FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 18, 2025

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
34 E. Orange Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257-1993
Web Site: memluth.org
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717-532-4614

Welcoming all
Reaching out in love
Growing together in Christ
Worshiping and serving in Jesus' name

Reverend Godfred Effisah
717-532-4614 (church office) or 571-572-0119 (cell)
pastor@memluth.org
Office hours: Monday through Thursday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Children are an active part of Memorial's community of faith! We welcome you to worship each week! Children's bulletins and Quiet Bags (lots of exciting things to do!) are available at the doors coming from the parking lot. Please take one of each as they may help your children bring smiles into our time of worship!

Welcome to Memorial Lutheran Church. As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone.

INTRODUCTION
Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE *"Come Away to the Skies"* *- Held*

CHORAL INTROIT *"Jesus Stand Among Us"* **Senior Choir**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Please kneel or stand as you are able.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

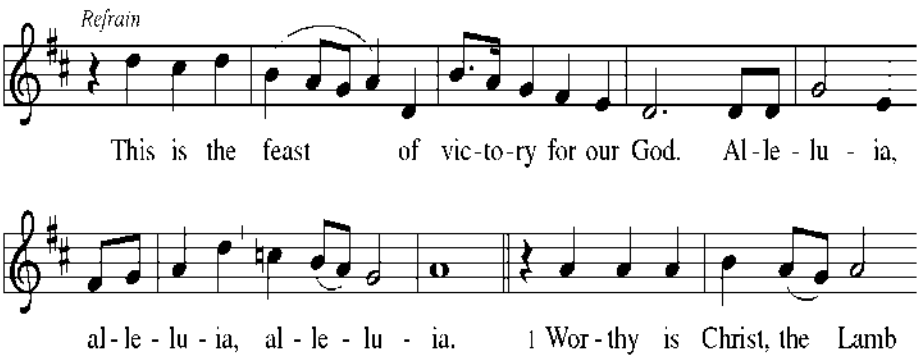
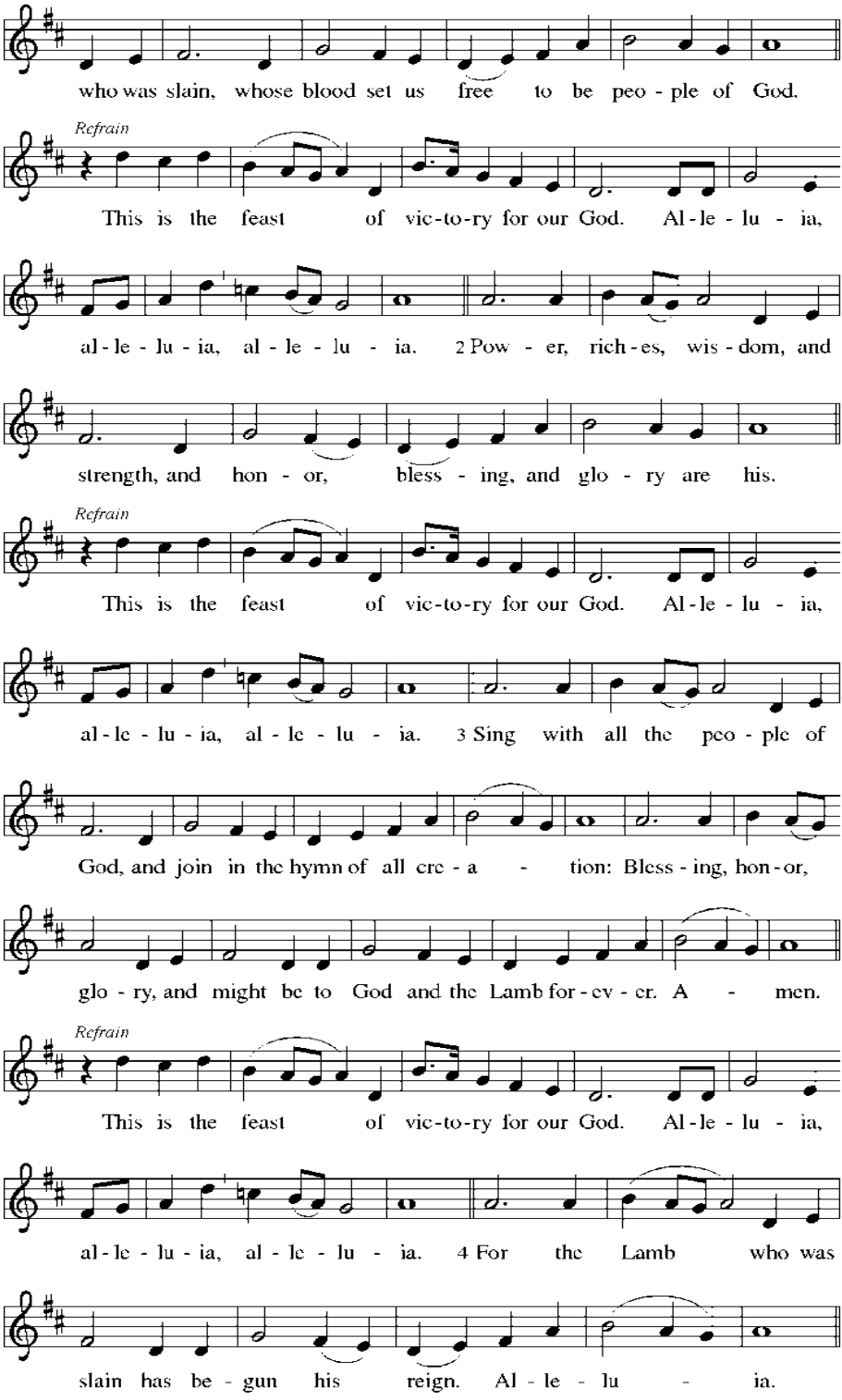
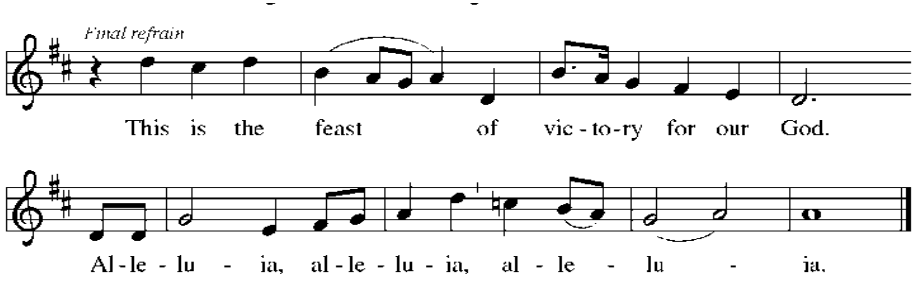
Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN *"On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand"* **ELW 437**

GREETING
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.
And also with you.

KYRIE **READ RESPONSIVELY**
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen, amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *"This is the Feast"*

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING **Acts 11:1-18**

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

[1] Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the
Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. [2] So when Peter went up
to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, [3] saying, "Why
did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" [4] Then Peter be-
gan to explain it to them, step by step, saying, [5] "I was in the city of
Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something
like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four
corners; and it came close to me. [6] As I looked at it closely I saw four-
footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. [7] I also
heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' [8] But I replied,
'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered
my mouth.' [9] But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What
God has made clean, you must not call profane.' [10] This happened
three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. [11] At that
very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the
house where we were. [12] The Spirit told me to go with them and not to
make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also ac-
companied me, and we entered the man's house. [13] He told us how he

had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; [14] he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' [15] And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. [16] And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' [17] If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" [18] When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 148 READ RESPONSIVELY

[1] Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.
[2] **Praise the LORD, all you angels;**
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.
[3] Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.
[4] **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,**
and you waters above the heavens.
[5] Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,
[6] **who made them stand fast forever and ever,**
giving them a law that shall not pass away.
[7] Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
[8] **fire and hail, snow and fog,**
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
[9] mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
[10] **wild beasts and all cattle,**
creeping things and flying birds;
[11] sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
[12] **young men and maidens,**
old and young together.
[13] Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
[14] **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,**
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.
Hallelujah!

SECOND READING **Revelation 21:1-6**

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

[1] I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. [2] And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. [3] And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; [4] he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." [5] And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." [6] Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia. **Everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.** ***Alleluia.*** *(John 13:35)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 13th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL **John 13:31-35**

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

[31] When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. [32] If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. [33] Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' [34] I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. [35] By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Where Charity and Love Prevail"* **ELW 359**

NICENE CREED
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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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
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.

Risen Lord, ignite in our hearts a passion for prayer. Make our hearts yearn for your presence, helping us to seek you with all our being. In this Year of Prayer, teach us to pray with deep conviction, and never for shallow wishes, beliefs, or with a fleeting faith in you. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Risen Lord, we gather in your presence to thank you for your love and to celebrate the gift of our mothers and all women. A love that supports, sacrifices, nurtures, and challenges us in ways that strengthen and transform us. We give thanks for all those who have nurtured and cared for us, remembering especially; birth mothers, adoptive mothers, surrogate mothers, aunts, grandmothers, grieving mothers, and all women who have shared their faith with us. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Risen Lord, we pray for all who are preparing to attend the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly next month. Reveal to them the ways in which you are calling us as a synod to be your hands and feet in this world, so that they can discern who our next leader should be. Help them to trust in your guidance. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness (*especially*). Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love (*especially Erik, King of Sweden*). Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated.

SENIOR CHOIR OFFERTORY *"Seek Ye First"*
- arrg. Douglas Wagner

The Ushers will collect the offering.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE
"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" **ELW 884**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

MEAL

OFFERTORY PRAYER
Let us pray together.
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.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
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 - EASTER
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Read Together*
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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God; you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

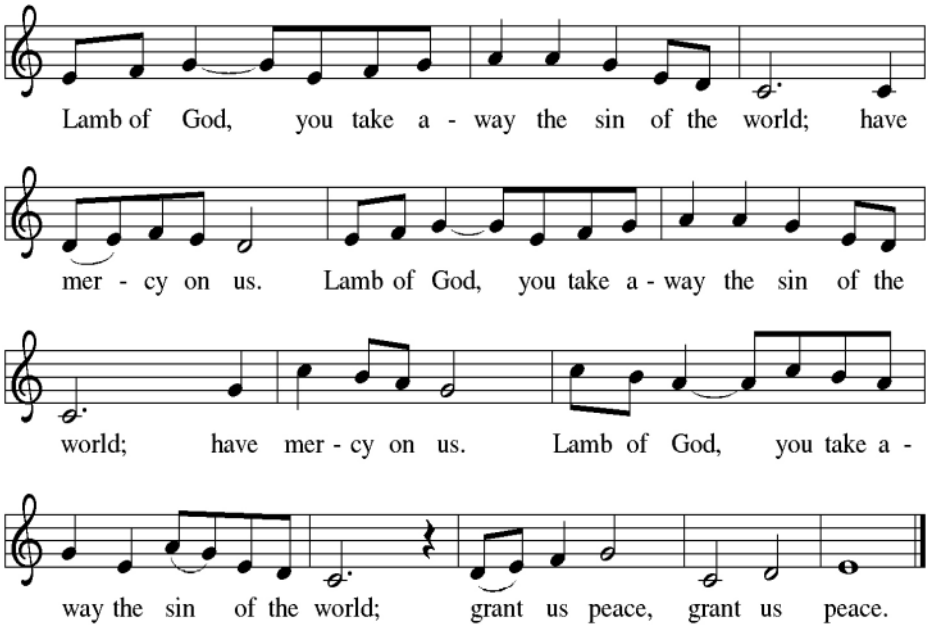
WORDS OF INSTITUTION
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving Passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again, we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine; that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son may be filled with heavenly peace and joy, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all your saints.

All glory and honor is yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE 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.

LAMB OF GOD **page 191**



INVITATION TO COMMUNION
Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION
All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward by the center aisle at the usher's direction. If you choose to have wine for communion, take an empty cup from the usher. If you prefer grape juice, receive a pre-filled cup at the altar. If you or a child has never received the sacrament, fold hands to receive a blessing instead. After receiving communion or a blessing, you may choose to remain at the altar for extra time in prayer. When you return to your pew do so by the side aisles. Please deposit the empty cup in the basket.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Let us pray together.
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.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING
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.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN *"Now the Green Blade Rises"* **ELW 379**

DISMISSAL
Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Please be seated.

POSTLUDE *"Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"* *- Bender*

Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160
Sunday, May 18, 2025
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.

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Evelyn Fuller
Bernita Killian
Karen Larson
Doug & Pat Maun
Jeanne Naugle
Dorothy Railing
Trina Ruth
All Caregivers

Pastor
Pastor Godfred Effisah

Organist & Pianist
Nancy Fogelsanger

Senior Choir / Bell Choir Director
Kathy Kerr

Parish Coordinator
Amy Piper

Preschool Director
Shirley Perry