**All Saints Lutheran Church, ELCA**

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## Sunday, May 25, 2025

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

## *You are absolutely invited into this sacred space.  We welcome all who are seeking God’s love and grace.  All Saints recognizes that we are all unique and beloved children of God.  We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has given us.  We affirm the sacredness of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.  We affirm the sacredness of all those who have experienced exclusion because of race, ability, age, or culture. We are committed to working towards anti-racism in ourselves and our community. We affirm the sacredness of all those who wrestle with addiction, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us.  We believe that through our openness we all grow in our faith through Christ’s teaching to love one another as God loves us.  We need each other and our sincere hope is by being in community together, we will experience God’s presence in new and real ways.*

*The offering plate is by the main door to the sanctuary for your convenience.*

*We practice open communion at All Saints Lutheran Church. What does that mean? It means that if you believe and trust that Christ offers his body and blood For You, you are welcome at the table. At All Saints, we believe that Christ invites all people to the feast. “Come to the banquet for all is now ready.”*

***\*\*Stand as you are comfortable***

***Prelude***

***Announcements***

**\*\**Thanksgiving for Baptism***

Blessed be the Holy Trinity: the God who creates us and all that exists, the Risen One + in whom we are set free from sin, and the Spirit who strengthens and enlightens us with her gifts.

**Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

We are joined to Christ in the waters of our baptism, made part of God’s holy family that extends to every time and every place. Through our baptisms, we are given new birth each day, and through the Word and the Meal we receive new life in abundance.

Let us give thanks for the saving gift of our baptism.

**Holy God, in our baptism you reached out your saving hand to give to us the gift of new life in you. You are the river of life, the source of all renewal and all joy.**

We are blessed by your gift of holy water: oceans and lakes, rivers and streams.

**We are blessed by your gift of the holy water which cleans and sustains our bodies.**

We are blessed by your gift of holy water: rain and clouds, puddles and pools.

**We are blessed by your gift of the holy water which nourishes flowerbeds and fields, and sustains all of creation.**

**We thank you for the gift of our holy baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection.**

**Wash away all our sin in your holy water.**

**Empower and encourage us to share the good news of the empty tomb.**

**Help us find the courage to speak and act toward justice for all your children.**

Refresh us and the world through this holy and living water.

Where there is drought, bring rain and renewal.

Where there is doubt and despair, bring hope.

Where war and chaos thrive, bring the promise of peace.

We ask all these things through Christ, the Risen One,

who reigns with you and the Spirit forever.

**Amen.**

***\*\*Entrance Hymn We Walk by Faith ELW#635***

***\*\*Greeting***

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**\*\*Kyrie ELW#157**

**\*\*Now the Feast and Celebration ELW#167**

***\*\*Prayer of the Day***

**Loving and merciful God, you call us to faith – but you know that our faith is imperfect. Thank you for calling us to belong, and for the faith of Jesus, in whose life, death, and resurrection we find comfort and hope. Amen.**

***Reading:*** **Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21**

13You have heard, I know, the story of my former way of life in Judaism. You know that I went to extremes in persecuting the church of God and tried to destroy it; 14I went far beyond most of my contemporaries regarding Jewish observances because of my great zeal to live out all the traditions of my ancestors.

15But the time came when God, who had set me apart before I was born, called me by divine grace, choosing 16to reveal Christ through me, that I might spread Christ among the Gentiles. Immediately, without seeking human advisors 17or even going to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before me, I went off to Arabia; later I returned to Damascus.

11When Peter came to Antioch, however, I opposed him to his face, since he was manifestly in the wrong. 12His custom had been to eat with the Gentiles but, after certain friends of James arrived, he stopped doing this and kept away from them altogether, for fear of the group that insists Gentiles must convert to Judaism first. 13The other Jews joined him in this hypocrisy, and even Barnabas felt obliged to copy this behavior.

14When I saw they weren’t respecting the true meaning of the Good News, I said to Peter in front of everyone, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not a Jew. So why do you want to make the Gentiles adopt Jewish ways? 15Though we’re Jewish by nature and not Gentile ‘sinners,’ 16we know that people aren’t justified by following the Law, but by believing in Jesus Christ. That is why we too have believed in Christ—so that we can be justified by faith in Christ, not by obeying the Law. No one will be justified by keeping the Law!”

17But if it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners while we seek justification in Christ, does this imply that Christ has induced us to sin? Absolutely not! 18If I rebuild what I had destroyed, then I prove that I am in fact a destroyer!

19It was through the Law that I died to the Law, to live for God. 20I have been crucified with Christ, and it’s no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. I still live my own life, but it’s a life of faith in Jesus our Savior, who loves me and who gave himself for me. 21I will not nullify God’s grace—for if justification is available only through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God**

***\*\*Gospel Acclamation***

**\*\*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah ELW#172**

*Announcement of the Gospel*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

***Gospel:* Luke 18:9-14**

9Jesus spoke this parable addressed to those who believed in their own self-righteousness while holding everyone else in contempt: 10“Two people went up to the Temple to pray; one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. 11The Pharisee stood and prayed like this: ‘I give you thanks, O God, that I’m not like others—greedy, crooked, adulterous—or even like this tax collector. 12I fast twice a week. I pay tithes on everything I earn.’ 13“The other one, however, kept a distance, not even daring to look up to heaven. In real humility, all the tax collector said was, ‘O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.’ 14Believe me, the tax collector went home from the Temple right with God, while the Pharisee didn’t. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, while those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon "Belonging"**

***Hymn of the Day* Leaning on the Everlasting Arms ELW#774**

\*\***Affirmation of Faith – Immigrant’s Creed by Jose Luis Casal**

**I believe in Almighty God, who guided the people in exile and in exodus, the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon, the God of foreigners and immigrants.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean, who was born away from his people and his home, who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger. When he returned to his own country he suffered under the oppression of Pontius Pilate, the servant of a foreign power. Jesus was persecuted, beaten, tortured, and unjustly condemned to death. But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead, not as a scorned foreigner but to offer us citizenship in God’s kingdom.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the eternal immigrant from God’s kingdom among us, who speaks all languages, lives in all countries, and reunites all races.**

**I believe that the Church is the secure home for foreigners and for all believers. I believe that the communion of saints begins when we embrace all God’s people in all their diversity. I believe in forgiveness, which makes us all equal before God, and in reconciliation, which heals our brokenness. I believe that in the Resurrection God will unite us as one people in which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time. I believe in life eternal, in which no one will be foreigner but all will be citizens of the kingdom where God reigns forever and ever. Amen.**

***\*\*Prayers of Intercession***

**God of Love, hear the prayers that we lift before you. Hold close to you all those for whom we pray.**

Unite your people with communities of faith throughout the world. Further cooperation between people of different faith traditions and bless our non-Christian neighbors, that we learn and grow in deeper relationship. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You call us by name and form us. Nurture the baptized to receive your Spirit and proclaim boldly the grace, justice, and mercy of your reign. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Bless the earth with fresh water, clean air, and rich soil. Nurture growing crops and encourage communities developing sustainable farming practices. Help us to live in balance and harmony with your good creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Reconcile nations and communities suffering from violence and conflict. Protect refugees, asylum-seekers, and all who flee their homes seeking safety and security. Make all nations safe for both migrants and residents. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sustain all who are in need, especially individuals and families struggling with trauma or addiction. Support caregivers, especially nurses, doctors, counselors, and social workers. Come alongside all who are ill or struggling especially Monty, Paul, Linda, Betty F, Carla, Becky H., Becky W., David, William and family, Helen, Larry, Stephen, Jennifer, Otto, Fran, Tammy, families in our community who endure hunger, those who seek asylum or citizenship, and our beloved for whom death is near. Comfort all those impacted by the tornadoes in the Midwest. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

This Memorial Day weekend, we remember all who have died in military service. Soothe loved ones who mourn, and strengthen support systems for veterans and their families. Bring peace among nations, that war and conflict around the world might cease. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for Border Servant Corps and all ministries and volunteer organizations whose mission is to care for those on the margins, and whose purposes are being challenged and budgets cut. Empower us, your people, to rise up in support. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for all your saints raised to new life in Christ. Gather us, with them, into the peace only you can give. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

**Good and loving God, we give everyone we have prayed for into your care. Amen.**

*\*\** ***Sharing of the Peace***

### *\*\*Offering is brought forward*

### *\*\** *Offertory Response*

### *As the Grains of Wheat (Refrain Only) ELW#465*

### *\*\*Offertory Prayer*

**Good and loving God, all you have created is good. Help us to be generous with that which you have first given us, so that we can respond to those who hunger in any way. As we gather now at your Table, prepare us to go out and proclaim Christ’s resurrection through what we say and do.** **Amen.**

**Dialogue**

The Risen Christ is with you!

**And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts in joyful praise!

**We lift them up to God in joy!**

We give thanks to God!

**It is good and right to raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving!**

**\*\*Preface:** As we celebrate Christ’s resurrection from the dead… this hymn of praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy ELW#191**

***\*\*Words of Institution***

**\*\*LORD’S PRAYER**

**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***

# ***Communion Hymn What Feast of Love ELW#487***

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### *\*\*Sending Song*

### *Praise to you, O God of Mercy ELW#208*

### *\*\*Prayer After Communion*

**Alleluia! We give you thanks, risen Lord, for your life-giving presence among us. You have fed and refreshed us with the healing gift of life. Now send us out to share the good news of the empty tomb, through all that we say and do. Amen! Alleluia!**

### *\*\*Blessing*

### *\*\*Closing Hymn Lift High the Cross ELW#*660

### *\*\*Dismissal*

Go in peace to serve our Risen Christ. Alleluia!

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

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**Weekly Attendance**

***Week of May 18***

***30***

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**Calendar of Events**

***Today***

* ***Adult Bible Study***
* ***Vigil 7:00 pm***

***This Week***

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| --- | --- |
| ***May 26*** | ***Memorial Day Office Closed*** |
| ***May 27*** | ***Creative Friends 1:00 pm*** |

***Upcoming Events***

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| --- | --- |
| ***June 1*** | ***Blessing of Contributions to BSCL*** |
| ***June 03*** | ***Creative Friends 1:00 pm*** |
| ***June 05-07*** | ***Synod Assembly*** |
| ***June 07*** | ***Kansas City Pride Parade 11:00 am*** |
| ***June 08*** | ***Pentecost*** |
| ***June 08*** | ***Tyler Melton’s Graduation Party after Worship*** |
| ***June 10*** | ***Creative Friends 1:00 pm*** |
| ***June 14*** | ***Men’s Breakfast 8:00 am Perkins by Walmart*** |
| ***June 15*** | ***Father’s Day*** |
| ***June 17*** | ***Creative Friends 1:00 pm*** |
| ***June 18*** | ***Council Meeting 6:30 pm*** |
| ***June 19*** | ***Juneteenth-Office Closed*** |
| ***June 22*** | ***Coffee with Council*** |
| ***June 24*** | ***Creative Friends 1:00 pm*** |
| ***June 28*** | ***Project Comfort 9:00 am-Noon*** |
| ***June 29*** | ***Fifth Sunday of Conversation*** |
| ***July 04*** | ***Independence Day-Office Closed*** |
| ***July 06*** | ***Blessing of CSL Contributions*** |
| ***July 06*** | ***Baptismal Birthdays*** |
| ***July 13*** | ***Installation of Church Council/Ice Cream Social after Worship/Photo OP*** |

Pastor Sarah, Lisa, and David will be attending synod assembly June 5-7. Please keep them and all of the assembly’s voting members in your prayers as they do the work of the synod, including the election of a new bishop. Please keep all of the candidates for bishop in your prayers, including those whose names have been put forward: Rev. Chad Langdon, Wichita, KS; Rev. Peter Rehwaldt, Mission Hills, KS; Rev. Donna Simon, Kansas City, MO; Rev. Zach Sturm, Overland Park, KS; and any additional nominations from the floor of the assembly.

**“The New Colossus” by Emma Lazarus (1849-1887)**

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.  
“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she  
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

*(poets.org)*

This poem was written by Lazarus in 1883 as part of the fund-raising efforts for a base for the Statue of Liberty. It is cast on a plaque that is mounted on the inside of the base of the statue. Lazarus was an activist and advocate for Jewish refugees fleeing from Russian pogroms in the 1800s, and wrote the poem as a way to express empathy for Russian Jewish refugees to the US.

The statue was intended to be a symbol of republican (anti-imperialist) values; however, Lazarus’ poem gave it a new purpose, turning it into a symbol of welcome for immigrants and refugees at the front door of the country. *(Wikipedia article on “The New Colossus”)*

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*You may recall that there has been an announcement in the bulletin over the past year directing you to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) if you wish to support the people of Ukraine. LIRS has changed its name to Global Refuge and can be found at* ***globalrefuge.org****. Although their name has changed, their mission remains the same: to assist and support refugees in the United States and around the world. Visit their website to see all the ways you can support this important work.*

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**BLUE SPRINGS COMMUNITY SERVICE LEAGUE** *is very appreciative of your continued support of your neighbor.*

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**Questions for Reflection and Discussion**

1. How do you define “justification?” Do you?
2. One of my favorite ways to try to explain it is to think about a word processing program like Microsoft Word. In programs like that, “justification” is whether your text is all the way to the left margin, all the way to the right margin, centered, etc. Justification in faith is a little like that – God keeping us inside the margins of righteousness, of the faith to which we have been called in Christ.
3. I really like the idea that being “crucified with Christ” is letting our egos die, our selfishness and need to be smarter or wiser or better die, so that we can really focus on being people of faith, prioritizing the love of neighbor to which we have been called. We’re not always good at it – and we only have to read Paul’s letters to see all the times that his ego takes over. But that’s good news for us. If Paul, who is responsible for writing so much of the New Testament (and, by the way, coming up with theological phrases like “justification by faith” that continue to shape our lives 2 millennia later) could be so imperfect at this, that gives hope to me! I hope it does to you too.
4. What do you think faith is?

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***Anniversaries***

***May 26 Ray & Paula Melton***

***Greeter –* May 25*-******Donna Taylor***

***Usher –* May 25*-Paul Blixrud***

***Altar Guild-* May 25-*Sara Meyers***

***Tech-* May 25*-Gary Antes***

**Prayer Requests**

***Monty Health Concerns (May 15)***

*Paul Health Concerns (May 31)*

*Mary Health Concerns (May 15)*

*Carla (Pr. George’s wife) Health Concerns (June 26)*

*James & Family Health Concerns (September 11)*

*Betty F (Sara’s friend) Health Concerns (September 23)*

*William and Family Health Concerns (September 25)*

*Becky H Health Concerns (October 28)*

*David Health Concerns (November 18)*

*Becky W Health Concerns (November 18)*

*Larry Health Issues (December 16)*

*Helen Health Issues (January 14)*

*Stephen Health Concerns (February 27)*

*Jennifer Health Concerns (February 27)*

*Otto Health Concerns (April 23)*

*Fran Health Concerns (April 23)*

*Tammy Daughter’s death (May 21)*

***Please pray for Border Patrol Servants***

***Please pray for the people of Haiti, Ukraine, Israel and Palestine.***

***Please pray for the people of the Sudan.***

***Please pray for the Homeless.***

***Please pray for legal & illegal immigrants & those seeking asylum or citizenship.***