

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Welcome to our visitors!

- It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.
- Large print service folders, assisted listening devices, children's service folders and children's worship notes are available from the ushers.
- Parents may take small children into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed and follow the worship service on the TV monitor. Changing tables are available in the mother's room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.
- Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area.
- As the offering is received, members and guests are asked to sign the Friendship Register. Please pass the register to your neighbor and then return it to the center aisle. Visitors are also asked to fill out a guest card and give it to an usher.
- Please join us for Bible class at 9:15 AM on Sunday.
Worship While You Work: Fellowship Hall, lower level of church
Ezekiel: School Lecture Room, across the street
Bible Information Class: St. Matthew's Room, lower level of church
A staffed nursery is available during Bible class.

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 12 & 13, 2018

Jesus Lives: To Intercede For His People

Call to Worship (8:00 AM)

Grade K4 & Congregation

She Will Be Called Blessed

by Elizabeth deGravelles & Joseph Barlow

Refrain: She will be called blessed by her sons and her daughters;
Precious to the Father are those who seek his ways.
She will be called blessed, help above ev'ry other;
Blessed is the mother who turns to God in praise.

C: Her strength and her dignity clothe her with beauty;
(spoken) In works of her hands she excels.
A heart of compassion she turns to the needy;
In service to others, she gives of herself.

Refrain

C: She rises each morning to see her household;
(spoken) She looks toward the future with joy.
She teaches her children true lessons of kindness
And shares with them wisdom the world can't destroy.

Refrain

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

Christian Worship 175

M: The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

- M:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.
- C:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- M:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.
- C:** **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- M:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, Whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, And
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, And
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might Be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain Has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *to Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *to Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion. *to Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *to Refrain*
goun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia! *to Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son our Savior was taken up in glory and intercedes for us at your right hand. Through your living and abiding Word, give us hearts to know him and faith to follow where he has gone; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Acts 7:54-60⁺

A vision of Jesus the High Priest moves Stephen to intercede for those who kill him.

When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

+ Acts: On most Sundays during the church year, the first lesson is a reading from the Old Testament. During some of the Sundays in the Easter season, this lesson comes instead from the New Testament book of Acts. Acts serves as a bridge for the writings of the New Testament. It tells of the birth and infancy of the Christian church – the 30 years between the events occurring in the Gospels and the writing of the epistles. For more information on Acts, see pg. 55 of *Understanding Lutheran Worship*, found in the hymnal rack.

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 8

Jesus, crowned in glory and honor, sits at God's right hand and intercedes for us.

Refrain



I will praise your name for - ev-er, my King and my God.

Psalm tone



O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,

what is man that you are mindful of him,
the Son of Man that you care for him? *Refrain*

You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.

You made him ruler over the works of your hands;
you put everything under his feet.

**Glory be 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. *Refrain***

Second Lesson

Hebrews 7:11-27

Jesus' priestly sacrifice is complete, but his priestly work of interceding for us continues.

If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come – one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law. He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. For it is declared:

“You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him:

“The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: You are a priest forever.”

Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Such a high priest meets our need – one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia, alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Please stand

Gospel

John 17:11b-19

Our High Priest intercedes for his disciples.

“Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name – the name you gave me – so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.”

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Anthem (Sunday)

Adult Handbell Choir

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

arranged by Kevin McChesney

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;
 Alleluia! His the triumph, his the victory alone.
 Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
 “Jesus out of ev’ry nation has redeemed us by his blood.”

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us; faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise, "I am with you evermore"?

Hymn of the Day

Jesus, My Great High Priest
Christian Worship 359

Sermon

John 17:11b-19

Jesus Prays for You

Please stand

Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be seated

THANKSGIVING

Offering

The members of St. John's have joined together to do the Lord's work in our community and around the world, and our offerings are a joyful response of our faith. If you are a visitor today, you are welcome but not obligated to give an offering.

Please stand

Prayer of the Church for the Sundays of Easter

- M:** O Lord Jesus Christ, you have risen from the dead, ascended to the right hand of God, and opened the kingdom of heaven to us undeserving sinners.
- C:** **We praise and thank you for calling us into your kingdom through faith in you, our Savior and Lord.**
- M:** Ruled by your mercy and no longer filled with fear, we are confident of our salvation. What joy is ours as members of your kingdom!
- C:** **By your love, empower us to do the good works which you prepared in advance for us to do.**
- M:** Give us a hunger for your Word and nourish us daily by it. Cause us to remember our baptism which has washed away our sins. Make us frequent partakers of your body and blood through Holy Communion.
- C:** **Keep us in the true faith until the end, and help us to seek first your kingdom and righteousness.**
- M:** Multiply the preaching of your gospel throughout the world that your kingdom might also come to others. Encourage us to support our pastors and missionaries and to remember them daily in our prayers.
- C:** **Bless these kingdom workers wherever they labor, and allow the Word they preach to be received with joy.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Ascended Lord, hear our prayers and intercede for us at your Father's right hand.

C: **Shield us against every temptation and strengthen us in every trial, until we receive the victor's crown of everlasting life. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

C: **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Be seated

Hymn

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Christian Worship 411

Please stand

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



Be seated

Closing Hymn

On Christ's Ascension I Now Build
Christian Worship 173

Announcements

WELS Connection

Home Missions/Reno

Postlude

If you do not wish to take your service folder home, please place it in the basket so it can be reused.

Readings for the Week of Easter 7

M	John 14:15-21.....	Jeremiah 29:11-14a
T	John 15:17-21.....	Luke 12:8-12
W	1 Corinthians 2:12-16.....	1 John 2:24-29
TH	John 7:37-39.....	Numbers 20:2-12
F	Hebrews 11:32-40.....	Ezekiel 11:14-20
S	Isaiah 41:17-20.....	Genesis 11:1-9

Serving at Worship

Preacher	Pastor Eric Schroeder
Presiding Minister	Pastor Kyle Bitter
Musicians	Brian Kent, piano (Saturday) Carolyn Sachs, piano (Sunday) Mandy Treder, organ (Sunday)
Adult Handbell Choir Director	Kristi Meyer
Head Ushers	Matt Bahr (Saturday) Kerry Kuehn (8:00 AM) Rick Yahn (10:30 AM)
Greeters	Steve & Jennifer Wolf, Barb Weihing (8:00 AM) Bruce & Kary Ailey, Matt & Jenny Bahr (10:30 AM)

In Our Prayers

- God-fearing mothers and all the devout Christian women who played and continue to play such a vital role in our lives and the life of our church.

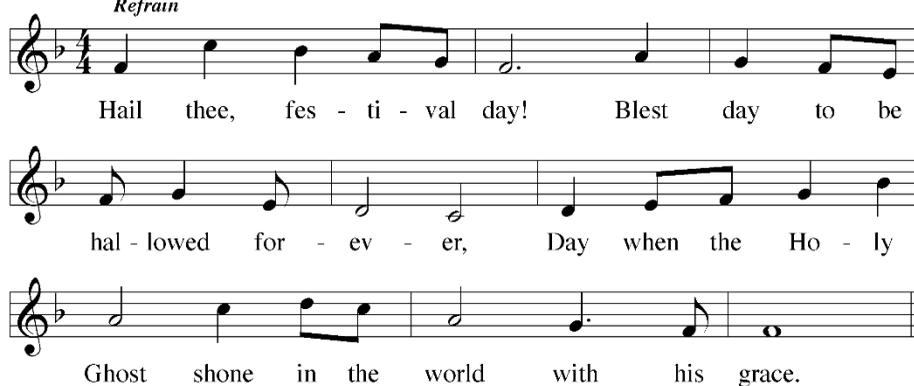
Parents' Preview for May 20

The Parents' Preview highlights an aspect of next week's service: a liturgical song, a Psalm refrain, or a hymn stanza. Our hope and prayer is that parents will teach this portion of the service to their children at home during the week so that children can participate more fully in the worship service.

“Hail Thee, Festival Day” Refrain

(*Christian Worship 179*)

Refrain



Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! Blest day to be
hal - lowed for - ev - er, Day when the Ho - ly
Ghost shone in the world with his grace.

Acknowledgements

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