

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

10:15 am

Prelude

Announcements

Introduction

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen. **C. Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

P In the name of † the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **C. Amen.**

P. Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life,

C. let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one. We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one. We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW #379 "Now the Green Blade Rises"

- 1. Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain, Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; Love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**
- 2. In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain, Thinking that He never would awake again, Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**
- 3. Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain, Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain; Quick from the dead the risen One is seen: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**

4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, Jesus' touch can call us back to life again, Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

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Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

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. Amen.

Reading and Psalm

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

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."

Psalm: Psalm 148

1 Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

2 Praise the LORD, all you angels, sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

3 Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

4 Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

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

7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

8 fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

9 mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

10 wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and birds;

11 sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

12 young men and maidens, old and young together.

13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

14 The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

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."

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another. Alleluia. (John 13:35)

Gospel: John 13:31-35

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

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

Pa. Gerry Giese

Hymn of the Day: ELW #619 "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

(vss. 1-4)

- 1. I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives! He lives, he lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head!**
- 2. He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save; He lives exalted, throned above; He lives to rule his church in love.**
- 3. He lives to grant me rich supply; he lives to guide me with his eye; he lives to comfort me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's complaint.**
- 4. He lives to silence all my fears; he lives to wipe away my tears; he lives to calm my troubled heart; he lives all blessings to impart.**

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Apostles' Creed

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.

Sharing of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayers of Intercession (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Risen Lord, Fill your church with the Spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your gospel of grace for all people. Empower us as we share with our families, neighbors and those within our community. We pray: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Risen Lord, Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. We pray that you be with us in the preparation of the land so that we may plant the seeds of our crops in our fields and in our gardens. Bless us with your rain and fair weather throughout this season. We pray: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Risen Lord, Empower all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. We pray: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness (especially: Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Jeannie, the Schwantes family, the Strand family, Nathan Verch and Steve Krosch.

Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Risen Lord, We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. We pray: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

Offering and Offering Hymn: ELW #715 "Christ be our Light" (vs. 1)

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us Your own, Your holy people Light for the world to see.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today.**

Offering Prayer

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 our thanks and praise.**

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Thanksgiving at the Table

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

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

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Communion Hymn: ELW #619 "*I Know That My Redeemer Lives*"

5. He lives to bless me with his love. He lives to plead for me above. He lives my hungry soul to feed. He lives to bless in time of need.

6. He lives, my kind, wise heav'nly Friend. He lives and loves me to the end. He lives, and while he lives, I'll sing. He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

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Prayer after Communion

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

Blessing

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW #ELW #619 "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

- 7. He lives and grants me daily breath. He lives, and I shall conquer death. He lives my mansion to prepare. He lives to bring me safely there.**
- 8. He lives! All glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same. What sweet the joy this sentence gives: "I know that my Redeemer lives!"**

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Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia! **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

 **Prayers:** Please continue to keep our members and loved ones in your prayers, including Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Jeannie, the Schwantes family, the Strand family, and Nathan Verch.

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