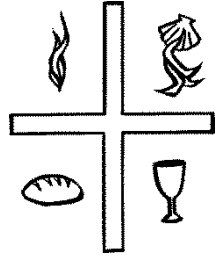


WEDNESDAY IN SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER

WEDNESDAY, 11:00 A.M., MAY 19, 2021



Welcome to guests and visitors! *This pamphlet will guide your worship today. The assembly's parts are indicated by ☒ and bold font. The vertical line in the left margin indicates when the assembly stands as each is able.*

About 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)·

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☒ **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

A welcome and introduction to the day are made.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☒ **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

☒ **We thank you, O God.**

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Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

☩ We bless you, O God.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

☩ We praise you, O God.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

ENTRANCE PSALM (27)

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

☩ The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh,

☩ it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

³Though an army should encamp against me,

☩ yet my heart shall not be afraid;

⁴and though war should rise up against me,

☩ yet will I put my trust in him.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

☩ as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory for our God.

☩ Alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

☩ Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God,

☩ for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

☩ And also with you.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

FIRST READING: Ezra 9:5-15

The prophet declares: ⁵At the evening sacrifice I got up from my fasting, with my garments and my mantle torn, and fell on my knees, spread out my hands to the LORD my God, ⁶and said,

"O my God, I am too ashamed and embarrassed to lift my face to you, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens. ⁷From the days of our ancestors to this day we have been deep in guilt, and for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been handed over to the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plundering, and to utter shame, as is now the case. ⁸But now for a brief moment favor has been shown by the LORD

our God, who has left us a remnant, and given us a stake in his holy place, in order that he may brighten our eyes and grant us a little sustenance in our slavery. ⁹For we are slaves; yet our God has not forsaken us in our slavery, but has extended to us his steadfast love before the kings of Persia, to give us new life to set up the house of our God, to repair its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judea and Jerusalem.

¹⁰And now, our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken your commandments, ¹¹which you commanded by your servants the prophets, saying, 'The land that you are entering to possess is a land unclean with the pollutions of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations. They have filled it from end to end with their uncleanness. ¹²Therefore do not give your daughters to their sons, neither take their daughters for your sons, and never seek their peace or prosperity, so that you may be strong and eat the good of the land and leave it for an inheritance to your children forever.' ¹³After all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great guilt, seeing that you, our God, have punished us less than our iniquities deserved and have given us such a remnant as this, ¹⁴shall we break your commandments again and intermarry with the peoples who practice these abominations? Would you not be angry with us until you destroy us without remnant or survivor? ¹⁵O LORD, God of Israel, you are just, but we have escaped as a remnant, as is now the case. Here we are before you in our guilt, though no one can face you because of this."

The word of the Lord.

☒ Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 115

¹Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory; because of your steadfast love and faithfulness.

☒ ²Why should the nations say, "Where then is their God?"

³Our God is in heaven; whatever God wills, God does.

☒ ⁴Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

⁵They have mouths, but they cannot speak; eyes they have, but they cannot see;

☒ ⁶they have ears but they cannot hear; noses, but they cannot smell;

⁷they have hands, but they cannot feel; feet, but they cannot walk; they make no sound with their throat.

☒ ⁸Those who make them are like them, and so are all who put their trust in them.

⁹O Israel, trust in the Lord, who is your help and your shield.

☒ ¹⁰O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord, who is your help and your shield.

¹¹You that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord, who is your help and your shield.

☒ ¹²The Lord has been mindful of us, and will bless us; the Lord will bless the house of Israel and the house of Aaron;

¹³those who fear the Lord will be blessed, both small and great together.

☒ ¹⁴May the Lord increase you more and more, you and your children after you.

¹⁵May you be blessed by the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

☒ ¹⁶Heaven is the heaven of the Lord, but the earth God entrusted to its peoples.

¹⁷The dead do not praise the Lord, nor all those who go down into silence;

☒ ¹⁸but we will bless the Lord, from this time forth forevermore. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Titus 1:1-9

¹Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that is in accordance with godliness, ²in the hope of eternal life that God, who never lies, promised before the ages began — ³in due time he revealed his word through the proclamation with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior,

⁴To Titus, my loyal child in the faith we share:

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

⁵I left you behind in Crete for this reason, so that you should put in order what remained to be done, and should appoint elders in every town, as I directed you: ⁶someone who is blameless, married only once,

whose children are believers, not accused of debauchery and not rebellious. ⁷For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain; ⁸but he must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, prudent, upright, devout, and self-controlled. ⁹He must have a firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy in accordance with the teaching, so that he may be able both to preach with sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it.

The word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. I will not leave you orphaned, says the Lord.

☩ I am coming to you. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 16:16-24

The holy gospel according to John.

☩ Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹⁶"A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me." ¹⁷Then some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying to us, 'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" ¹⁸They said, "What does he mean by this 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." ¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, 'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'?" ²⁰Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. ²²So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. ²³On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

The gospel of the Lord.

☩ Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.

MUSICAL OFFERING

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☩ Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

☩ And also with you.

The assembly remains in place, as the service continues.

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**☩ We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.

☩ Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you . . . through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☩ Amen.

OFFERING PRESENTATION

Offerings are received at the door as one enters. The offering is presented for the work of Christ's Church, here and throughout the world.

OFFERTORY

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☩ Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Ask, and it will be given you;

☩ search, and you will find;

knock, and the door will be opened for you.

☩ For everyone who asks receives,

and everyone who searches finds,

☩ and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread,
will give a stone?

☩ Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake?

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children,

**☩ how much more will your Father in heaven
give good things to those who ask him!**

Alleluia.

☩ Alleluia.

OFFERING PRAYER

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☩ Amen.

The table is set.

DIALOGUE

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

The minister continues, concluding: ... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)

**☩ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. . . .

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

☩ Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life . . .

Grace our table with your presence.

☩ Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. . . .

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

☩ Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places . . .

we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**☩ 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

The risen Christ invites us to receive from this table.

Eat and be satisfied.

☩ Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG (AGNUS DEI)

**☩ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Please remain seated where you are. The communion elements will be brought to you. The host is received in your open hand. The wine will be taken by you from an individual glass. Carefully place your empty glass on the pew until end of worship.

BLESSING & POST-COMMUNION PSALM (122)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

☩ Amen.

¹I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

☩ ²Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

**☩ ⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.**

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

☩ ⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

**☩ ⁸For my brethren and companions’ sake,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

**☩ Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☩ Amen.

BLESSING

Response after the blessing:

☞ Amen.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check web-sites and printed materials for further information.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

☞ Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news.

☞ Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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