

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Last Sunday we returned to the upper room where Jesus first instituted the Lord's Supper on the night He was betrayed. Before Jesus was handed over to be crucified, He gave His disciples no short sermon on the person and work of the "Helper" who will, at Pentecost, be revealed as the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. During this Easter Season, we continue to "Sing" (Latin: Cantate) the songs and liturgies of old, but we also sing to the Lord "a new Song" thanking Him for the gift He gives us in sending the Holy Spirit to guide the Church into all truth.

LUTHERANS ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

As Jesus proclaimed to His disciples before His departure, the Spirit's task will be to "bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (John 14:26) and to "glorify Me" (John 16:14). The Third Person of the Trinity has no desire to draw attention to himself; He has instead been sent for the purpose of directing our attention to God's saving work in Christ. In this regard Dr. Martin Luther explained: "That, then, is the Holy Spirit's office and work, that He through the Gospel reveal what great and glorious things God has done for us through Christ, namely, ransomed us from sin, death, and the power of the devil, received us into His grace and care, and given us Himself wholly and sufficiently" (WA 28:82).

Where Christ is preached, Lutherans rejoice to believe, teach, and confess that the Spirit is always present and active. Far from neglecting the Spirit, Lutherans praise, honor, and glorify Him as God. This occurs not only when they speak *about* Him, but especially when in humble silence they allow Him to speak *to* them, to reveal the Savior and proclaim His salvation.

- Korey Maas in "The Lutheran Difference: An Explanation and Comparison of Christian Beliefs," pages 307-308.

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SAINT JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
LOVELL, WYOMING



www.stjohnslutherans.com

CANTATE!

Sing!

The Fifth Sunday of Eastertide

April 28, 2024



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A NOTE FOR OUR VISITORS CONCERNING WORSHIP AT SAINT JOHN’S

Our Congregation follows the pattern of worship set forth by ancient Christians. Though “the Mass” has undergone many changes over the past 2,000 years (especially during the time of the Lutheran Reformation), what remains at the heart is God’s desire to hear the prayers of His people and deliver His grace to them through His promised means. It is for this reason that we call our worship “The Divine Service,” not us serving the Divine, but the Divine serving us with His Word and Sacraments.

In response to God’s Grace, and with deference to the rich traditions we have inherited, we use both our voices and our bodies in worship of the Triune God, some of which may be unfamiliar or strange to you. For instance, some people will make the sign of the cross ✠ in remembrance of their Baptism; the Congregation speaks or sings the **bold** portions of the liturgy. Finally, standing (attentive worship), sitting (attentive learning), and kneeling (sign of penitence and desire for grace) are symbolic actions in Christian worship that incorporate the body ^{Romans 12:1}. If you are unable to stand or kneel and remain seated throughout this Divine Service, know that your Spiritual worship is pleasing to God ^{John 4:24; 1 Corinthians 2:15}.

THE LORD’S SUPPER AT SAINT JOHN’S

Holy Scripture tells us that the earliest Christians gathered regularly for prayer, breaking of bread, and communion fellowship ^{Acts 2:42}. We continue this ancient tradition by gathering for prayers and “the breaking of the bread,” on the Lord’s Day. When we “do this in remembrance” of Jesus, we take seriously the words He said on the night He was betrayed; namely, that we are to eat and drink the bread and the wine, and in doing so eat and drink the very Body and Blood of Christ ^{Matthew 25:26-28}. So also, along with the earliest Christians, we confess that spiritual harm can befall those who commune with a congregation without understanding and agreeing with the beliefs of that gathering ^{1 Corinthians 11:17-29}. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we believe that all who commune at this altar are to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be instructed in the doctrine of the Small Catechism, and not be under pastoral care in a congregation of a different confession.

If you have any questions about what it means to be Lutheran, or would like to prayerfully explore entering into Communion Fellowship with St. John’s, please speak with me after worship so we can set up a time to meet together.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jacob Benson

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT page 194

Please familiarize yourself with the communion statement on the inside cover of this bulletin. If you are not communing today but desire a blessing, you may approach the altar with your arms crossed across your chest.

The Body of Christ is received either on the tongue, or reverently on the palm of the hand.

When receiving the Blood of Christ, please grasp the bottom of the chalice and guide it to your lips.

If you desire to receive the blood of Christ from an individual cup instead of the Chalice, take an empty cup as you approach the altar and the Pastor will fill it from the pouring chalice.

PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

155 This is the Feast
822 Alleluia! Let Praises Ring
632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee

NUNC DIMITTIS page 199

THANKSGIVING page 200

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION page 201

CLOSING HYMN 490 Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won

VERSE Portions of Psalm 118 and Romans 6

Alleluia! The right hand of the LORD exalts, the right hand of the LORD does valiantly! All- | eluia*

We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. All- | eluia

HOLY GOSPEL John 16:5-15

P The + Holy Gospel + according to + Saint John, the sixteenth Chapter
C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

On the night He was betrayed, Jesus said: ⁵ now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When 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. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED page 191

HYMN OF THE DAY 556 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

SERMON

OFFERTORY & COLLECTION OF GIFTS page 192


ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Divine Service

OPENING HYMN 768 To God the Holy Spirit Let us Pray

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION page 184

INTROIT Portions of Psalm 98 sung to Tone C 

Sing to the LORD a new song, Alle- | luia,*
for He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.
Alle- | luia.

**His right hand and His | holy arm*
have worked salva- | tion for Him.**

He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house
of | Israel.*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*
break forth into joyous songs and sing | praises!**

The GLORIA PATRI on page 186 is sung

KYRIE page 186

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS page 187

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 12:1-6

Thus saith Isaiah: ¹ You will say in that day:

“I will give thanks to you, O Lord,

for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,

that you might comfort me.

² “Behold, God is my salvation;
 I will trust, and will not be afraid;
 for the Lord God is my strength and my song,
 and he has become my salvation.”
³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you
 will say in that day:
 “Give thanks to the Lord,
 call upon his name,
 make known his deeds among the peoples,
 proclaim that his name is exalted.
⁵ “Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
 let this be made known in all the earth.
⁶ Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
 for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY PSALM 66:1-8 JUBILATE DEO

Come and see what | God has done: *
 he is awesome in his deeds toward the chil- | dren of man.
 Shout for joy to God, | all the earth; *
 sing the glory of his name; give to him | glor’ious praise!
**Say to God, “How awesome | are your deeds! *
 So great is your power that your enemies come cringing | to
 you.**
 All the earth worships you and sings prais- | es to you; *
 they sing praises | to your name.”
**Come and see what | God has done: *
 he is awesome in his deeds toward the chil- | dren of man.**
 He turned the sea into | dry land; *
 they passed through the riv- | er on foot.
**There did we rejoice in him, who rules by his might forever,
 whose eyes keep watch on the | nations— *
 let not the rebellious ex- | alt themselves.**
 Come and see what | God has done: *
 he is awesome in his deeds toward the chil- | dren of man.

**Bless our God, O | peoples; *
 let the sound of his | praise be heard,
 Glory be the Father and | to the Son, *
 and to the | Holy Ghost.**
**As it was in the be- | ginning, *
 is now and ever shall be, world without end. | Amen.**

EPISTLE James 1:16-21

Beloved brethren, ¹⁶ do not be deceived. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every
 perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights,
 with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his
 own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be
 a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to
 hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not
 produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness
 and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted
 word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word,
 and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a
 hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently
 at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes
 away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks
 into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no
 hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his
 doing.

²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue
 but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion
 that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit
 orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained
 from the world.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

The congregation sings the SECOND ALLELUIA on page 190 before and after the verse