



# APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH



**THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN**

7092 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061

(804) 693-9098 | [apostles-elca.org](http://apostles-elca.org) | [facebook.com/ApostlesELCA](https://facebook.com/ApostlesELCA)



## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Christ's prayer for his disciples (John 17:1-11)*

**SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026 | 10:00 AM**

Our Mission is to be a Caring Inclusive Christian Community responding to God's grace through  
Worship, Service, and Sharing the Gospel.



**RECONCILING *in* CHRIST**



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# WELCOME TO APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH!

It is an honor to worship God with you this morning. We pray you experience the Spirit's loving presence as we share our words, our actions, and the Holy Meal.

**If this is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a card in the pew rack with your contact info.** A restroom can be found by exiting the rear door of the worship space. It is directly in front of you to the right. Additional restrooms can be found in the back corner of the fellowship area, near the Pastor's office.

## RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

We, the people of Apostles Lutheran Church, follow Paul's message to the Galatians (3:28): "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Believing that because we are all one in Christ, and created in God's image, all are welcome as beloved children of God. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. **Rejoicing in God's amazing diversity, we welcome people of all ages, races, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, and physical and mental abilities.** Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to racial equity, breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are beloved.

## FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Reverend Jay Serafin is our pastor. Pastor Jay's **schedule is noted in the calendar on the back of this bulletin.** Call Pastor Jay at 570-205-7506 or email him at [j80j84@msn.com](mailto:j80j84@msn.com) (preferred) or [pastor.apostles@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.apostles@gmail.com). Messages can also be left on the Apostles answering machine 804-693-9098.

## PRAYGROUND

Welcome to our youngest members! The area in the front of our sanctuary is for families and young children. There are quiet toys, books and drawing materials. **We ask two things: 1) sit in the front pews near your children and 2) please sit with your children in the pews during the sermon.** They may return immediately after. Thank you and welcome!

## NAME TAGS

**Please wear your nametag!** Guests: please fill out and put on a name tag before worship today. Blank nametags are in the baskets located in the pews.

# GATHERING

*In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.*

## PRELUDE AND SILENT PRAYER

*Martin Luther said of music: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Please take a moment to **silence all cell phones.***

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please rise in body or in spirit. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us: the Piankatank River, the North River, the Ware River, the East River, the York River, the Chesapeake Bay. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

**ELW #322**

**“Oh, Love, How Deep” (verses 1-4)**



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all  
2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er  
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly  
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of  
or of low - er place, but wore the robe of  
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion  
dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.  
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.  
ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–1885, alt.  
Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

## EASTER PROCLAMATION

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

## APOSTOLIC 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.**

# HYMN OF PRAISE


ELW #394

## Hail Thee Festival Day, Verse 1


*Refrain*



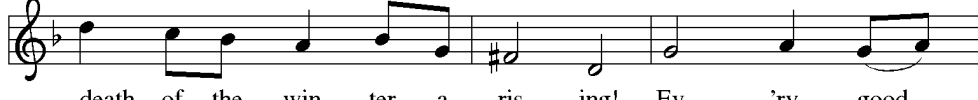
Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! Blest day to be hal - lowed for - ev - er;




day when our Lord was raised, break - ing the king - dom of death.



*Easter 1* All the fair beau - ty of earth from the



death of the win - ter a - ris - ing! Ev - 'ry good



gift of the year now with its mas - ter re - turns: *Refrain*

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 530–609; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: SALVE FESTA DIES, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.

**Amen.**

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

*Sit*

## **FIRST READING**

## **ACTS 1:6-14**

*Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>6</sup>When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

<sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup>When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

*Response after the First Reading*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

## PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35

- <sup>1</sup> Let God arise, and let God's ene- | mies be scattered;  
let those who | hate God flee.
- <sup>2</sup> **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive | them away;  
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the  
pres- | ence of God.**
- <sup>3</sup> But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God;  
let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.
- <sup>4</sup> **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who | rides the clouds;  
I Am is that name, rejoice | before God! R**
- <sup>5</sup> In your holy habita- | tion, O God,  
you are a father to orphans, defend- | er of widows;
- <sup>6</sup> **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners | into freedom;  
but the rebels shall live in | desert places.**
- <sup>7</sup> O God, when you went forth be- | fore your people,  
when you marched | through the wilderness,
- <sup>8</sup> **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of  
God, the | God of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the | God of Israel.**
- <sup>9</sup> You sent a bountiful | rain, O God;  
you restored your inheritance | when it languished.
- <sup>10</sup> **Your people found their | home in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision | for the poor. R**
- <sup>32</sup> Sing to God, O kingdoms | of the earth;  
sing praises | to the Lord.
- <sup>33</sup> **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the | ancient heavens;  
you send forth your voice, your | mighty voice.**
- <sup>34</sup> Ascribe pow- | er to God,  
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is | in the skies.
- <sup>35</sup> **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O | God of Israel,  
giving strength and power to your people! | Blessed be God! R**

## SECOND READING

## 1 PETER 4:12-14; 5:6-11

*Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.*

<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

<sup>5:6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

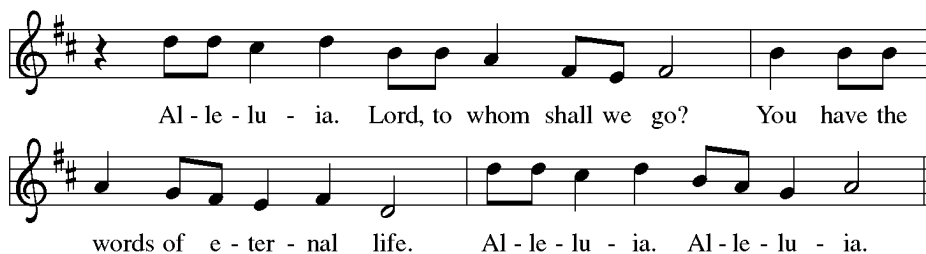
*Response after the Second Reading*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*The gospel is announced.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 17<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL**

## **JOHN 17:1-11**

*On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.*

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

*The gospel concludes:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## **SERMON**

**PASTOR JAY SERAFIN**

*Silence is kept after the reflection.*

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**ELW #403**

### "Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her  
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the  
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the  
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our  
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## **NICENE CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the 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,  
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

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:*

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

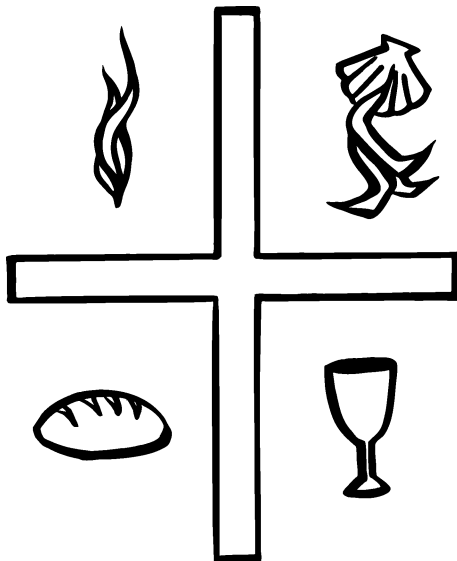
**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We share a sign of Peace with our neighbors saying **Peace be with you** to which we respond **And also with you**. Please know that it is fine if you do not want to shake hands but would rather just share a sign of peace.*



# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Sit

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

To give online:

✦ Visit [apostles-elca.org/contributions](http://apostles-elca.org/contributions)

✦ From your mobile phone, text the word GIVE to 844-215-5453

## DOXOLOGY

**ELW #884**

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly  
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois;  
setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

OLD HUNDREDTH  
*Psalm 150; Is. 6:1-4; Rev. 4:8*

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

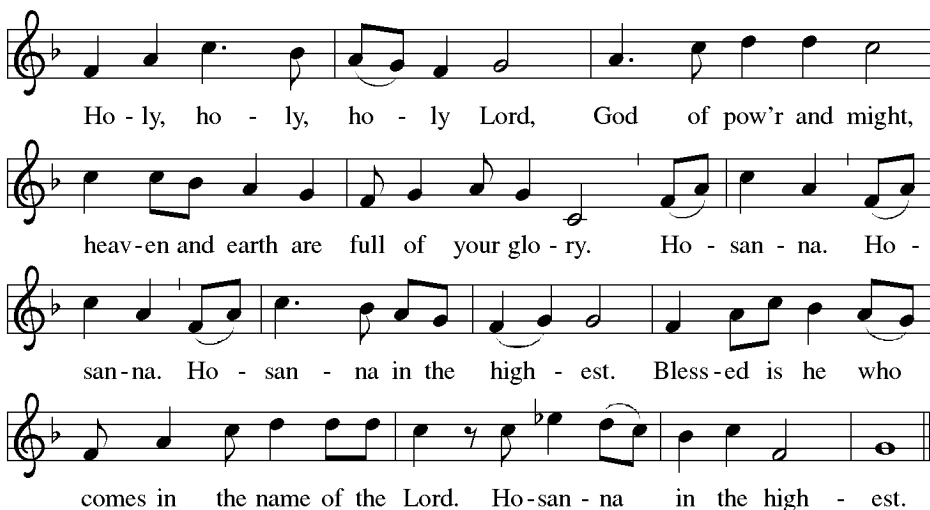
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

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

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

*The great thanksgiving concludes.*

... we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

*Sit*

## COMMUNION

*All are invited to join us at the Lord's table to receive the presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. Jesus himself invites you and Jesus turns no one away.*

*You will be invited to come forward either to receive the elements or to receive a blessing. For those receiving the elements, after receiving the bread, please take a glass from the tray held by the acolyte. There are pre-filled glasses of grape juice in the tray for those who do not drink wine. Gluten free wafers are also available upon request.*

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

# HYMN DURING COMMUNION

ELW #526

"God Is Here!"



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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*After all have returned to their places, all rise in body or in spirit.*

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

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission back into the world.*

## **BLESSING**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

**ELW #367**

**“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”**



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in there - praise of love that still a - bounds: “Christ has  
set heart and will on things a - bove: “Christ has  
and with the heav'n-ly bless - ed sing: “Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he  
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.  
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
 Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

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

## POSTLUDE

\*\*\*\*\*

**THANK YOU TO ...**

**Kathy Merithew for playing for our service this morning!!!**

## WORSHIP LEADERS

	Serving Today	Serving Next Week
Worship Leader/Preacher .....	Pastor Jay Serafin .....	Pastor Jay Serafin
Lay Assisting Minister .....	Linda Hodges .....	Chase Ambrose
Lector .....	Judy Wright .....	Daniel Gomez
Acolyte .....	Chase Ambrose .....	Ray Scholz
Accompanist .....	Kathy Merithew .....	Janet Gomez
Choir Director .....	- .....	Sue Turner
Altar Care .....	Judy Wright .....	Betsy Liljeberg
Communion Bread .....	Donna Ambrose .....	Betsy Liljeberg
Greeter/Usher .....	Judy Wright .....	Betsy Liljeberg
Technology .....	Chris Hawkins .....	Doug Dalager

## SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK

	Serving This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team .....	Alberts .....	Liljebergs
Tellers .....	Barbara Runk / Tonia Fallin .....	Daniel Gomez / Ray Scholz
Fellowship Set Up .....	Ray Scholz .....	Jennie Hawkins
Fellowship Food .....	Tonia Fallin .....	Judy Wright / Ellen Quirk
Fellowship Clean Up .....	Tonia Fallin / Barbara Runk .....	Alberts

## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY DAY OF PENTECOST

### First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

*Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds*

### Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

*Send forth your Spirit & renew the face of the earth.*

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

*Varieties of gifts from the same Spirit*

### Gospel: John 20:19-23

*The Spirit poured out*

## **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

This seventh Sunday of the Easter combines some of the content of Luke's Ascension Day with a gospel of Johannine theology. It is Sunday, when we experience the presence of Christ in God, within the baptized community, and throughout the cosmos.

## **WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY – TODAY!!**

Don't forget your world hunger offering today — **UNTIL ALL ARE FED!!**

## **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!**

We are looking for someone to take care of changing the outdoor sign periodically during the year. Pastor Jay will help with what to put on the sign—we just need someone who will change it when needed (7-8 times during the year). If you are interested in helping, please contact Ray Scholz, Administration Ministry Team leader.

## **ADULT STUDY - WEDNESDAYS**

A new adult study that began in April on "Understanding the New Testament" will continue **on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>**. The class is being led by Pastor Jay and is held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month—bring a sandwich for dinner at 6:00 PM and the study will begin on 6:15 PM—please make plans to join us!!

## **APOSTLES LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Today we gather on the original and ancestral homelands of the Pamunkey, Mattaponi, Chickahominy, Rappahannock, and Nansemond peoples and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

## THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

At the ascension we, like the disciples in today's reading in Acts, are left looking at the sky. But in the High Priestly Prayer (John 17), Jesus brings us back to earth. In the prayer he speaks not only from the perspective of the risen and ascended one, but as the Word of God, now made flesh. The prayer anticipates the accomplishments of this Word, which does not return empty (Isa. 55:11), namely in the fulfillment of the "hour" of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. It is as if Jesus has already ascended "to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God" (John 20:17), and has returned to tell us something vital. As we overhear Jesus, we learn that God's character and motive are identical to those of Jesus, who has now, fully and completely, "made God's name known." We no longer have to speculate about the nature of God. God's purposes and love are made known in Jesus. But we also learn about ourselves. Jesus' prayer frequently mentions the "world"—the world at once hostile to God and God's anointed, and yet also beloved of God (John 3:16). With Jesus' commissioning today we have our work to do, to make God known in and through Christ Jesus. The Living One works through us as "words within the world," who no longer seek meaning among the dead, but are empowered to make known the vibrant, new reality of Easter.

According to astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, if we calculate "how many combinations of genes" it takes to make "an authentic human being," the possible number of combinations "is [such] a stupendously large number" that "most people who could exist . . . will never exist"—making every person alive "as special a living entity as there ever was" (interview posted to YouTube May 2, 2023). In light of this week's John text (see 17:10), what does it mean that all humans who have ever lived (roughly 100 billion), as well as unfathomable future multitudes, belong to God and Christ? And that even those who "will never exist" do as well?

## **PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**Rich Bitting, Manning Freeman, Don Garfield, Heidi Henderson, Ellen Kendzierski, Doug Leip, Jason Lowe, Ellen Quirk, Michael Schlemmer, Keith & Juanita Sturdy, George Thomas, Jewel Thomas, and Lena Woodlief**

## **OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

**Patricia Armentor** (mother of Arlene, Executive Director of Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic), **Paul Bauer, Karen Bell** (Pam Moore's sister), **Bob & Dixie, Calli Bonfey, Patricia Boyd & Brad Zelmer, Amanda Brown, David Brown, Dennis & Dorothy Brown, Sally Burkholder, Juan Carlos, Amy Carter, Laura Clodfelter, Jackie Collier, Ben Davis** (friend of Donna Ambrose), **Tommy & Kathie Davis, Jenny DeSha, Linda Edwards, Colton Elliot** (Michael Schlemmer's cousin), **Teresa Floersheim-Miller** (Ingrid Peterson's mother), **Suzanne & Frank Gibson, Steven Godwin** (Juanita Sturdy's grandson), **Jimmy & Fay Gray** (Chris Hawkins' family), **Carl Greene, Karen Guire, Melvin Hawkins** (Chris Hawkins' father), **Chaneice & Daniel Hayden, Rosie Heins, Carl & Kaleb Hess, Aris Hibbs** (friend of Ray Scholz), **Ray Hughes, Suzanne Kinkade** (friend of Ellen Quirk), **Terri Larsen, Marion Lucier, Wayne Mathews, Wayne McCormick, Sylvia Midgette** (Krystle McMahan's grandmother), **Debbie Minteins, Keith Morgan, Gary Mowery, Jamie Mullaney, Carol Pascale** (Lynn Jaeger's mother), **Chastity Perkins** (co-worker and friend of Donna Ambrose), **Brad Person** (Lilly Frost's uncle), **Dick Peterson & his brother, the Prusa Family, Joan Ritter, Glen Robertson, Pastor Wendy Roundy, Carol Schlemmer, Daniel Schmidt, Michael Scholz** (Ray Scholz's nephew), **Joseph Serafin** (Pastor Jay's father), **Kathy Shackelford, Elana Sierson, Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Jean Sterling, Skye Sulton, Marier Upshrie, Keegan Walls, Williams Walters, Chuck Webb** (Tina Britt's father), **Makenzie Webb** (Tina Britt's niece), **Elizabeth & Steven White, Vicki Williams, Cory Woodlief, Jim Wright** (Judy Wright's husband), **Logan & Shannon Wymer, Derek Zwiers** (friend of CK Ambrose)

## **OUR SPONSORED CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA**

**Amayra, Hugolino, Manuela, and Pablo**

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

There is a book located at the rear of the worship space for you to write any prayer requests you have for today. Fill out a "Prayer Request" (on the back of each pew) and place it in the offering plate to add a prayer request to the "Prayer List" included in the bulletin and the newsletter. **Please print legibly!**

# THIS WEEK AT APOSTLES

**MAY 17, 2026 – MAY 24, 2026**

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship Service / World Hunger Sunday</b>
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship / Sunday School
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>10:00 PM – 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Pastor Jay in the Office</b>
	7:00 PM	AA
<b>TUESDAY</b>	7:00 PM	Al-Anon/AA
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>12:00 PM – 3:00 PM</b>	<b>Pastor Jay in the Office</b>
	1:00 PM	Preaching Guild
<b>FRIDAY</b>		Girl Scouts
<b>SATURDAY</b>	6:30 PM	Young and Sober
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship / Sunday School

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...**

**Pete Liljeberg – May 19<sup>th</sup>**

## **HAPPY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY TO ...**

**Mary Leunig – May 19<sup>th</sup>**

