



**Fifth Sunday of Easter May 18 2025 10: 45 Blended Service**

**Prelude/As We Gather**

We live in a world full of tears, but, in the resurrection, as John describes, "he [Jesus] will wipe every tear from their eyes." Easter Hands are Gentle Hands that Wipe Away the Tears.

**Welcome**

**We Prepare our Hearts for Worship**

## **Opening Song "Hands of Jesus"**

Little boy with a little smile  
Mom and dad with a little child  
Hand in hand for a little while  
Picking up his daddy's tools  
Hands hammering nails in wood  
Wonder if he understood

His hands were more than skin and bone  
They'd soon be open vulnerable  
Son of God but somehow fully man

The hands of Jesus  
So precious and strong  
They can calm the seas  
They can right your wrongs

The hands of Jesus  
Holding everything  
If they can take a nail  
They can take your shame  
So bring your hurt and  
All your broken pieces  
And put them in the miracle working  
Hands of Jesus

Touching the untouchable  
Loving the unlovable  
Forgiving unforgivable  
Breaking bread and pouring wine  
Pick up a cross that should be mine  
Arms open palms stretched wide

The hands of Jesus  
So precious and strong  
They can calm the seas  
They can right your wrongs

The hands of Jesus  
Holding everything  
If they can take a nail  
They can take your shame  
So bring your hurt and  
All your broken pieces  
And put them in the miracle working  
Hands of Jesus

They keep picking me up again and again  
Taking me in just as I am  
All of me and all I have  
All I need is in

The hands of Jesus  
So precious and strong  
They can calm the seas  
They can right your wrongs

The hands of Jesus  
Holding everything  
If they can take a nail  
They can take your shame  
So bring your hurt and  
All your broken pieces  
And put them in the miracle working  
Hands of Jesus

Text: Ben Glove, David Crowder, Hank Bentley, Jeff Sojka, Jonathan Smith  
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### Invocation

- A** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**

### Easter Acclamation

- P** Christ is risen!  
**C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### Confession and Absolution

- A** 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.  
**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** 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.  
**C** **Amen.**

## **Song of Forgiveness "My Chains are Gone" SSP 39**

My chains are gone I've been set free

My God my Savior has ransomed me

And like a flood His mercy rains

Unending love amazing grace

Text: Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio

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## **Prayer of the Day**

**A** Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, Your love for us is boundless!

**C** **As we have received such love, give us the grace to speak about it in all those circumstances You arrange for us, that many may come to love You as well;**

**A** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## **First Lesson Revelation 7:2–17**

*Acts 11:1–18*

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, <sup>3</sup>"You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." <sup>4</sup>But Peter began and explained it to them in order: <sup>5</sup>"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. <sup>6</sup>Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup>But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup>But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' <sup>10</sup>This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. <sup>11</sup>And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>And 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; <sup>14</sup>he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' <sup>15</sup>As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup>If 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?" <sup>18</sup>When 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."

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Epistle    Revelation 21:1-7**

*Revelation 21:1-7*

<sup>1</sup>Then 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. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And 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. <sup>4</sup>He 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."

<sup>5</sup>And 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." <sup>6</sup>And 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. <sup>7</sup>The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **Anthem: Choir "For Those Tears I Died"**

#### **Gospel John 16:12-22**

*John 16:12-22*

**A** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>12</sup>[Jesus said:] "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

<sup>16</sup>"A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." <sup>17</sup>So 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'?" <sup>18</sup>So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." <sup>19</sup>Jesus 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'? <sup>20</sup>Truly, 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. <sup>21</sup>When 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. <sup>22</sup>So 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."

**A** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.



**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living  
and the dead,**

**whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the Lord and giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,**

**who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,**

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,**

**and I look for the resurrection of the dead**

**and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Children's Song "Same, Same Hands"**

The same, same hands that made the mountains,  
are the same, same hands that calmed the sea.

The same, same hands  
that make the water fall like fountains  
are the hands that gave my life to me.

His hands are guiding me.  
Behind before, and on both sides of me.  
His hands are guiding me.  
And in His hands I know I'll always be.

The same, same hands that make the seasons,  
are the same, same hands that made the blind man see.  
The same, same hands that keep my heart a beating  
were nailed upon the cross for you and me.

His hands are guiding me.  
Behind before, and on both sides of me.  
His hands are guiding me.  
And in His hands I know I'll always be.  
Text: Jana Alayra  
Text: Public domain

## **Children's Message**

### **Hymn of the Day "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" LSB 762**

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure:  
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands  
Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring;  
Simply to Thy cross I cling.  
Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly;  
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When mine eyelids close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown,  
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78

Text: Public domain

## **Message "Easter Hands are Gentle Hands" Revelation 21:3-4**

### **Prayer of the Church**

- A** Let us pray to God on behalf of the Church and all people in their various needs.

You told Peter, "What God has made clean, do not call common."  
Remember those people on the margins of society, O Lord; provide caring people and institutions, open doors of opportunity, and free them from the results of their past poor decisions. Bridegroom of the Church, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Peter and the others recognized that they could not “stand in God’s way.” Guide the Church’s clergy and lay leaders here and around the world to seek Your will, Lord Jesus, working together creatively to find new ways to spread the Gospel in accord with Your will. Bridegroom of the Church, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Send down upon Your church, Your Body, the grace of Your Holy Spirit that we may be united in faith and in the confession of Your name. Unite us together to accomplish Your purpose at SPLC. Give strength, wisdom, and understanding to those who serve on our Call Committee. Grant grace and patience to all our congregation as we faithfully seek the pastor You have appointed to shepherd us. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C** **hear our prayers.**

**A** Our Father in heaven, uphold and strengthen all families on the earth. Guide parents to teach their children all that You have done and promised. Be with each member of St. Paul, especially those we lift to You this day, Bryan, Clarice, Trinity Nichols, Matt & Tammy Nixon, Brenda Nixon, Joe & Carolyn Northcutt, Bless the children of our CLC Nate, Penelope, Olivia, Alex, along with their parents and our staff. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Gracious Savior, by the faith given us by the Holy Spirit, we look forward to the wedding feast of the Lamb, who will end mourning, crying, and pain. Before we enter that time of rejoicing, we bring the petitions of people near and dear to us as they call out in sorrow, through tears and enduring pain, *Jan Peterson, Armando Flores Cythina Estes, Elaine Noto, Betty Tucker, Joe Northcutt, Robert Greer, Carla Weikert, Sharon Lancaster, Kathie Carlson, Robert Wood, Eric Peterson, Randy Duncan, Kerstin Krueger, Mary Fodor, Ed Mischen, Joseph Davis, Tammy Tolbert.* Hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught us to pray...

### **Lord's Prayer**

**C** **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.**

## **Passing of the Peace**

*(Having received the Gospel's grace, let us joyfully share "Peace of Christ" with one another.)*

## **Offerings are Received**

## **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

### **Prepare our Hearts for Communion**

1. Do I believe that I am sinful, without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
2. Do I harbor resentment for another or refuse to forgive another's sin?
3. Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
4. Do I believe that He is personally present with His Body and Blood?
5. Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

If this is what you believe, we invite you to come forward to share Communion with us. If this is not what you understand or believe you are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply cross your arms for the Pastor to bless you.

### **Communion Instructions**

*(For those who are intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)*

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

- A** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, for You stopped at nothing to forgive our sins to the point of giving Your own Son for our salvation. We gather with the faithful here on earth to sing Your praises until You call us join all who sit at table with the Lamb in His kingdom. To You alone, heavenly Father, be all praise and glory, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## **The Words of Our Lord**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **"We Proclaim Your Death" SSP 9**

- L** The Mystery of Faith
- C** We proclaim your death, O Lord,  
And profess your Resurrection  
until you come again

Text: Marty Haugen

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## **Song of Forgiveness "Lamb of God" SSP 10**

**L** Lamb of God,  
**C** You take away the sin of the world,  
Have mercy on us.

**L** Lamb of God,  
**C** You take away the sin of the world,  
Have mercy on us.

**L** Lamb of God,  
**C** You take away the sin of the world,  
Grant us peace.

Text: Tony Alonso

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## **Distribution Hymn "Come, Let us Eat" LSB 626 (sing responsively)**

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,  
Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
Our Lord's body let us take together,  
Our Lord's body let us take together.

Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,  
Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.  
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,  
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.

In His presence now we meet and rest,  
In His presence now we meet and rest.  
In the presence of our Lord we gather,  
In the presence of our Lord we gather.



Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word,  
Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word.  
Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom,  
Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom.

Text (sts. 1–3): tr. Margaret D. Miller, 1927, alt.; (sts. 1–3): Billema Kwillia, 1925; (st. 4): Gilbert E. Doan, 1930–2024, alt.

Text (sts. 1–3): © Lutheran World Federation; (st. 4): © 1972 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005066

### **Distribution Hymn: "The Day of Resurrection" LSB 478**

The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad,  
The passover of gladness,  
The passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
From sin's dominion free,  
Our Christ has brought us over  
With hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil  
That we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal  
Of resurrection light  
And, list'ning to His accents,  
May hear, so calm and plain,  
His own "All hail!" and, hearing,  
May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful,  
Let earth its song begin,  
Let all the world keep triumph  
And all that is therein.  
Let all things, seen and unseen,  
Their notes of gladness blend;  
For Christ the Lord has risen,  
Our joy that has no end!

All praise to God the Father,  
All praise to God the Son,  
All praise to God the Spirit,  
Eternal Three in One!  
Let all the ransomed number  
Fall down before the throne  
And honor, pow'r, and glory  
Ascribe to God alone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.  
Text: Public domain

### **Song of Blessing "Lord Bid Your Servant Go in Peace" LSB 937**

Lord, bid Your servant go in peace,  
Your word is now fulfilled.  
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,  
This child so long foretold.

This is the Savior of the world,  
The Gentiles' promised light,  
God's glory dwelling in our midst,  
The joy of Israel.

With saints of old, with saints to come,  
To You we lift our voice;  
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest  
Be honor, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1–2): James Quinn, 1919–2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948

Text (sts. 1–2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia  
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### Post-Communion Thanksgiving

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us in every way through this life-giving Sacrament.

**C** **We pray that we may be strengthened through it to sing Your praises and love one another each day until we celebrate at the heavenly feast;**

**A** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### Benedicamus

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Benediction

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

**C** **Amen.**

### Dismissal

**P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**C** **We go in His Name.**

## **Easter Acclamation**

**A** Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

## **Closing Song "Still" SSP 47**

Hide me now  
Under Your wings  
Cover me  
Within Your mighty hand

When the oceans rise  
And thunders roar  
I will soar with You  
Above the storm  
Father You are King  
Over the flood  
I will be still and know  
You are God

Find rest my soul  
In Christ alone  
Know His power  
In quietness and trust

When the oceans rise  
And thunders roar  
I will soar with You  
Above the storm  
Father You are King  
Over the flood  
I will be still and know  
You are God

When the oceans rise  
And thunders roar  
I will soar with You  
Above the storm  
Father You are King  
Over the flood  
I will be still and know  
You are God  
I will be still and know  
You are God

Text: Reuben Morgan

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## **Postlude**

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