



## ***Third Sunday of Easter***

**Sunday, May 4, 2025**

**9:30 a.m.**

The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

**Order of Worship for  
Sunday, May 4, 2025**

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS**

-  
**GATHERING**

*(Please rise)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Christ asked Peter if he loved him.

**C: Peter affirmed three times his love of the Lord.**

P: Christ asks us if we love him.

**C: We affirm our love of the Lord in our worship**

P: Christ calls us to demonstrate our love in service.

**C: Lord, help us to witness to your love in the ways in  
which we care for others. AMEN**

## OPENING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

**C: God of power and might, let your love shine on us and through us to others. Take the blindness from our eyes and our hearts. Give us the joy of knowing and serving you in all that we say, think and do. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen**

## PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN

“At the Lambs High Feast, We Sing” #210 vs. 1,2,7&8

*Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal*

## SALUTATION

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

*(Please be seated)*

## **WORD**

### **THE FIRST READING is from the Book of: Acts, Chapter 9 verses 1 through 6.**

*Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.*

<sup>1</sup> Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” <sup>5</sup> He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**OUR SECOND LESSON** is from the book of Revelation, chapter 5, verses 1 through 7 and 11 through 14.

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; <sup>2</sup>and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” <sup>3</sup>And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. <sup>4</sup>And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. <sup>5</sup>Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.” <sup>6</sup>Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup>He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

<sup>11</sup>Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>singing with full voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” <sup>13</sup>Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea,

and all that is in them, singing, “To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” <sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

L: This is the Spirit speaking to the church.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*(Please rise)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*(ELW # 174)*



*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 21st chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL: John 21:1-19**

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus appeared to his followers in Jerusalem, Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way.

<sup>2</sup> Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea.

<sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup> When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught."

<sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn.

<sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup> A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” <sup>19</sup> (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**



*(Please be seated)*

## **MESSAGE**

*(Please rise)*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY –**

“Now The Feast and Celebration” #789

*With One Voice – Blue Hymnal*

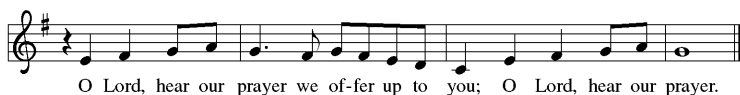
## **EASTER UNISON PRAYER**

P: Let Us Pray,

**C: O God of Easter joy, we come this morning with glad shouts of acclamation. Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed. May this time of worship help us to truly and fully experience this Risen Christ. May we be transformed. transformed into your butterfly people, winging through the earth with messages of beauty, hope and life. Amen.**

## PRAYER SONG

(ELW #170)



## PRAYERS

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

*A brief silence.*

P: Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip youth directors, Sunday school teachers, and all who guide formation in the church to nurture vibrant, living faith among your people. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and rivers, lakes and estuaries so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make us wise stewards of our local watersheds. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of grassroots organizers, especially among communities on the frontlines of justice work. Amplify the voices of those most in need, that their leadership guides the way forward. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Your compassion surrounds all who are in need. We pray for all people experiencing poverty and food insecurity, and for all struggling with debt and economic uncertainty. Reassure all who experience hopelessness or need your tender care *especially* Jeff O., Bonnie, Anita, Grete L., Bettie, Jean D., Brad L., Tom N., Cathi, Jim & Sharon L., Melanie W., Ingaborg, Grete L., Heather, Kim D, Robin B, Pat (Robin's Mom), Daniel and all those we name in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We praise you for the witness of your saints of all times and places (*especially Monica, mother of Augustine*). May their lives of faith guide us in our own journeys with you, today and every day. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER SONG (repeated) (ELW #170)**



O Lord, hear our prayer we of-fer up to you; O Lord, hear our prayer.

## **PASSING THE PEACE**

P: May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: “And also with you.”**

*(Shaking of hands and sharing the peace with others around you.)*

## OFFERTORY

(WOV#673)



1 I'm so glad Je-sus lift-ed me. I'm so glad

Je-sus lift-ed me. I'm so glad Je-sus lift-ed me,

sing-ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

## OFFERING PRAYER

A: 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.

**C: Amen**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE MEAL

P: Christ be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to God.**

P: Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: Providing God, your Son prepared a simple meal for his disciples which in your grace became a resurrection banquet.

As you revealed yourself to them, open our hearts to receive in this holy meal the miracle of his saving passion. Send your Holy Spirit upon your church to make our life together a feast for all who hunger.

Sanctify this bread and cup that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son; who, on the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

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, which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me."

Great Shepherd, your Son is the holy Lamb, and by his blood you have made us your own flock. Feed your sheep who hunger for the necessities of life, for safe

food to eat and clean water to drink, for protection from fear, for shelter, and for warmth. Tend your lambs when they long for love and acceptance and a place to belong. Make your church a sheepfold of grace. Shepherd all who have suffered harm and look to you for healing and hope. Turn the sorrow of mourning into one eternal joy in your presence. Bring us with all creation to that great day when we shall fall on our knees and worship the Lamb in glory, Holy Father, in the power of your Spirit. Amen.

**C: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Reaching out to one another let us join our hands and hearts together in the prayer that our Lord taught 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life. All are welcome.

*(Please be seated)*

## SHARING THE MEAL

*For in person, come up the center aisle, receive your communion wafer, carefully dip your wafer into the wine. If grape juice/covid safe is preferred let the assistant know.*

*For at home using plain bread/crackers and wine/grape juice.*

## COMMUNION HYMN -

“O Living Bread from Heaven” #197

*Lutheran Book of Worship – Green Hymnal*

*(Please rise)*



## COMMUNION BLESSING

L: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## BLESSING

P: 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.

**C: AMEN!**

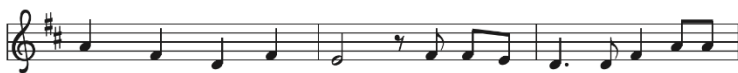
## SENDING HYMN -

(ACS#950) vs. 1, 4 & 5

### Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In



1 Oh, when the saints go march-ing in, oh, when the  
 2 Oh, when the Lord in glo-ry comes, oh, when the  
 3 Oh, when the new world is re-vealed, oh, when the  
 4 Oh, when they gath-er round the throne, oh, when they  
 5 And on that hal-le-lu-jah day, and on that



saints go march-ing in, O Lord, I want to be in that  
 Lord in glo-ry comes, O Lord, I want to be in that  
 new world is re-vealed, O Lord, I want to be in that  
 gath-er round the throne, O Lord, I want to be in that  
 hal-le-lu-jah day, O Lord, I want to be in that



num-ber when the saints go march-ing in.  
 num-ber when the Lord in glo-ry comes.  
 num-ber when the new world is re-vealed.  
 num-ber when they gath-er round the throne.  
 num-ber on that hal-le-lu-jah day.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WHEN THE SAINTS, African American spiritual

## RECESSIONAL

A: We follow the cross of Christ into the world.

(Congregation turns as the cross passes them—so they are facing the back of the church)

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

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Jeff O., Bonnie, Anita, Grete L., Bettie, Brad L., Tom N., Cathi,  
Jim & Sharon L., Melanie W., Ingaborg, Grete L., Heather,  
Daniel

**TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: John Barnes

Communion Assistants: John & Robin Barnes

Building Host, Offering Presenter: John Barnes

Coffee Hour: OPEN      Altar Flowers: OPEN

Live Stream Tech: A Volunteer

Musician: William Mueller

**WORSHIP LEADERS NEXT WEEK (Sunday 5/11):**

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Julie Hansen

Communion Assistants: Julie Hansen & Vicki Thiery

Building Host, Offering Presenter: Ed Young

Coffee Hour: OPEN      Altar Flowers: OPEN

Live Stream Tech: A Volunteer

Musician: William Mueller



**BETHANIA HOSTS THE COMMUNITY MEAL ON TODAY,  
SUNDAY MAY 4, 2025 AT LIVING FAITH LUTHERAN  
CHURCH, 2915 Wright Avenue, Racine.**

Please see Jeff or Shelly Alderson if you can help.

**2025 LACE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE  
CURRENTLY AVAILABLE.** The deadline to return them is  
May 31, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.





## **THIS WEEK AT BETHANIA...**

### **Sunday, May 4, 2025**

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Hearth Room

### **Tuesday, May 6, 2025**

7:00 p.m. – Council Meeting, Hearth Room

### **Wednesday, May 7, 2025**

10 am to 2 pm – Thread By Thread OPEN

### **Friday, May 9, 2025**

8:00 to 3:00 P.m. – RUSD – fellowship hall

### **Sunday, May 11, 2025**

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Hearth Room