

***APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH***

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Church Facebook Page: Apostles Corner

*God's purpose for the church is to witness to God's grace, forgiveness, compassion, and justice. We fulfill this promise by serving and caring for your local and global communities.*

**SUNDAY VOICE**

**The flowers on the altar are given by Joan and Nick Tartamosa,  
in Memory of Catherine Kelly.**

**APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Service of Holy Communion**

**The Fifth Sunday in Easter**

**May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

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

**P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.**

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: 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 is poured into the font as the presiding minister and community give thanks.*

**ALL: 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 gates 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.**

P: Brothers and sisters, through our waters of baptism we have been raised from death to new life with Christ. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by His authority; I hereby declare to you the entire forgiveness of all of your sins. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**Gloria: “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” 857 ELW *(sung twice)***

*Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises. I’m so glad you’re in my life, I’m so glad you came to save us. You came from heaven to earth to show the*

*way, from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky; Lord I lift your name on high.*

**Prayer of the Day**

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray together the prayer for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**All: 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.**

**Gathering Hymn: “Love Divine, All Love Excelling” #631 ELW**

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.*

*Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee! Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise!*

**WORD**

*Please be seated.*

**First Reading: Acts 11:1-18**

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 148**

148:1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**148:2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

148:3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

**148:4 Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

148:5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

**148:6 He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

148:7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

**148:8 fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

148:9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

**148:10 Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

148:11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

**148:12 Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

148:13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

**148:14 He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!**

**Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6**

R: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Anthem: by John Perovich*

**Gospel Acclamation**

**“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” 172 ELW**

***Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah.  
Hallelujah.***

*Please rise, if you are able, for the Gospel reading.*

**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 the community of Jesus.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the thirteenth chapter.

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

*after the reading*

P: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word, this is the Gospel of our Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon: The Rev. Peter Edwardsen**

*Please rise if you are able.*

**Hymn of the Day: "Now the Green Blade Rises" #379 ELW**

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain; love lives again, that with the dead had been; love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain, thinking that he would never wake again, laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen; love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain; raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen; love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, your touch can call us back to life again; fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been; love is come again like wheat arising green.*

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

**Apostles Creed** (pg. 105 ELW)

**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 ascended into heaven, 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 and Concerns of the Community**

**“Lord, Listen to your Children Praying” 752 ELW**

*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

D: 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*

D: 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,  
**All: hear our prayer.**

*Deacon or worship assistant continues with the prayers of intercession.*

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

### **Offering**

P: As a people of God, who have been named and claimed through our waters of baptism into the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, we are called into community with one another and called to share abundantly with others, from those gifts that God has first given us.

### **Offertory music: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord” 184 ELW**

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

### **Offertory prayer:**

D: 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.  
**All: Amen**

### **The Meal**

#### **The Great Thanksgiving:**

P: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Preface:* 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:

**(pg.153 ELW)**

**All: 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:**

P: 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.

**Lord's Prayer:**

P: And now let us pray as our Lord Jesus has taught us.

**(pg. 154 ELW)**

**All: 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, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.*

**Invitation to Communion**

P: The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Communion Hymn:** “Jesus Love Me!” #595 ELW

*Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to Him belong, they are weak, and He is strong.*

**Refrain:** *Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,  
the Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! He who died, heaven’s gates to open wide;  
He will wash away my sin, let his little child come in [Refrain]*

*Jesus loves me! He will stay close beside me all the way;  
When at last I come to die, He will take me home on high. [Refrain]*

*Please rise if you are able*

**Table Blessing**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep in you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

**Post Communion Canticle:** “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise” 207 ELW

*Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ryone what God has done. Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ. Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.*

**Post Communion Prayer**

P: 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 the name of Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

**Sharing of the Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ**

**We pray for those celebrating Birthdays:**

***5/16 Rich Marlow, 5/17 Stephen Morgan, 5/20 Sandy Pagano***

**THE SENDING**

**Blessing**

P: God, the author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of Adoption, + bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” #836 ELW**

*Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love! Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

*All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.*

*Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!*

### **Dismissal**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Tell what God has done!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **We are collecting:**

Linens: Towels, sheets, and blankets. Medical supplies: Alcohol wipes, infusion set-ups, non-expired medications, dog food, tubing, syringes, etc... Empty ink cartridges of all types. Pull tabs from aluminum cans for dialysis credits.

We are blessed to be a blessing to others.

### **The Next FOOD CLOSET is Thursday, May 26th, from 1:00-3:00 PM**

Please donate what you can.

We are in need of soup, canned fruit, and snacks.

**Thank you!**

**The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place  
Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, immediately after the service.**

**Please plan to attend.**

**Thank you.**

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***Please join us...***

**Our Monthly Fellowship Dinner will be held this Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Doors open at 5:30, dinner is at 6:00.**

***Bring a favorite family dish,  
and please feel free to bring beverages and dessert items as well.***

**A representative from the Rutgers Extension Master Gardeners  
will be our guest speaker, discussing container gardening.**

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**We are blessed to be a blessing to others.**

In this season of new life, we are faced with even more evidence of our broken humanity and world. Lutheran Disaster Response has dedicated a fund to alleviating suffering caused by the crisis unfolding in Eastern Europe.

**As a congregation, we have generously given \$3,380 to this fund—however the need is still great and continues to grow for our brothers and sisters who find themselves displaced, hungry, afraid, and mourning.**

**If you are able to give, there is a collection plate in the Narthex for your gift.  
Thank you!**

