

***St. John Lutheran Church & School  
Berlin, Wisconsin  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod***



***The Hand of the Lord Who Holds All Things***

**Midweek Lent 5  
Wednesday, April 9, 2025**

***Large Print Bulletin***

# **The Hand of the Lord Who Holds All Things**

## **As We Gather**

To the faithless, unrepentant world, taken together with the climax of the events of Holy Week, it appears that, after all, Jesus ends up only a disappointment, dead and gone! To the eyes of faith, however, all His deeds, including His suffering and death, describe the most powerful and mighty act of God, by which He redeems and saves the world and us!

The Christian liturgy preserves certain words in their original language to express their full meaning. For instance, we do not end prayers saying, "Yes, yes, it shall be so," but the original "Amen." Likewise, every Sunday we sing the Sanctus, "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Sabaoth." *Tsebaot* in Hebrew means "hosts" or "armies." "Lord God of hosts" is a way of saying God is over all—all powerful. So also, Greek art depicts the risen, ascended, and reigning Lord Jesus as *Pantokrator*, "the Almighty!" The church has always claimed that, before and after all, Jesus Christ indeed holds all things. By faith in Jesus, we know that we are forgiven, renewed, redeemed, and destined for eternal glory.

## **437 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed**

**1 Alas! And did my Savior bleed,  
And did my sov'reign die?**

**Would He devote that sacred head  
For such a worm as I?**

**2 Was it for crimes that I had done  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown,  
And love beyond degree!**

**3 Well might the sun in darkness hide  
And shut his glories in  
When God, the mighty maker, died  
For His own creatures' sin.**

**4 Thus might I hide my blushing face  
While His dear cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,  
And melt mine eyes to tears.**

**5 But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away:  
'Tis all that I can do.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Text: Public domain

## **Opening Sentences**

*Psalm 102:1; Psalm 95:1–7a*

**P** Hear my prayer, O LORD;

**C** let my cry come to You!

P Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**C Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!**

P For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.

**C In His hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are His also.**

P The sea is His, for He made it,  
and His hands formed the dry land.

**C Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

P For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture,  
and the sheep of His hand.

## **Prayer**

P: Lord God heavenly Father, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, Your servant Moses proclaimed the resurrection to the children of Israel to give them hope in the midst of their darkness. As we journey to the darkness of the cross, give us hope to look beyond it to the light of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**C: Amen**

## **Reading**

*Daniel 7:13–14*

<sup>13</sup>I saw in the night visions,

and behold, with the clouds of heaven  
there came one like a son of man,  
and he came to the Ancient of Days  
and was presented before him.  
<sup>14</sup>And to him was given dominion  
and glory and a kingdom,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him;  
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
which shall not pass away,  
and his kingdom one  
that shall not be destroyed.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**802 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise      *sts. 1–2***

**1 Immortal, invisible,  
God only wise,  
In light inaccessible  
hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious,  
the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious,  
Thy great name we praise.**

**2 Unresting, unhasting,  
and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting,**

**Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains  
high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains  
of goodness and love.**

Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt. Text: Public domain

## **Reading**

*Revelation 1:12–20*

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

<sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. <sup>19</sup>Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. <sup>20</sup>As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Reading

*John 3:11–18, 30–36*

<sup>11</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

<sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

<sup>31</sup>He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. <sup>32</sup>He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. <sup>33</sup>Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. <sup>34</sup>For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. <sup>35</sup>The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. <sup>36</sup>Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life;

whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

*Psalm 32:1–5*

<sup>1</sup>Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

**<sup>2</sup>Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

<sup>3</sup>For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

**<sup>4</sup>For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;

**I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**Sermon**

**849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

**1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
With a liberating light;**



**Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,  
Healing ev'ry dread disease,  
Calming storms, and feeding thousands  
With the very Bread of peace.**

**2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
With a strong, yet gentle, word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons  
With the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
To the desert's burning sand;  
From this Well comes living water,  
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

**3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,  
Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose victorious  
That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer,  
Praise the One who makes us one.**

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## Offering

## Prayer

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray

Heavenly Father, all things are in Your hands, both creation and our very lives. Turn our eyes to follow the finger of John the Baptist pointing to Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Jesus has received nails into His hands for our sins to bring us forgiveness. When and where You will, use us to point others to Jesus and where He promises to be found in His Word and Sacraments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

P Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

P Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## **Luther's Evening Prayer**

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

**Amen.**

## **New Testament Canticle      *Revelation 11:17–18; 12:10–12a*** **(Spoken)**

**P** We give thanks to You, Lord God Almighty,  
    who is and who was,  
for You have taken Your great power and begun to reign.  
    The nations raged, but Your wrath came,

**C      and the time for the dead to be judged,  
         and for rewarding Your servants, the prophets and saints,  
         and those who fear Your name, both small and great,  
         and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.**

**P** And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying,  
    “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God  
and the authority of His Christ have come,  
for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down,  
    who accuses them day and night before our God.

**C** And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony,  
for they loved not their lives even unto death.  
Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them!

**ALL** 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.

### **Blessing**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the  
Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C** Amen.

### **Hymn**

**1** Go to dark Gethsemane,  
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see,  
Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from His griefs away;  
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

**2** Follow to the judgment hall,  
View the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!

**Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;  
Learn from Him to bear the cross.**

**3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;  
There, adoring at His feet,  
Mark that miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;  
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

**4 Early hasten to the tomb  
Where they laid His breathless clay;  
All is solitude and gloom.  
Who has taken Him away?  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.  
Savior, teach us so to rise.**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854 Text: Public domain

## **Acknowledgments**

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**Attendance Last Week: 309**

**General giving last week: \$18,515.52**

**Budget giving needed: \$ 7500.00**

**Calendar of Activities this week at St. John**

14 Monday	Board of Trustees	6:30 pm
15 Tuesday	School Spring Music Showcase	5:00 pm
15 Tuesday	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
<b>17 Thursday</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday Service/HC</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>
<b>18 Friday</b>	<b>Good Friday Afternoon Service</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>
<b>18 Friday</b>	<b>Good Friday Evening Service</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>
19 Saturday	Easter Egg Hunt	10:00 am
<b>20 Sunday</b>	<b>Easter Sunrise Service/HC</b>	<b>6:30 am</b>
20 Sunday	Easter Breakfast between services	
<b>20 Sunday</b>	<b>Easter Morning Service/HC</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
20 Sunday	No Sunday School or Bible Class on Easter Sunday	

**THE ST. JOHN LWML** is hosting the Zone 12 **Spring Rally on April 26<sup>th</sup>** we would love for you to join us for this event starting at 11:00am. We will also need some help with food and setup/cleanup.

Please see the LWML article in the April newsletter for more information. The signup sheet is in the back of church.

**QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING:** A Quarterly Voters Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, after the church service, in the Lower Level of the Church. All communicant members age 18 and older are eligible to become voting members. Please plan to attend!

**PASTOR ROB IS TAKING THE CONFIRMATION STUDENTS CAMPING** April 25-27. We need your help to give our students a fun trip that will also be beneficial for their faith. On the back table is a sign-up sheet for donations we'll be needing; if you're able, please stop in the back and sign-up to bring something. You can drop off your donation at the church any time before the 25th (the office is open from 9:00-12:00 Mon-Thurs and pastor may be there at other times depending on his schedule). Cold donations can be placed in the refrigerator in the church basement.

<p><b><u>EASTER EGG HUNT:</u></b> There will be the traditional Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at the School.</p>
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**FREE FUNERAL PRE-PLANNING PRESENTATION:** Barbola and Barbola-Hempel Funeral Chapels will be hosting a free pre-planning presentation on *Wed., May 7*. There will be presentations in 3 different locations for convenience.

10 a.m. Barbola-Hempel Funeral Chapel (Poy Sippi)

2 p.m. Redgranite Lions Hall

6 p.m. Barbola Funeral Chapel (Berlin)

Pick a time and RSVP by phone to 920-361-2755 or email barbolafc@yahoo.com. Refreshments will be served.

**WEEKLY COPIES OF THE *BADGERBYTES***, the school newsletter, are available in the information rack in the Narthex.

**NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH SCRIP:** Earn 5% on local dining! Add some flavor to your earning potential! Now you can earn by dining at your favorite local restaurants. Link your credit card to the app and you will automatically earn 5% each time you use your linked card at participating local restaurants. Contact Julie Snow for more information.

We are still looking for volunteers to help sell scrip. Please let me know if you would like to learn more.

**RADIO CHURCH CHANGE:** Due to some programing alterations at the station, our time slot on 93.1 The Wave has been moved to 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings and will contain an abbreviated form of our service. Please pass this information along to anyone you know who might like to listen to our church service.

**FLOWER REMINDER:** If you would like to donate or have flowers on the altar at any time for special occasions such as birthday, anniversary, in honor of or memory of for example, feel free to **sign up on the Flower Chart in the card room**. Flowers can be delivered by the local florist or brought in by you and put in the Altar Guild refrigerator. The flowers will be placed on the altar for the worship services."



**THE CARD ROOM:** The LWML would like to share with new members and remind current members that there are cards for sale in the "Card Room" which is the room where cookies are set up on Sunday mornings. Cards are all \$1.00 each. There are also various craft items for sale. If you make a purchase there is a box in the top file drawer for you to deposit your payment in. The Card Room also has mite boxes available if you would like to take one home to collect your mites. There is also a bulletin board with information about missionaries and seminarians we support as a congregation. If you have any questions please contact an LWML member: Carol Krause, Karen Vergin Krause, Deb Schrader, Dawn Schroeder, Lori Piechowski, Leitha Kraus, Bonnie Sperberg, or June Richter.

**OLD BLUE AND RED HYMNALS (TLH):** We have quite a few old blue and red THL hymnals in the basement. If you would like to have one (or more!) please see Trustee Keith Krause or ask Cathy in the Office to help you find one.

**LIGHTBULBS TO GIVE AWAY:** We have LOTS of USED 200 watt incandescent light bulbs looking for a home. They came out of the Sanctuary when we put in the new LED bulbs. If you are interested in having some, talk to any Trustee.

**GET MORE OUT OF THE SERMON:**

On the wood box underneath the "Hearing Loop" sign in the Narthex are a stack of sheets used by our confirmation students to take notes on the sermon. The sheets ask three basic questions that will help

you focus on what the sermon is about, learn more, and grow in your faith. Please give it a shot to get more out of each sermon!

### **Holy Week Worship Schedule**

#### **Maundy Thursday service/Communion**

**Thursday, April 17 6:30 pm**

#### **Good Friday Services on Friday, April 18**

**Afternoon Service 1:00 pm**

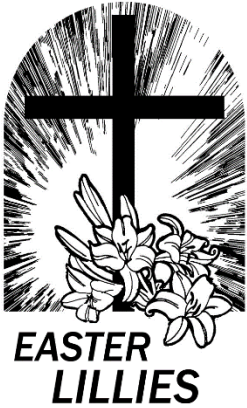
**Evening Service 6:30 pm**

#### **Easter Sunday April 20**

**Sunrise Service with Communion 6:30 am**

**Easter Breakfast between services  
in lower level**

**Morning Service with Communion 9:00 am**



St. John Altar Guild would like to carry on the tradition of banking the Altar and the cross with masses of Easter Lilies or Spring plants to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

If you would like to share your Easter flower, in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. **Deadline for signing up and having your dedication in the Easter morning bulletin is Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.** Anyone signing up after that will have their dedication appear in the bulletin the week following Easter, when we will reprint all of the flower memorials.

**You may bring your plant to the church on Saturday, April 19, between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM.** You may take your flower(s) home following the service on Easter morning. **Please LABEL your flower with your name so you can identify it to take home!**

If it would be more convenient for you to bring your flower at another time, please feel free to set it in the Altar Guild workroom. You should check with Cathy in the office (920-361-9935) or a committee member to make sure the church will be open when you want to bring it. Also, a reminder, the church is always open at least thirty minutes before a service begins.

Altar committee ladies for the month of April are Robin Henriksen (920-361-2863), Deb Wissell (920-361-0791) and Joyce Parsons (920-369-6828.) If you have any questions or concerns please contact one

of these ladies. Thank you for your help in beautifying the church at this special time.

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