

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Making All Things New

April 23 & 24, 2016

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

Sometimes Jesus' words sound like a riddle. "A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me" (*John 16:16*). What do You mean, Lord? Like the disciples, we do not know what You are talking about. Taken away momentarily by death and now ascended into heaven, Jesus allows us to experience His presence among us through Word and Sacrament as we await the fullness of joy that will come in His presence in the new heavens and new earth. On that day, the dwelling of God is with people; and we will be His people and He will be our God.

WELCOME

MINISTRY MOMENT Divine Connections

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ,
set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (*Colossians 3:1-2*)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #477 "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven" *Rise last stanza*

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim For the world's salvation bled-
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat;
See the ancient pow'rs of evil In confusion and retreat;
Once He died, and once was buried: Now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.

(Rise) Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:
Alleluia to the Savior Who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia To the triune Majesty!

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;

People: praise Him in the heights!

Pastor: Praise Him, all His angels;

People: praise Him, all His hosts!

Pastor: Praise Him, sun and moon,

People: praise Him, all you shining stars!

Pastor: Let them praise the name of the LORD,

People: for His name alone is exalted; His majesty is above earth and heaven.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God,

People: We confess before you our sinful nature and sinful deeds. We do not like to wait for anything! As sinners we want and labor for things that perish, forgetting to set our affections on you and your kingdom where true joys are found. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, and fill us with the Spirit of truth that our sorrow may turn to joy.

Pastor: The dwelling of God is with people. Beloved, Jesus is in our midst. He is and ever shall be. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast"

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Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*
Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*
For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, You are the unseen presence in all human affairs, the unseen actor in the drama of our lives. Though our days are now marked by sorrow, in a little while we will see Jesus. Grant us your Spirit that we may behold you through eyes of faith as you come among us by your Word and Sacraments; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING *Acts 11:1–18* (The Gentiles have received God's Word.)

The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them." Peter began and explained everything to them precisely as it had happened: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of the air. Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.' "I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' "The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again. "Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.' "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?" When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life."

SECOND READING *Revelation 21:1–7* (God dwells with people.)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 16:12–22* (The Spirit of truth brings joy!)

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me." Some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying." Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'? I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #672 **“Jerusalem the Golden”** *Rise for the last stanza*

Jerusalem the golden, With milk and honey blest-
the promise of salvation, the place of peace and rest-
We know not, oh, we know not What joys await us there;
The radiancy of glory, The bliss beyond compare!

Within those walls of Zion Sounds forth the joyful song,
As saints join with the angels And all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever with them; The daylight is serene;
The city of the blessed Shines bright with glorious sheen.

Around the throne of David, the saints, from care released,
Raise loud their songs of triumph To celebrate the feast.
They sing to Christ their leader, Who conquered in the fight,
Who won for them forever Their gleaming robes of white.

(Rise) O sweet and blessed country, The home of God’s elect!
O sweet the blessed country That faithful hearts expect!
In mercy, Jesus, bring us To that eternal rest
With You and God the Father And Spirit, ever blest.

SERMON **“Making Everything New”** **Revelation 21:1-7**

(Rise)

APOSTLES’ CREED *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

OFFERTORY #781 **“We Give Thee But Thine Own”**

We give Thee but Thine own Whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blesses us, To Thee our first-fruits give!
Oh, hearts are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,
And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled Are straying from the fold.

To comfort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lone and fatherless Is angels’ work below.

The captive to release, To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace, It is a Christ-like thing.

And we believe Thy Word, Though dim our faith may be:
Whate’er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it unto Thee.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray to our God and Father who promises to give whatever we ask in the name of Jesus. Almighty God, continue to send forth the Spirit of truth upon your Church so that we might hear your Word and glorify your Son. Grant your blessing upon your people.

People: **Sustain us in the faith by your Means of Grace, and strengthen us to boldly confess your name.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, grant your Holy Spirit to comfort us in these latter days. Bless and strengthen your people who suffer tribulation and persecution.

People: **Grant us greater understanding that these are the birth pains that anticipate the Last Day, and preserve us by your grace until our sorrow is turned to joy.**

Pastor: Holy God, you gave your Son for all people on earth. Look upon the enemies of your Church; confound their plans to do your people harm, and move them to repentance so that they, too, might have life in Jesus’ name.

People: **Preserve us from bitterness or fear that would lead us to hate others and stand in the way of your love for all.**

Pastor: O Lord, our Creator and Redeemer, we give thanks to you for the beautiful visions of heaven that you have revealed to us through St. John. We ask your blessing upon all those whom you have gifted in the arts and music, that their works and words might proclaim the beauty of your works.

People: Bless especially Michelle Prince as she prayerfully deliberates the call we have extended to be our Director of Parish Music. Guide and lead her by your Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Almighty God, we give you thanks for our young people who plan to attend the National Youth Gathering and for the wonderful support given them by the members of our congregation.

People: Grant our young people to grow in faith, to be inspired by your truth, and to be strengthened in their daily walk with their Lord.

Pastor: Father of all, have compassion on those who suffer affliction of body, mind, or spirit, especially Kathleen, Al, Doris, Barb, Jan, Jean, Ruth, Mae, Bob, Marion, Richard, Marion, Debra, Helen, Leonard, LuEva, Linda, Gladys, Russ, Jack, Shirley, Gretchen, Lois and Sarah.

People: Grant them healing and restoration if that is in accord with your will. Above all, grant them comfort, hope, and peace through faith in Christ.

Pastor: Almighty God, at the beginning of time you declared that it was not good for the man to be alone. Therefore, you created woman and instituted holy marriage. We rejoice with the Mueller family as Abbie and Jeff have been united in holy marriage.

People: Bless them and all Christian couples to grow in loving one another even as Jesus Christ has loved us.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, until the day when we celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in glory, grant that your Son might abide with us graciously, feeding us with His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

People: Bless all who partake of the Sacrament this day with hearts that confess the poverty of sin and eagerly desire the riches of your forgiveness.

Pastor: O God, we give thanks to you for your faithfulness to the saints who have gone before us, that in Christ their mourning and crying and pain are all former things that have passed away. Bless Dorothy as she remembers Art and Anna as she remembers John.

People: Fill them and us all with faith and hope until that day when you will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through faith in Christ Jesus.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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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.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #700 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

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, O 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!

HYMN #618 "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

I come, O Savior, to Thy table, For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able To satisfy and make me whole:

Refrain:

Lord, May Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see Who,
Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. *Refrain*

Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful shepherd art: *Refrain*

Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden my heart, for I am now Thy guest. *Refrain*

What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and Spirit, The covenant of hope and grace. *Refrain*

HYMN #631 "Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"

Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.

This is the hour of banquet and of song;
This is the heav'nly table spread for me;
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
The brief bright hour of fellowship with Thee.

I have no help but Thine; nor do I need
Another arm but Thine to lean upon.
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.

Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
The blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord, my God.

Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Creator of time and space, we humbly thank you for feeding us here
with this sacred meal of Jesus' body and blood. United together this
Lord's Day, we have entered the timeless mystery of the Eucharist.
Partaking of this bread and wine today, we remember that meal
instituted by Jesus on the night when He was betrayed and likewise
anticipate the marriage supper of the Lamb in your unending kingdom.
Though it is yet a little while off, today we dine in hope of the coming of
Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give
you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #818 “In Thee Is Gladness”

In Thee is gladness Amid all sadness, Jesus sunshine of my heart.
By Thee are given The gifts of heaven, Thou the true Redeemer art.
Our souls Thou wakest, Our bonds Thou breakest;
Who trust Thee surely Has built securely; He stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining To see Thy shining,
Dying or living To Thee are cleaving; Naught can us sever: Alleluia!

Since He is ours, We fear no powers, Not of earth nor sin nor death.
He sees and blesses In worst distresses; He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story Tell of His glory With hearts and voices;
All heav’n rejoices In Him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness, Triumph o’er sadness,
Love Him and praise Him And still shall raise Him Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

Preacher	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Lectors	Russell Hurst, Carri Wolcyk
Acolytes	Montana Wendt, Macky Wessler
Children’s Message	Laurel Privatt
Organist	Roger Gottschalk