

May 3, 2026
5th Sunday of Easter

St. John Lutheran Church

Pastor Ann M. Auten
20012 J Road
Athol, Kansas 66392
Cell Number (402) 469-2191
aauten64@gmail.com

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress is Our God pg.228(G)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS LBW 77

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Amen.

L: 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.

C: Amen.

L: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[Moment for reflection]

L: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed by what we have done and 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.

L: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake, 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.

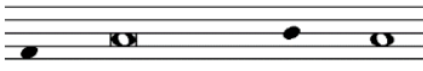
C: Amen.

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

C: And also with you.

KYRIE ELEISON

GREETING pg. 82(G)



The Lord be with you.



And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ALL: O God, you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will. Grant that your people would love what you command and desire what you promise, that, among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

L: The First Lesson is from the 6th chapter of Acts.

6 Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. 2 And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right

that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Therefore, brothers and sisters, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, 4 while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." 5 What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. 8 Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. 2 And Stephen replied: 51 "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. 52 Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. 53 You are the ones who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it." 54 When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. 55 But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" 57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed

together against him. 58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

L: Here ends the reading.

PSALM 146

L: We will read the Psalm responsively.

1 Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

3 Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth;

on that very day their plans perish.

5 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

**6 who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;**

7 who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

8 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

**The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**

9 The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**10 The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Peter 2:2-10

L: The Second Lesson is from the 2nd chapter of 1 Peter.

2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and 5 like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." 7 This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," 8 and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,[d] in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

L: Here ends the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION pg. 83(G)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

L: The gospel reading according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

14 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." 8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in

me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

"Wrapped in the Word of God"

CHILDREN'S BLESSING OF THE CONFIRMANDS

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Doxology

OFFERING PRAYER

C: Creator God, your Spirit surrounds and sustains us. As we offer these gifts, stir our quiet faith into confident witness. Replace our hesitant whispers with the courage to speak your truth. Shape our giving into acts of praise.

**We believe and pray in the name of Jesus.
Amen.**

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Presentation of the Confirmands

P: Blaine Lehmann and Brinley Hickert have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make a public affirmation of their baptism.

The minister addresses the confirmands.

P: Through the education program of this congregation, you have had the opportunity to learn and grow in your understanding of the Scriptures, as well as the opportunity to assume a greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world. We thank God for the many ways your faith has been confirmed among us.

Faith Statements

P: I now ask you to bear witness to what you have learned by giving testimony to the hope that is in you because of Jesus Christ.

(Confirmands will read faith statements to congregation)

Statement of Approval

When each has been given the chance to speak, the minister addresses the confirmands:

P: Thank you for your witness to the faith of the Church, and for your testimony to the instruction you have received.

Addressing the congregation:

P: As pastor of this congregation and teacher of these students, I acknowledge and approve of the work they have completed in this period of catechetical instruction, and I commend them for

their diligence in study and their faithfulness in service.

Prayer

P: Let us pray: We give you thanks, Almighty God, for the gifts of wisdom, understanding, and faith that you have granted to these confirmands through their study of your Word. We pray that you would continue to increase their faith toward you and their love toward all your people, that the gifts of your Holy Spirit may always be evident in their lives. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Affirmation of Baptism

P: I invite the confirmands to come forward to the altar.

P: Let us pray: Merciful Father, we give you thanks for the grace and mercy you have bestowed upon your faithful people who, throughout the centuries, have stood firm in the faith. We pray that by your Holy Spirit, these confirmands may be found faithful on the day of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Confession of Faith

P: In the presence of this congregation, and in the sight of God, I now ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

The minister addresses the confirmands.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the spiritual forces of evil that contend against God and his faithful servants?

R: I do.

P: Do you renounce the influence and power of the world that are contrary to God's Word and will?

R: I do.

P: Do you renounce the sin within your own heart, mind, and flesh, and call upon the Lord to deliver you from evil?

R: I do.

(Congregation joins the confirmands so need this on slides)

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

R: 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 into hell. 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

R: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the

forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Questions of Intent

The minister addresses the confirmands:

P: You have made a public profession of your Christian faith. On behalf of this congregation, I now ask you:

Will you regularly gather among God's people in worship, to receive God's Word and share in his Holy Supper?

Will you be a witness to the faith that has been given to you and strive to remain steadfast in God's Word?

Will you be a servant to others and seek to love your neighbors, following in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus?

Will you proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and his lordship in your life through your daily words and deeds?

R: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Individual Prayer and Blessing

P: As Saint Paul wrote to his student Timothy:
"As for you, child of God, flee the things of this world. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."
(1 Timothy 6:11-12)

A blessing is repeated for each confirmand. The minister may lay hands upon the head of each in speaking these words of blessing and parents and grandparents come forward.

P: Father in heaven, for the sake of Jesus, stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit. Confirm his/her faith; guide his/her life; empower him/her in his/her serving; give him/her patience in suffering, and bring him/her to everlasting life.

When all have received the blessing, the congregation prays:

P: Let us pray

C: Lord, we thank you for these confirmands. By your Word and Spirit, we pray that you would lead them forth in a life of faith and obedience to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

(The congregation shares the peace with each other and confirmands)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH LBW 85

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

DIALOGUE LBW 88

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 him thanks and praise.

PREFACE LBW 88

L: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

L: 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.

LORD'S PRAYER LBW 91

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

(The wine is red, and the grape juice is white)

COMMUNION

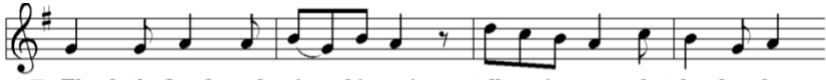
SONGS DURING COMMUNION

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Build My Life

Break Now the Bread of Life

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE LBW 92



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

COMMUNION PRAYER LBW 94

L: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION LBW 95

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you His peace. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

CLOSING SONG

Lift High the Cross pg.377(G)

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. He is Risen.

C: He is Risen Indeed! ALLELUIA!

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross pg.377(G)

(Play quietly)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENTS THIS WEEK:

May 5 - @ 6:30 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast

@ 6:30 PM - Pastor Ann's Bible Study - Book of Acts

May 6 - @ 9:00 AM - Women's Bible Study

@ 10:30 AM - Communion at Sunporch

May 7 - @ 1:30 pm - Bible Study at Sunporch

May 10 @ Mother's Day Hymns of Praise

Special Offering on May 3rd and 10th for those who have been affected by the recent Nebraska fires.

The Nebraska Farm Bureau has established a Disaster Relief Fund at the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation to gather donations to support farm and ranch families and communities affected by the March 2026 wildfires. 100% of the donations will be distributed to support farmers, ranchers and rural communities affected by the disaster.

Keep those extra Bibles and Christian materials coming! Join our Lenten LOVE packages drive and bring your items to our display! Would you like to be part of a youth/adult mission group trip to help deliver our donations - July 23-25? Let Pastor Ann know if you would like to be a part of this mission experience!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MAY: Cereal, Oatmeal, Hamburger or Tuna "helper meals", Peanut butter, Toilet paper and Soups. Any food you bring will be put to good use and will honor God as an offering gift.

FUTURE EVENTS: Help us Celebrate!

May 10 - Mother's Day Hymn Praisefest

May 17 - Graduation Sunday - Kharson Montgomery & Gavin Hickert

May 17 - VBS Kickoff Picnic in the Park! 5:00 PM

May 18-21 - VBS - American Lutheran Church

June 21 - Father's Day Praisefest

Scriptures for May 10th

1st Reading: Acts 17:16-31

Psalm 66:7-18

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Gospel: John 14:15-21

Sermon Title: "Sing A New Song"

PASTOR ANN M. AUTEN

CELL NUMBER (402) 469-2191

AAUTEN64@GMAIL.COM

OFFICE HOURS- WEDNESDAYS 9AM-NOON