



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES
Babbtown (Meta 8 am)
Schubert (Jefferson City 10 am)

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Fifth Sunday of Easter
Senior Sunday
May 18, 2025

Order of Worship: Printed below
 (with P for Pastor, C for Congregation)
 or

found on page 15 in The Lutheran Hymnal TLH

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Today in our worship liturgy we use the familiar order from The Lutheran Hymnal. The parts of our worship are modeled after the Old Testament service that was given by God to his people.

We call this "liturgy," which means a form by which God promises to come as we call on him, forgive us as we confess together, and hear as he speaks through his Word.

During the service today we also give thanks for our "Senior" members and the wisdom and years with which God blesses all of us.



The Ringing Of The Bell

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn: TLH #477 "Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head"

**Lord Jesus, Thou the Church's Head, Thou art her one Foundation;
In Thee she trusts, before Thee bows, And waits for Thy salvation.
Built on this Rock secure, Thy Church shall endure
E'en though the world decay And all things pass away. Oh, hear, oh, hear us, Jesus!**

**O Lord, let this Thy little flock, Thy name alone confessing,
Continue in Thy loving care, True unity possessing.
Thy Sacraments, O Lord, And Thy saving Word
To us e'er pure retain. Grant that they may remain Our only strength and comfort.**

**Help us to serve Thee evermore With hearts both pure and lowly;
And may Thy Word, that light divine, Shine on in splendor holy
That we repentance show, In faith ever grow;
The power of sin destroy And all that doth annoy. Oh, make us faithful Christians!**

**And for Thy Gospel let us dare To sacrifice all treasure;
Teach us to bear Thy blessed cross, To find in Thee all pleasure.
Oh, grant us steadfastness In joy and distress,
That we Thee ne'er forsake. Let us by grace partake Of endless joy and glory. Amen.**

Invocation: p. 15 [Responses Sung]

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution p. 16

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: [Sung] Amen.

Introit – Psalm 90 (read responsively)

P: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

C: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

P: You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

C: For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

P: You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:

C: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

P: For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

C: The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

P: So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

C: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

P: Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil.

C: Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

Gloria Patri: p.16 *[Sung]*

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Kyrie: p.17 *[Sung]*

C: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Gloria in Excelsis: p. 17-19 *[Sung]*

C: Glory be to God on high; And on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,

We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Response: p.19

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *[Sung]* **And with thy spirit.**

Collect (Prayer Of The Day)

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come; that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins, and saved by Your mighty deliverance; Who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, world without end. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 11:1-18

The apostles and brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." But Peter began and explained it to them in order: "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. Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' This happened three times, and all was

drawn up again into heaven. And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. 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. 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; he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 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?" 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."

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-7

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. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 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. 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." 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." 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. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

The Gradual *(The congregation responds with "Halleluiah!")*

P: "The Lord has spoken; my strength and my shield, my God, in whom I will trust. For He is life, and all my needs He will fulfill."

*As the Gospel reading is announced, the congregation sings... **Glory be to Thee, O Lord!***

The Gospel Reading

John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Gospel ended, the congregation sings...`

Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

The Nicene Creed p. 22

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 Ghost 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 sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe 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.

Sermon Hymn: TLH #625 “Oh, Blest the House”

Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall, Where Jesus Christ is all in all!

Yea, if He were not dwelling there, How dark and poor and void it were!

Oh, blest that house where faith ye find And all within have set their mind

To trust their God and serve Him still And do in all His holy will!

Oh, blest the parents who give heed Unto their children's foremost need

And weary not of care or cost! May none to them and heav'n be lost!

Blest such a house; it prospers well, In peace and joy the parents dwell,

And in their children's lot is shown How richly God can bless His own.

Then here will I and mine today A solemn covenant make and say:

Though all the world forsake Thy Word, I and my house will serve the Lord. Amen.

Sermon Theme: SOMETHING NEW Sermon Text: John 13:34-35

Introduction – “The older you get, the more things change”

1. People have always been looking for something new
 - a. Jesus seemed to bring something new
 - b. Jesus talked about “Love” as if it was a new idea
 - c. Jesus was crucified, it seemed “new hope” had gone
2. After Jesus rose, he explained what was “new”
 - a. Jesus appeared alive to the disciples
 - b. Everything they believed about life was challenged
 - c. The life Jesus brought really was new
3. Our life is “new every morning”
 - a. All your sins from yesterday are washed away
 - b. Christians have a new purpose every day
 - c. We are never too old to be renewed by faith in Christ

Conclusion – There is always new life waiting for us because of Jesus

(The Offerings are brought forward. Offering plates are at the entrances.)

Offertory p. 22 [Sung]

C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Prayers

THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

[We invite those who are communicant members of sister Lutheran Congregations, in the fellowship of LC-MS, and are repentant, to commune with us.]

The Preface: p. 24 [Responses Sung]

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God ... therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

The Sanctus: p. 26 *[Sung]*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory;
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, Blessed is He,
Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer: p. 27

**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;**

[Sung] **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Institution:

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 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 blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Pax Domini: p. 27

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

C: *[Sung]* **A - - - - men.**

The Agnus Dei: p. 28 *[Sung]*

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Grant us Thy peace.
A - - - - men.**

The Distribution

Distribution Hymns: TLH #411 "From Eternity, O God"

**From eternity, O God, In Thy Son Thou didst elect me;
Therefore, Father, on life's road Graciously to heaven direct me;
Send to me Thy Holy Spirit That His gifts I may inherit.**

**Though alive, I'm dead in sin, Lost to all good things by nature.
Holy Ghost, change me within, Make of me a new-born creature;
For the flesh works ruination And can never gain salvation.**

**Drive away the gloomy night Of my heart's perverse reflection;
Quench all thoughts that are not right, Hold my reason in subjection;
Grant that I from Thee, with yearning, Wisdom always may be learning.**

Oh, create a heart in me That in Thee, my God, believeth
And o'er the iniquity Of my sins most truly grieveth.
When dark hours of woe betide me, In the wounds of Jesus hide me.

As a branch upon a vine In my blessed Lord implant me;
Ever of my Head divine To remain a member grant me.
Oh, let Him, my Lord and Savior, Be my Life and Love forever!

Faith and hope and charity Graciously, O Father, give me;
Be my Guardian constantly That the devil may not grieve me;
Grant me humbleness and gladness, Peace and patience in my sadness.

Help me speak what's right and good And keep silence on occasion;
Help me pray, Lord, as I should, Help me bear my tribulation;
Help me die and let my spirit Everlasting life inherit. Amen.

TLH #385 "Now I Have Found a Firm Foundation"

Now I have found the firm foundation Which holds mine anchor ever sure;
'Twas laid before the world's creation In Christ my Savior's wounds secure;
Foundation which unmoved shall stay When heav'n and earth will pass away.

It is that mercy never ending Which human wisdom far transcends,
Of Him who, loving arms extending, To wretched sinners condescends;
Whose heart with pity still doth break Whether we seek Him or forsake.

Our ruin God hath not intended, For our salvation He hath yearned;
For this His Son to earth descended And then to heav'n again returned;
For this so patient evermore He knocketh at our heart's closed door.

O depth of love, to me revealing The sea where my sins disappear!
In Christ my wounds find perfect healing, There is no condemnation here;
For Jesus' blood through earth and skies Forever "Mercy! Mercy!" cries.

I never will forget this crying; In faith I'll trust it all my days,
And when o'er all my sins I'm sighing, Into the Father's heart I'll gaze;
For there is always to be found Free mercy without end and bound.

Though I be robbed of every pleasure That makes my soul and body glad
And be deprived of earthly treasure And be forsaken, lone, and sad,
Though my desire for help seem vain, His mercy shall with me remain.

Though earthly trials should oppress me And cares from day to day increase;
Though earth's vain things should sore distress me And rob me of my Savior's peace;
Though I be brought down to the dust, Still in His mercy I will trust.

When all my deeds I am reviewing, The deeds that I admire the most,
I find in all my thought and doing That there is naught whereof to boast.
Yet this sweet comfort shall abide--In mercy I can still confide.

Let mercy cause me to be willing To bear my lot and not to fret.
While He my restless heart is stilling, May I His mercy not forget!
Come weal, come woe, my heart to test, His mercy is my only rest.

**I'll stand upon this firm foundation As long as I on earth remain;
This shall engage my meditation While I the breath of life retain;
And then, when face to face with Thee, I'll sing of mercy, great and free. Amen.**

The Nunc Dimittus: p. 29 *[Sung]*

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word,
For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation:
which Thou hast prepared before the Face of all people,
a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

The Thanksgiving: p. 30

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

C: *[Sung]* **And His mercy endureth forever.**

The Thanksgiving Prayer: pp, 30-31

P: We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift; and we beseech You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith towards You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

C: *[Sung]* **A- - - - men.**

The Benedicamus: p. 31

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *[Sung]* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: *[Sung]* **Thanks be to God.**

The Benediction: p. 31

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: *[Sung]* **Amen, Amen, Amen!**

Closing Hymn: TLH #50 "Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing"

**Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing; Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Thy love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us, Oh, refresh us, Trav'ling through this wilderness!**

**Thanks we give and adoration For Thy Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Thy salvation In our hearts and lives abound;
Ever faithful, Ever faithful To the Truth may we be found!**

**So whene'er the signal's given Us from earth to call away,
Borne on angels' wings to heaven, Glad the summons to obey,
May we ever, May we ever Reign with Christ in endless day! Amen.**

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Have A Blessed Week!

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Cover pic artwork: Allan Forbis

The Lutheran Hymnal: St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, © 1941.

Hymn # 477: Scripture: Colossians 2:10; O Jesu, einzig wahres Haupt; Lord Jesus, Thou the Church's Head; Author: Johann Mentzer (1726, cento); Translator: William J. Schaefer (1938); Tune: Reuter; Composer: Fritz Reuter (1916).

Hymn #625: Wohl einem haus, da Jesus Christ; Author: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil; Tr, vs. 1,2,4 5., Catherine Winkworth; Tr., vs. 3, Unknown; Wo Gott zum Haus; Source: "Geistlich Lieder," Wittenberg, 1535.

Hymn # 411: Scripture: Acts 8:15; Gott, du hast in deinem Sohn; From Eternity, O God; Author: Caspar Neumann (1711, ab.); Translator: August Crull (1923, alt.); Tune: Liebster Jesu; Composer: Johann R. Ahle (1664).

Hymn # 385: Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:11; Ich habe nun den Grund gefynden; Now I have Found The Firm Foundation; Author: Johann A. Rothe (1727); Translation: Composite; Tune: O das ich tausend; Composer: Johann B. Konig (1738).

Hymn # 50: Scripture: Numbers 6:24-26; Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing; Author: John Fawcett (1773); Tune: Regent Square; Composer Henry Smart (1867).

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