



**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter**  
**May 15, 2022**

*Rev. Kelley L. Pedersen, Interim Pastor*

*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.*

(\*please stand as you are able)

(Congregation reads **bold** print)

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**Welcome & Announcements**

**\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In the waters of baptism,  
we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ,  
and we are a new creation.

For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come.

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

We thank you, God, for your river of life,  
flowing freely from your throne:  
through the earth,  
through the city,  
through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;

You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.

Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,  
and our sin is drowned forever.

You open the gate of righteousness  
and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.

You nourish us and enclose us in safety.

You call us forth and send us out.

In lush and barren places, you are with us.

You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water  
and awaken your church once more.

Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.

Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End,

our Shepherd and Lamb,

be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn** "Awake O Sleeper, Rise From Death" #452

**\*Greeting**

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

**\*Prayer of the Day**

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.**

**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.*

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>"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. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup>But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>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; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>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.' <sup>17</sup>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?" <sup>18</sup>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**

*The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon;

sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**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: Revelations 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.*

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>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;

<sup>4</sup>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."

<sup>5</sup>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." <sup>6</sup>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.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation -- p. 142**

\*The Holy Gospel according to 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.*

<sup>31</sup>When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>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.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>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.**

**Message**

**Hymn of the Day** "Alleluia, Jesus is Risen" #377

**\*Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Inspire us to praise you through the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us (*local natural areas may be named*). Urge us toward more deliberate care of the world you have made. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Humble the rulers of nations before your splendor. Direct them to the people who need their attention most, and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Hasten to dwell among those who are in pain or distress (*especially*). As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities. By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us. Bring an end to racism in our churches and communities. Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Give us a place in the diverse company of your beloved saints. Teach us the value of each person's identity, and bless us with a shared identity as your children, kindred of Christ.

God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen**

**\*Peace**

May the peace of God be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Offering**

**\*Doxology #884**

**\*Offering Prayer**

Living God,

you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together

in your peaceable reign,

and you welcome us all at your table.

Reach out to us through this meal,

and show us your wounded and risen body,

that we may be nourished and believe

in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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.**

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** p. 144

**\*Words of Institution**

**\*Lord's Prayer** p. 145

**\*Invitation to Communion**

The risen Christ dwells with us here.

All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

**Communion (continuous)**

*Come forward in the center aisle, distancing as desired. Please cup your hands to receive the bread. Move to the right or left to receive the wine. Return to your pew via the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available in the container in front of the font.*

*Those who wish to be served at their seats or use the individual pre-packaged elements at their seats may stand to hear the words for individual distribution.*

*Distribution Hymns: #359 "Where Charity and Love Prevail" #482 "I Come With Joy"*

**\*Prayer after Communion**

We give you thanks, generous God,

for in this bread and cup

we have tasted the new heaven and earth

where hunger and thirst are no more.

Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,  
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

**\*Blessing**

God, the Author of life,

Christ, the living Cornerstone,

and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,

✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn** "O Christ Our Hope" #604

**\*Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Baptized believers sent into God's world to share God's love and grace.**

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**Welcome!** May you be blessed as we worship together!

Pr. Kelley can be reached at 402-750-9944 (cell).

**Derek DeWitt, Ben Erdmann, and Kassie Bain are all currently deployed. We are collecting items to send in care packages. They are currently in need of skincare products (cleanser, moisturizer, lotion, sunscreen, etc.), good ground coffee, Gold Bond powder, and eye drops. Please have your items in by Wednesday, May 25.**

Let Your Light Shine--The 34th Annual Convention of the Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization will be held June 18, 2022 at First Lutheran Church, Milford, IA. There are copies of the registration and further information on the usher's table for those interested.

Vacation Bible School is preparing for this year's activities. If you would like to donate, they are looking for monetary donations or a donation of 70 plastic spoons or 100 gallon Ziploc bags. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated!

**If you would like something included in the June newsletter, please have it in to the office by Wednesday, May 25.**

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**This Week's Events: May 16-22**

Mon.		<b>Office Closed</b>
Tues.	7:00pm	<b>AA Meeting</b> (Contact person is Larry S., 712-251-4207)
Wed.	10:00am	Adult Bible Study
Sun. May 22	9:00am	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>

**Worship Assistants for May:**

Organist: Ruth Chartier	Altar Guild: Patti & Dave Christiansen
Scripture Reader: Lisa Rippke	Offertory Accountants: Lisa & Steve Rippke
Tech Assistants: Casey & Jill Stratton	
Acolyte: Lexi Gilbert	Crucifer: Alyssa Orlando

**Pastor Kelley will be gone May 16-25. Pastor Chuck Meyer from Augustana in Sioux City will be stepping in for pastoral care/emergencies during this time. Pastor Joy Gonnerman will be providing pulpit supply on May 22.**

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**Birthdays:** 15 – Jacob Wohlert; 16 – Bob Jensen; 18 – Shawn Archer, Makenzie Melby; 19 – Wendy Ruhner, Erica Christiansen, Justin Locke; 20 – Noah Hickman, Kasidi Wiste; 21 – Katelyn Archer

**Anniversaries:** 17 – Tina & Corey Malm; 18 – Leann & Brian Henschen

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## **Prayers**

For those battling cancer: Denise Arpino-treatment; Doug Dahlke-Cancer has returned and seems to be spreading, waiting and hoping for a spot in a Car T cell transplant; Brad Pautsch (Cindy Ploen's brother)-In Remission.

We pray for Norma Thies; Carla Boggs; Jon Kleemeier-rehab at home; Barb Kunkel; Ed Kunkel (Barb's son)- was hospitalized with Covid, now home but still dealing with problems; Drake Malm; Tucker Malm (10-yrs old)-Crohn's, in remission!; Kelly Martin; Jan Reese-improving from broken hip; Barb Allner- came home Friday; Sherry Beaver- fell at home and fractured her C1 in 2 places, will need to wear a neck brace for 4-6 months; Derek DeWitt, Ben Erdmann, and Kassie Bain- deployed; those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of COVID-19, extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.

**We also pray for the family of Katherine Henschaw, sister to Dolores Benedix, in the recent passing of Katherine. Visitation will be Tuesday from 5:00-7:00 and the funeral will be held on Wednesday at 2:00 at First Lutheran in Sioux City.**

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### **On Ushers' Table:**

- Children's bulletins
- Lutheran Disaster Response - US Wildfires information, Haiti earthquake relief
- 2022 April-June Devotional (large and small print available)
- Seminal sheets for confirmation students
- Lakeside Bible Camp flyers (for anyone interested in going or being a counselor)
- May Newsletter

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### **God's Work. Our gifts. Thank you to all who support our ministry!**

Electronic giving	\$ 100.00
Roof Fund	\$ 200.00
KidsZone	\$ 25.00
Mission Support	\$ 60.00
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>\$ 3,555.00</u>
Total	\$ 3,940.00

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