

The Fifth Sunday of Easter—Graduate Baccalaureate
May 18, 2025, 8:30 A.M.
St. John's Lutheran Church

Announcements

Processional and Prelude

Scherzo
Senior Bell Choir

Matthew Compton

Ringling of the Church Bell

Confession and Forgiveness

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L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

C: 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.

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

You Servants of God

ELW #825

Greeting and Kyrie

"In peace, let us pray..."

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P: 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.

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord. **C: Amen**

L: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. **C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Prayer of the Day: L: 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. **C: Amen.**

Recognition of Graduates

We are delighted to recognize our high school graduates today. It is our privilege to affirm these members of our congregation who have completed one phase of their lives and move with great expectations onto another. High school graduates, please stand as your names are called.

Graduates, as you celebrate your achievements and prepare to begin new endeavors, be mindful of your grounding in faith, and of your vocation to serve God in all your life's work and accomplishments.

Let us pray: Gracious God, you bless your servants with many achievements. We give thanks especially for the milestones that they have attained in their upcoming graduations. As they begin new phases of their lives, may they also know your love and experience your peace in all the experiences they encounter.

Bless also the parents of these students who have raised their children and nourished them in the Christian faith. Give them strength in your continuing presence, and give them many joyful reunions with their sons and daughters who may be leaving home soon to begin new and varied ventures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

Psalm 148:1-6

L: ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

**C: ² Praise the Lord, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

L: ³ Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

**C: ⁴ Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

L: ⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded, and they were created,

**C: ⁶ who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming

down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

¹ 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. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then 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 water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Anthem

Hymn of Nations
Senior Choir

Austin Lovelace

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?..."

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C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Gospel: John 13:31-35

Glory to you, O Lord/Praise to you, O Christ.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Sermon

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

The Offering Hymn

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW #798, vss. 1-4

Offering Prayer

L: Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen**

Prayers of the Church: L: Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

The Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Songs during Communion: *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* ELW #494;

Strengthen for Service, Lord ELW #497

Prayer Following Communion

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, 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**

Blessing of Graduates

Go out into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve our God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn

Go My Children with My Blessing

ELW #543

Postlude

Rigaudon

Andre Compra

Activities this Week at St. John's

Sun, May 18	8:30 & 10:30am 2pm 7pm
Tues, May 20	6pm 7pm
Sun, May 25	8:30 & 10am

May 18, 2025 to May 25, 2025

Worship services w/comm
High School Baccalaureate
Mens Choir
Trustee mtg
Deacons mtg
Church Council mtg
Worship Service/Camperships
handed out

General Funds (undesignated)**Jan 1 – May 13, 2025**

Actual Income	\$ 79,393
Actual Expenses	65,233

Jan 1 – May 31, 2025

Budget Expenses	83,807
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Attendance

Last Sunday	121
2025 Average	100
2024 Average	90

Greeters	8:30am 10:30am	Jeff & Diana Johnson
Ushers	8:30am 10:30am	Dan & Lori Treangen, Jon Payne Steve & Sheryl Evanson
Readers	8:30am 10:30am	Diana Johnson Wendy Bucheit
Comm Prep	8:30am 10:30am	Jeff & Diana Johnson Altar Guild
Comm Asst	8:30am 10:30am	Ron Dahlstrom, Randy & Lori Hesse Wendy Bucheit
Secretary		Rhonda Barr
Custodians		John & Sharon Roe
Organist/Director of Music		James H. Bieber
Pastor		Bryan Robertson

Radio Broadcast Ministry –Today's radio broadcast is given in loving memory of Deb Tweedy by her family. Thank you for your continuing support of this outreach ministry. Join us on Sunday mornings on KNEI 103.5 at 8:30am. **Note: you have the option of selecting a hymn of your choice for the service you sponsor.**

We are accepting pledges toward the Solar Project. Pledges may be made by calling the Church Office or talking to Pastor Bryan.

Newsletters are available for pickup for those who requested printed correspondence from the Church.

Seniors graduating High School today are: Keeran Barr, Layne Dahlberg, Olivia Dougherty, Dalton Ellickson, McKinley Rostvold, Sarah Stock and Brandon Teslow.

LYO is hosting a Senior Class Reception today at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service serving rolls, milk, juice & coffee.

If you are planning on attending summer camp, please let the Church Office know as soon as possible as we are handing out checks on May 25 at both services. All campers will receive \$25 from WELCA, \$275 from the Trust Fund & \$100 from the Orrin Grangaard Campership Fund.