

**A Prayer
Upon Enter-
ing Church**
Heavenly
King, Para-
clete, Spirit of
Truth, pre-
sent in all
places and
filling all
things, Treas-
ury of good
and Choir-
master of life:
come and
dwell within
us, cleanse us
from all
stains and
save our
souls.

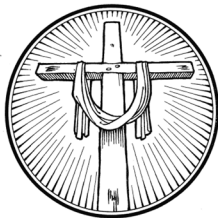
~ Liturgy
of St.
John
Chrysostom



The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Exaudi + May 17, 2026 + 9:00 A.M.

Welcome to the Lord's Day. Our Lord Jesus Christ did not leave His Church orphaned when He ascended to God's right hand. Rather, He drew near in the Holy Spirit, whom He pours out richly upon the Church through word and sacrament. He is with us always, to the end of the age, promising that our proclamation of His gospel in preaching, teaching, song, and mutual consolation is His own voice, speaking gracious words to the world so that all may believe.

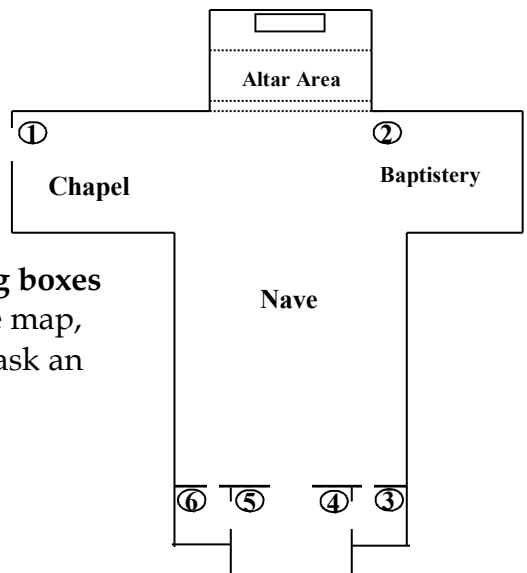


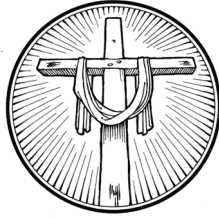
Sharing God's Blessings Today

- The sponsor charts for 2026 Radio Broadcasts, Flowers and Bulletins are available for you to sign up. The charts are by the stairs by the northwest entry.

To Share Your Offering

Offerings are received in **Zion's wooden offering boxes built into the walls of the church.** Please see the map, where the boxes are labeled by **number (1-6)** or ask an usher for assistance.





PRELUDE

“Christ Sits at God’s Right Hand” ... Paul O. Manz (1919-2009),
Flor Peeters (1903-1986), David M. Cherwien (b. 1957)

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Please stand and turn toward the cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“The Strife is O’er” ... LSB #464

GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

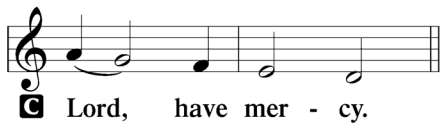
C: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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.**

KYRIE

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



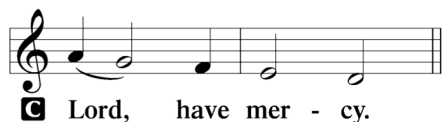
Where do we find Christ? To this question we can give only one answer: Christ is present for us humans only in the Word and Sacrament. “Through the Word and Sacraments God gives the Holy Ghost where and when he will to them that hear the Gospel” (Augsburg Confession V:2). In the Word and Sacrament Christ the Lord truly comes to us. In them he is actually present; they are not mere symbols which remind us of a faraway Christ of the past

[continued on the next page]

[continued
from the pre-
vious page]

. . . . The
Word and
Sacraments
are present
before faith
because they
first awaken
it. Where
they are pre-
sent there is
the church . .
. . Thus the
one church of
Christ is not
constituted
by our faith,
not by the
holiness of
our life, ra-
ther by
Christ, who
through his
Word and his
Sacrament
calls people to
repentance
and faith.
~ Hermann
Sasse,
The Lonely
Way

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the holy Church, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.



HYMN OF PRAISE

L: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -

lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

I will praise true wisdom and welcome it. By it, the lowly have won fame and the despised have gained the highest honors. By it, a crew of fishermen took the whole world in the mesh of the gospel-net. Through it, they overcame polished words and cut short useless wisdom.

~ Gregory Nazianzen, 329-390 A.D.

Baptism not only unites us with Christ's passion but also with the final consummation of our redemption on the last day. The baptized has in Christ already experienced his future death and already has resurrected life. We are a new creation prepared to live in the new heaven and new earth, paradise above. This new resurrection life is not something we must wait for until the last day. We have resurrection life right now.

~ Gaylin R. Schmeling,
Bread of Life from Heaven

SALUTATION AND COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray . . . O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT Ezekiel 36:22-28

22"Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. 23And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. 24I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. 25I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my just decrees. 28You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY *Psalm 51:1-12*

- L: Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your | steadfast love;*
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my trans- | gressions.
- C: Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!**
- L: For I know my trans- | gressions,*
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.
- C: Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil | in your sight,*
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your | judgment.**
- L: Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,*
and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.
- C: Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,*
and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.**
- L: Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;*
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.
- C: Let me hear joy and | gladness;*
let the bones that you have bro- | ken rejoice.**
- L: Hide your face | from my sins,*
and blot out all my in- | iquities.
- C: Create in me a clean heart, | O God,*
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.**
- L: Cast me not away from your | presence,*
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.

*The Comforter
who glorifies
the Lord Jesus
is the Spirit of
love, and love is
life in God's
Church. But
love is serving
and doing good.
It does not seek
its own, but
what is good
and useful for
others.*

*~ Nils Jakob
Laache, Book
of Family
Prayer,
1889 A.D.*

**C: Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,*
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.**

**All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son,*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen**

EPISTLE 1 Peter 4:7-11

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

VERSE "Be Not Afraid" ... Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le-

lu-ia! Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy!



Repeat as led.

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th & 16th chapters.



☐ Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus said:] "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. ^{16:1}"I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ²They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:

**C: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

*The last time we gathered to hear God's Word in this place, we heard about Christ's Ascension. Today we hear what it will be like while the Lord sits at His Father's right hand, and what effect that will have on us when we believe it. It would seem likely for us to expect peace and glory in His kingdom. But just as our Lord's own glory was hidden, so is the glory of the Church. The disciple is not above his master. In the world, the disciples will have cross and conflict. The cross follows upon confession.
~ U. V. Koren,
sermon,
1897 A.D.*

We Christians must surely expect to have the devil with all his angels and the world as our enemies and must expect that they will inflict every possible misfortune and grief upon us. For where God's Word is preached, accepted, or believed, and bears fruit, there the holy and precious cross will also not be far behind.

*~ Martin Luther,
Large Catechism*

**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 Spirit 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 sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory
to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy catholic 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.**

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor”

... LSB #534

SERMON

“Bearing Witness”

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Standing in the glorious light of the resurrection, let us pray.

P: . . . O Lord of life,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Hear our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior.

C: **Amen**

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY

“Christ is the World’s Redeemer”

... LSB #539

Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray . . . Living God,

C: **in Christ you will raise us up from death to eternal life. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in His body and blood. Amen**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

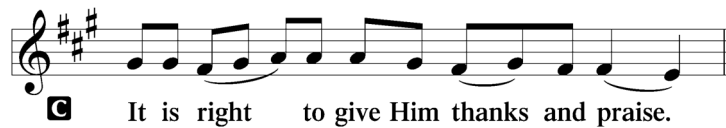


*In this supper
Jesus preach-
es a powerful
sermon for
us. Each time
we eat and
drink His
body and
blood once
given and
shed we par-
ticipate in all
the benefits
He earned for
us on His
cross. Here
the for-
giveness of
sins is per-
sonally ap-
plied . . .*

P: Lift up your hearts.

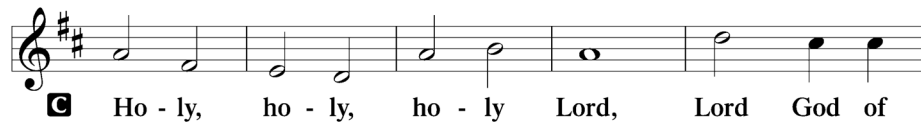


P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



P: It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS ("Holy")



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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 the 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 of it, in remembrance of me."

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: **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**

ACCLAMATION

P: This is the feast of victory for our God.

C: Alleluia!

SEQUENCE HYMN "Christ Is Arisen"

1 Christ is a - ris - en From the grave's dark
pris - on. So let our joy rise full and free;
Christ our com - fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

... Not only did Jesus die for the sins of all the world, but in this sacred meal through His called servants He hands us the actual body and blood He once gave and says, for you for the forgiveness of sins.
~ Harold L. Senkbeil, Dying to Live

Since you are children of the light of truth, flee from division and false doctrine. Where the Shepherd is, there follow like sheep. For there are many wolves who, by means of wicked pleasures, capture those who run God's race. In the face of your unity, however, they will not have a chance. Keep away from bad pasturage. Jesus Christ does not cultivate it since the Father did not plant it . . .

2 Were Christ not a - ris - en, Then death were still
 our pris - on. Now, with Him to life re - stored,
 We praise the Fa - ther of our Lord. Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia! Now let our joy rise full and free;
 Christ our com - fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. If you cannot use the steps to the altar, you may either ask an usher to have Communion brought to you, or you may go to the altar in the side (west) chapel. Those not communing may cross their arms over their chest for a blessing.

Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His Body and Blood forgives ours sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.

The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.

VOLUNTARY

“O Bread of Life from Heaven”

... J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*O Bread of Life from heaven,
to weary pilgrims given,
O Manna from above:
The souls that hunger feed Thou,
The hearts that seek Thee lead Thou,
With Thy most sweet and tender love.*

*O Fount of grace redeeming,
O River ever streaming
From Jesus' wounded side:
Come Thou, Thyself bestowing
On thirsting souls, and flowing
Till all their wants are satisfied.*

*Jesus, this feast receiving,
Thy word of truth believing,
Unseen, we love, adore:
Grant, when our race is ended,
That we, to heaven ascended,
May see Thy glory evermore.*

—17th century Latin hymn

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”

... LSB #623

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

... LSB #842

“Christ Sits at God’s Right Hand”

... LSB #564

Please stand after all have received the sacrament.

... Make no mistake, my friends, if anyone walks in the way of heresy, he is out of sympathy with the Passion. Be careful, then, to observe a single Eucharist. For there is one flesh of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and one cup of His blood that makes us one, and one altar . . . In that way whatever you do is in line with God’s will.

*~ Ignatius,
Bishop of
Antioch,
35-108 A.D.*

**A Prayer
As You Go**
Almighty
God, You
provide the
true bread
from heav-
en, Your
Son, Jesus
Christ our
Lord. Grant
that we who
have re-
ceived the
Sacrament
of His body
and blood
may abide
in Him and
He in us,
that we may
be filled
with the
power of
His endless
life, now
and forever.
Amen

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a fore-
taste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's
body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our
days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, to-
gether with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the
Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ,
Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Ho-
ly Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Alleluia!

C: **Christ is risen. Alleluia!**

Please turn toward the cross as it is carried out of the sanctuary.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

... LSB #477

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

"Paeon"

... Philip Moore (b. 1943)

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

To God alone be glory

Serving at Worship

Presiding: The Rev. Christopher S. Johnson

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde
(Pr. Johnson to Bethany at 10:30 am)

Organist: Kantor Jacob Drengler

Choir: The Zion Kantorei

Radio: Jessica Ray

Lector: Mark Gehrke

Acolytes: Joselyn Joanis, Troy Joanis, Ethan Loppnow

Communion: Sally Christoffersen, Rob Kittel

Elder: Alex Ahlborn

Ushers: Janet Dettmering, Landis Holdorf, Grace Mueller,
Chris Murvine

Altar Guild: Janet Dettmering, Debra Thomas

Acknowledgements

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Kantor Jacob Drengler
Headmaster Matthew J. Berg
Office Manager Jessica G. Ray
Custodian Cody Augustine
Deployed Chaplain Joseph C. Pinzl
Pastor Emeritus Theodore B. Gulhaugen

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