

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today’s gospel includes Jesus’ promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father’s house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus’ mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

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)·

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Holy Communion, Setting Four
Accompanist: Megan Rebout

Easter Greeting & Welcome & Introduction to the Day

377 **Gathering Song** *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!* 🎵

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— **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

p. 147 Greeting

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

p. 150 Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

— **Introduction to the Readings**

p. 151 First Reading**Acts 7:55-60**

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

— **Psalmody****Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

²**Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.

¹⁵**My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and in your lovingkindness save me.

⁵**Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.**

p. 151 Second Reading **1 Peter 2:2-10**

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

— **Gospel Acclamation (Jn. 14:6)**

p. 151 GospelJohn 14:1-14

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

— **Sermon**

380 Hymn of the Day *Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!* 🎵

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**

619 Sending Song *I Know that My Redeemer Lives!* 🎵

p. 155 Dismissal

“If you know me, you will know my Father also.”

LECTIO SEMI-CONTINUA (LBW)

Week of 5 Easter

Sunday

Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36

Hebrews 12:1-14

Luke 4:16-30

Leviticus 19:1-18

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Matthew 6:19-24

Monday

Leviticus 16:1-19

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday

Leviticus 19:26-37

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Matthew 6:25-34

Tuesday

Leviticus 16:20-34

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 6:7-15

Friday

Leviticus 23:1-22

2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

Matthew 7:1-12

Wednesday

Saturday

Leviticus 23:23-44

2 Thessalonians 3:1-18

Matthew 7:13-21

READINGS THIS WEEK (ELW)

Mon – May 11	Exodus 13:17-22	Acts 7:17-40	Psalms 102:1-17
Tue – May 12	Proverbs 3:5-12	Acts 7:44-56	Psalms 102:1-17
Wed – May 13	Proverbs 3:13-18	John 8:31-38	Psalms 102:1-17
Thu – May 14	Genesis 6:5-22	Acts 27:1-12	Psalms 66:8-20

Or Thursday May 14 Matthias, Apostle

Readings:

Isaiah 66:1-2; Psalm 56; Acts 1:15-26; Luke 6:12-16.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you chose your faithful servant Matthias to be numbered among the twelve. Grant that your church may always be taught and guided by faithful and true pastors, through Jesus Christ our shepherd, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Fri – May 15	Genesis 7:1-24	Acts 27:13-38	Psalms 66:8-20
Sat – May 16	Genesis 8:13-19	John 14:27-29	Psalms 66:8-20

Sunday May 17 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21.

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.

MOTHERS & FATHER IN THE FAITH (UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS)

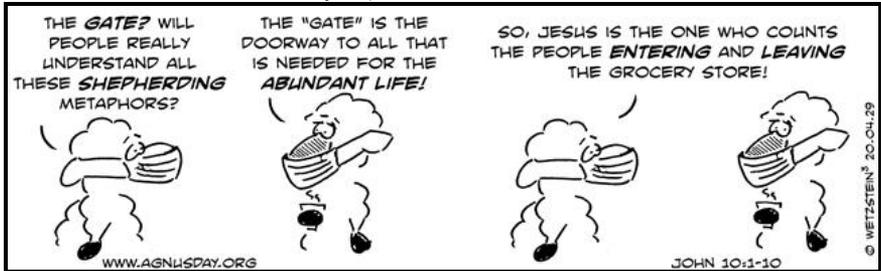
Matthias, Apostle, Thursday, May 14, 2020

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.

A COMIC REFLECTION ON A READING OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK.

Agnus Day
THE LECTONARY COMIC

Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. . . . I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (Jn. 10:7, 10)



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

Are you feeling a hunger for Holy Communion?

Are you missing the Sacrament of the Altar? That would be a sign that your faith is healthy. But in order to resist the temptation to innovation, it may be helpful to consider the Church's teaching about Holy Communion. The Lutheran Confessions have very specific things to say about the Sacrament.

The initial focus of the *Augsburg Confession* is on justification by grace through faith. **"To obtain such faith God instituted the office of preaching, giving the gospel and the sacraments"** (V, dt. txt.). This Office of Ministry for the sake of the Church (that is, the office of the pastor) is established by God. A person is called by a congregation to fulfill the ministry God has given to the Church. Further, the one who is called is part of the larger Church, hence proper training, examination and accountability to the whole Church. **"Concerning church government it is taught that no one should publicly teach, preach, or administer the sacraments without a proper [public] call"** (XIV, dt. txt.).

But the issue is not merely about pastoral authority. It is about a witness to the world by the whole community called the congregation. As much as your pastor might like to have Communion more often, that is not done alone. **"On holy days, and at other times when communicants are present, Mass is celebrated, and those who desire it receive the sacrament"** (XXIV, dt. txt.). At the time of this writing (1530) Lutherans were still calling the Sacrament of the Altar "the Mass." The emphasis in this quote is on the phrase, "when communicants are present." The Latin text at this point continues, **"For the ancient teachers before the time of Gregory do not mention private Masses, but often speak of the common Mass."** Holy Communion is communion with God in Jesus Christ, but also a communion with the Body of Christ, the Church, made concrete in the congregation.

Luther gets the final and more forceful word from the *Smalcald Articles* of 1537. **“If some want to justify their position by saying that they want to commune themselves for the sake of their own devotion, they cannot be taken seriously. For if they seriously desire to commune, then they do so with certainty and in the best way by using the sacrament administered according to Christ’s institution. On the contrary, to commune oneself is a human notion, uncertain, unnecessary, and even forbidden. Such people also do not know what they are doing because they are following a false human notion and innovation without the sanction of Gods’ Word. Thus it is not right (even if everything else were otherwise in order) to use the common sacrament of the church for one’s own devotional life and to play with it according to one’s own pleasure apart from God’s Word and outside the church community”** (II).

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)

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.

Along the Way

The underground railroad that saved the lives of countless enslaved husbands and mothers and babies tortured by America's original sin of slavery depended upon safe refuge along the journey to freedom—a place prepared.

Through desert dangers where thieves waited and beasts preyed in the night, weary travelers along the Silk Road took restful shelter in inns along their way—a place prepared.

From the dense streets of Kolkata, India, where poverty's scourges lie thick over crowds of people, and disease lingers in the sluggish air, humble compassion clad in white and blue saris gathers the wretched into a home for the destitute and dying—a place prepared.

Around the globe, in the midst of despair, people fleeing from war die in the sea, are lost in the desert, swarm at borders, scale walls, weep at fences, hang on trains, trudge every landscape imaginable hoping for a home at the end of a trail—a place prepared.

Jesus promised the most remarkable thing to his disciples: "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2). And they asked, "Where? We don't understand! Show us!" Jesus' answer to his disciples does not offer a spiritualized road to heaven or a settled spot in Galilee, but it does offer all that matters: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). Jesus is the destination *and* the path. There is a refuge—a place prepared—in his love. The home of peace and safety that we all long for is found in Jesus. Jesus is with us all along the roads, streets, and alleyways, in places unseen and unknown. Jesus is with us, goes before us to prepare the place, and shows us the way.

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