the Prayer of the Church during the coming weeks, please remove and place this card in the offering plate.*

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# THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

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## HOLY COMMUNION

*EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING 4, PAGES 147-155*

### GATHERING

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

*Sonatina*

Clementi

### \*EASTER CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise be to God,  
**who rescues us from the power of darkness;  
who redeems us, and sets us free!**

Praise be to Jesus Christ, the first born of all creation,  
**through whom all things were made,  
in heaven and on the earth.**

Praise be to the Spirit of God,  
**whose presence sustains us,  
and whose breath renews all creation.**

Behold! I am making all things new!  
**Come, O God, and make your home among us.  
Pour out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

—*from New Heaven, New Earth,  
an Easter and Earth Day worship resource (Canadian Foodgrains Bank)*

\*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.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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**

WORD

*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

FIRST READING

Acts 11:1-18

*In defense of his earlier baptism of pagan believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' own testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:1-6

*John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*

ELW 364

Verse 1 and Refrain

The Holy Gospel according to St. John...  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.*

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

*I Come with Joy*

ELW 482

\*CREED

God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ, living together in trust and hope we confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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

Holy Spirit, come to us like you came to the Gentiles who accepted the word of God and repentance as a gift that leads to life. Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

Holy Spirit, help us see the splendor of God over all that is on the earth and in the heavens above, that we may join the chorus of the universe in praise. Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

Lord Jesus, you make all things new, for you are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the Son of the Living God, who will wipe away all tears from all eyes. Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

Lord Jesus, by your example, you teach us to love one another, and you command us to love one another. Help us accept and obey your command as yet another gift of love. Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

God of all people, help us rejoice in the vision you have of the family of God, for you include even us. Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

Lord Jesus, hear us as we pray for the people in our my minds and hearts who are in need, especially... . Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for the myriad of witnesses who have served you in a multitude of ways, especially... . Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

*Other prayers may be added here in speech and silence.*

In resurrection hope we commend to you all for whom we pray, trusting in the promise of new life; through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen**

## \*PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

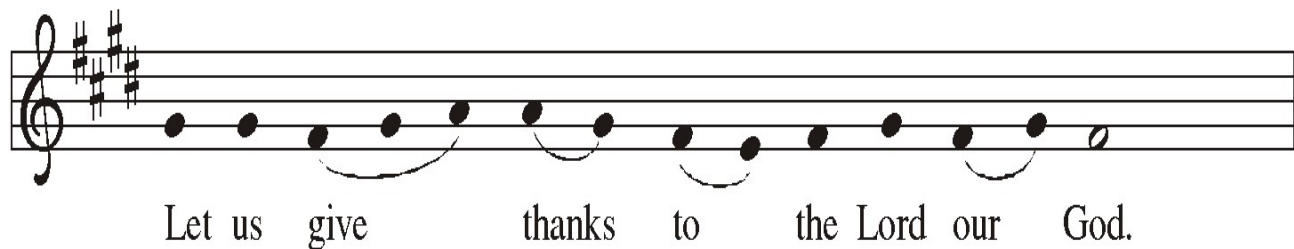
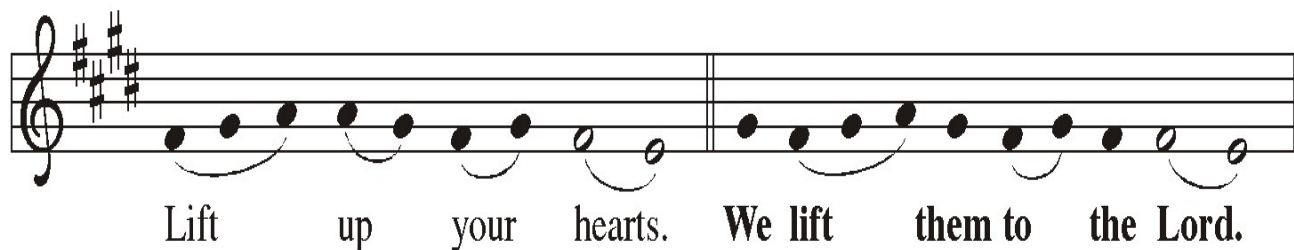
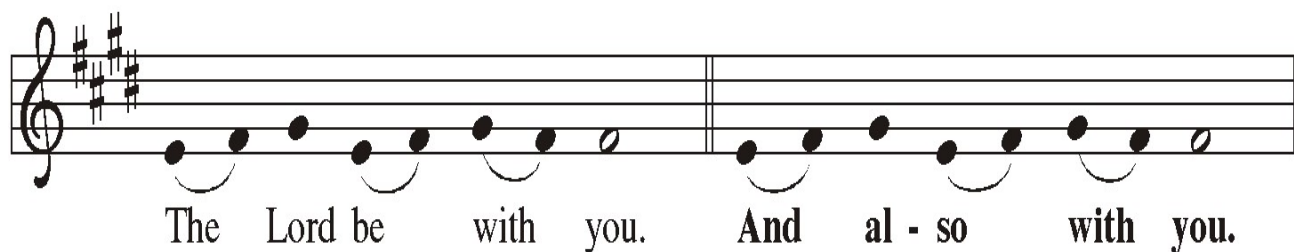
## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

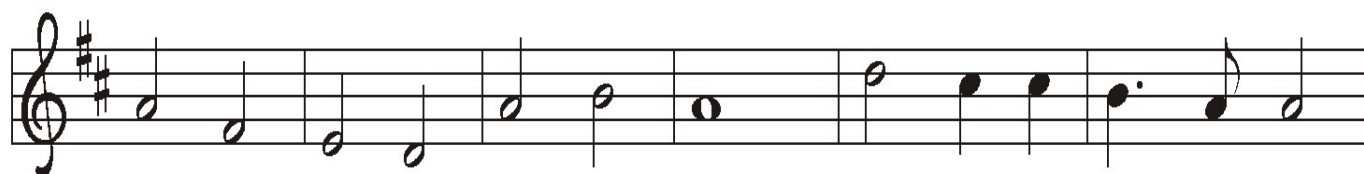
### \*DIALOGUE



## \*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer 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:

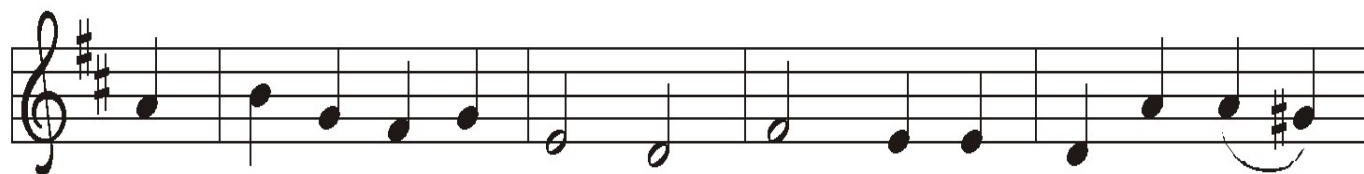
## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



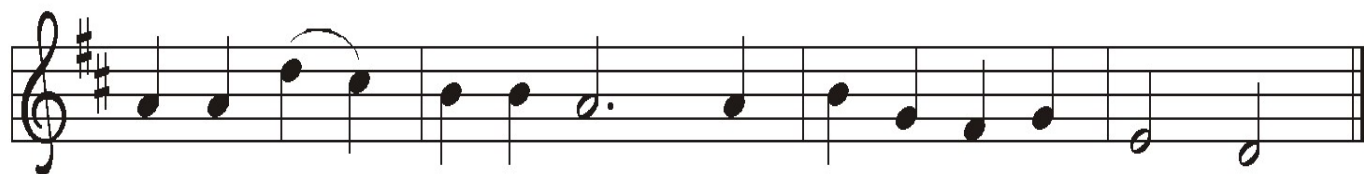
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



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

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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 this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**



Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With 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'S PRAYER**

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

#### **\*EASTER INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

When we eat this bread we share the body of Christ. When we drink this cup we share the blood of Christ.  
**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

**\*BLESSING**

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

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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

**SENDING**

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*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

ELW 379

**\*DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Prestissimo*

Beethoven

## SERVING IN THE LITURGY

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PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Vicki Michaels

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Jane Lauritsen

LECTOR

George Valek

GREETER

Staci Harden

USHER

Rafael Martinez

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Jane Lauritsen and Carole Pollitz



## IN THE PRAYERS...

***Members of the Congregation:*** Heather Greer, Shirley Kostelny, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Lois Mika, Mary Sasuta, Edward Sefara and Gregg Valek. ***Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:*** Betty Bartel, Kurt Behrendt, Wally Bisping, Rich Caliendo, Bill Costello, Dan Costello, Eric Dennison, Becky Dice, Barbara Dykes, Melissa Foe, Denise Fricano, Walid Jabbar, Drew Janos, Ron Kelly, Michael Kerney, Nicole Kisiel, Jeff Kubik, Lenyce Lawrenson, Darlene Loughlin, Artem Molovkina, Donald Neal, Gail Purcell, Tim Richard, Mary Lee Rosland, Sandy Rossella, Thomas Sicaras, Gus Sicaras, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson, Janie Tarbox, Tom Thoreson, Marta Vrtichova and Tom Zajac.

## COMMEMORATIONS

*Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160*

*Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>*

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

*Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330*

*Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>*

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.

*Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783; scientists*

*Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>*

These two men were both scientists who helped to explain the wonders of God's universe. Copernicus is best known for promoting the idea that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of our solar system. Euler was one of the founders of pure mathematics, and contributed to many other fields.

### **The Easter Breath**

*In the upper room, in the evening,  
we meet to talk, the doors all locked in fear,  
spirits low, defeated hearts still grieving,  
the empty grave upon our thoughts, and here,  
where he washed our feet, broke and shared the bread,  
his painful absence seems the more defined.  
Though Mary says that he's no longer dead,  
shame, despair and fear still haunt our minds.  
And then: the voice we thought we'd hear no more—  
it is the Lord! We see his side and hands,  
and he gives us peace, and words that restore  
our hearts, that lift our heads, by which we stand  
with strength: he breathes on us and says, "Receive  
the Spirit." Lord, we do. We believe. And breathe.*

— by Andrew King