



Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

WELCOME TO GUESTS AND VISITORS! We are glad you could join us for worship today. We hope that you are blessed by the Word and Sacraments that we share. We encourage you to participate as fully as you can. The screen in front will guide you. If desired, musical notation can be found as noted in the outline below. (The “#” indicates hymn numbers in red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal, and “SB” indicate page numbers in the “Song Book” pamphlet. The vertical line in the left margin indicates when we stand as we are able.)

HOLY COMMUNION WITH SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

“It is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord’s Supper and are distributed and received there” (Augsburg Confession, Article X)· “A person who has faith in these words, ‘given for you’ and ‘shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,’ is really worthy and well prepared.” “Forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament” (The Small Catechism, Part VI)· “This church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion” (The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 50)·

SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

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Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Holy Communion, Setting Four

Accompanist: Ellen Westlund

Musical Offering: Gus Holhl

Easter Greeting & Welcome & Introduction to the Day

389 **Gathering Song** *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing* ♪

— **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

p. 147 **Greeting**

p. 148 **Canticle of Praise** *This is the Feast of Victory* ♪

p. 150 **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

p. 151 **First Reading** **Acts 17:22-31**

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

— **Psalmody** **Psalm 66:7-18**

⁷Bless our God, you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be heard,

⁸**who holds our souls in life,
and will not allow our feet to slip.**

⁹For you, O God, have proved us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹⁰**You brought us into the snare;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹¹You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹²**I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my
vows,
which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was
in trouble.**

¹³I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.

¹⁴**Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what he has done for me.**

¹⁵I called out to him with my mouth,
and his praise was on my tongue.

¹⁶**If I had found evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;**

¹⁷but in truth God has heard me;
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

¹⁸**Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld his love from me.**

p. 151 Second Reading 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

— **Gospel Acclamation (Jn. 14:23)**

p. 151 GospelJohn 14:15-21

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

— **Sermon**

631 Hymn of the Day *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* 🎵

p. 104 Nicene Creed

p. 152 Prayers of Intercession

— **Offering & Offering Prayer**

184 Offering Song *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* 🎵

p. 152 Great Thanksgiving – Dialogue & Preface (Easter)

p. 153 Sanctus *Holy, Holy, Holy* 🎵

p. 133 Thanksgiving at the Table (IV)

p. 154 Lord’s Prayer

— **Invitation to Communion**

p. 154 Communion Song *Lamb of God* 🎵

— **Post-Communion Song (LBW s92) *Thank the Lord* 🎵**

p. 155 Prayer after Communion

p. 155 Blessing

— **Ministry Opportunities & Announcements**

— **Prayers in a Time of Pandemic**

595 Sending Song *Jesus Loves Me!* 🎵

p. 155 Dismissal

*“They who have my commandments and keep them
are those who love me;
and those who love me will be loved by my Father,
and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”*

LECTIO SEMI-CONTINUA (LBW)

Week of 6 Easter

Sunday

Leviticus 25:1-17

James 1:2-8, 16-18

Luke 12:13-21

Monday

Leviticus 25:35-55

Colossians 1:9-14

Matthew 13:1-16

Tuesday

Leviticus 26:1-20
 1 Timothy 2:1-6
 Matthew 13:18-23

Wednesday

Leviticus 26:27-42
 Ephesians 1:1-10
 Matthew 22:41-46

Ascension Day

Daniel 7:9-14
 Hebrews 2:5-18
 Matthew 28:16-20

Friday

1 Samuel 2:1-10
 Ephesians 2:1-10
 Matthew 7:22-27

Saturday

Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29
 Ephesians 2:11-22
 Matthew 7:28--8:4

READINGS THIS WEEK (ELW)

Mon – May 18	Genesis 9:8-17	Acts 27:39-44	Psalms 93
Tue – May 19	Deuteronomy 5:22-33	1 Peter 3:8-12	Psalms 93
Wed – May 20	Deuteronomy 31:1-13	John 16:16-24	Psalms 93

Thursday May 21 – Ascension of Our LordReadings

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93;
 Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Fri – May 22	2 Kings 2:1-12	Ephesians 2:1-7	Psalms 93
Sat – May 23	2 Kings 2:13-15	John 8:21-30	Psalms 93

Sunday May 24 – Seventh Sunday of EasterReadings

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35;
 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 John 17:1-11

Prayer of the Day

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

MOTHERS & FATHER IN THE FAITH (UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS)

Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160, Monday, May 18, 2020

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

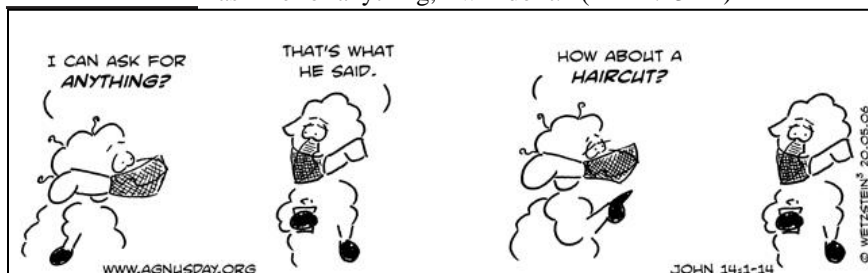
Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330, Thursday, May 21, 2020

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.

A COMIC REFLECTION ON A READING OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK.

Agnus Day
THE LECTINARY COMIC

Jesus said, "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it." (Jn. 14:13-14)



Agnus Day appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org

For what harm can come to you even if the world is most hostile to you, persecutes and torments you? You still know that you have Christ the Lord as your Friend, and not only Him but also the Father, who assures you and testifies through the mouth of His Son that He loves and cherishes you because of your faith in Christ, and your confession of Him. Now, since you have this Lord on your side, together with all the angels and saints, why should you worry about or fear the world's ire? — **Martin Luther**, *Luther's Works*, Vol. 24: *Sermons on the Gospel of St. John Chapters 14-16*

I'll Not Turn Away

It's all about the relationship of love. Love is the first and the greatest of commandments, according to Jesus. This is the gospel of the Lord!

The two men seemed dissimilar in almost every way: their color, their age, their education and careers, their families and sexuality, the worlds they knew and the lives they had lived. All of it registered as a natural, albeit unconsidered, divide. When circumstances they could never have anticipated brought them together, the two began to accompany one another through years of capsized lives. They walked side by side in body and spirit, carrying along one another's stories, fears, losses, regrets, and joys, each daring to let them slip into his heart. Amid the ebb and flow of seasons, the unlikely companions discovered in one another stories that were their own. Something of each of them was in the other.

Call this grace: the wretched demons of loneliness that had haunted both men stumbled, adrift in the wake of the companions' fellowship.

Still, they knew that parting was ahead. The days of walking, conversing, and trusting the companionship would soon come to an end. So they began to speak of their impending separation in this way: "This is my promise: I'll see you on the other side of this." It was repeated with other words, which always meant "I will not turn away from you." Call this the gospel story.

Grace is found in mystery, when strange circumstances confound expectations. Love is found in experience, when trust is discovered and nurtured. In a form we are not looking for, another—the Advocate, Comforter, Counselor, Spirit—will come to us.

"I will not leave you orphaned," says Jesus. "I am coming to you" (John 14:18). It's all about the relationship of love.

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WORSHIP SERVICES WITH SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH



Like your favorite fancy restaurant, but better—the Host is Christ.

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., May 13, 2020, St. Matthias, Apostle; Holy Communion (unaccompanied).

Thursday, 1:30 p.m., May 14, 2020, St. Matthias, Apostle; Holy Communion (unaccompanied).

Sunday, 9:00 a.m., May 17, 2020, Sixth Sunday of Easter; Holy Communion (organ accompaniment).

Sunday, 10:30 a.m., May 17, 2020, Sixth Sunday of Easter; Holy Communion (accompaniment to be determined).

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., May 20, 2020, Ascension of Our Lord; Holy Communion (unaccompanied).

Thursday, 1:30 p.m., May 21, 2020, Ascension of Our Lord; Holy Communion (unaccompanied).

Sunday, 9:00 a.m., May 24, 2020, Seventh Sunday of Easter; Holy Communion (piano accompaniment).

Sunday, 10:30 a.m., May 24, 2020, Seventh Sunday of Easter; Holy Communion (accompaniment to be determined).

All In-Person Worship Is By Reservation Only

Each week, Saint John Lutheran Church is **open for worship**, but only by reservation. We are trying to maintain a maximum attendance of ten until the governor's directions change. You must call Pastor Bond (608-208-0283) in advance, and reservations are "first-come, first-served." 24-hour-in-advance contact would be appreciated.

The pastor is the only one with the guestbook. Because you attended the previous week does not mean you are counted again for the next week, *unless* you contact Pastor Bond. Likewise, please let the pastor know as soon as possible if you have registered but cannot attend, so that your space might be available for someone else.

We are celebrating Holy Communion, with music accompaniment, regularly at 9:00 Sunday. If more than ten persons desire to attend at 9:00 a.m., a second worship time will be established on Sunday morning, but musical accompaniment is not guaranteed.

9:00 a.m. Sunday is also the time for the Facebook Live web-cast (www.facebook.com/sjlc.elca). A video recording of the worship service is available for viewing by Monday morning at the congregation's web-site, www.sjlc-elca.org, and broadcast on JATV, channel 994, one week delayed on Sunday at 9:00 a.m.