

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



The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 15 and 18, 2025

Serving Us Today:
Pastor Rob Schrader
Organist: Nancy Wallner
920-361-9935

www.stjohnberlin.org

Large Print Bulletin

The Joyful Creation

As We Gather... The Fifth Sunday of Easter bears the traditional name of Cantate, from the Introit's "Oh sing to the Lord a new song." Not only people but all creation is urged to break out in song. Throughout our worship today we will do just that, for the resurrection news cannot be left to quiet contemplation. Though it was difficult for Peter to convince the others, when they realized Gentiles had received the Spirit, they rejoiced. The vision of heaven in Revelation has no more pain or sorrow; what can be left but joyful singing?

At the end of Jesus' talk to the disciples, He promises "I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22). When we are filled with such joy, singing is inevitable. Much of today's worship has us singing a few (or all) of the stanzas of familiar hymns. Let us join the joyful multitude in heaven and earth!

St. John School Handbell Choir plays

PREPARATION

709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

1 The King of love my shepherd is,

Whose goodness faileth never;

I nothing lack if I am His

And He is mine forever.

**2 Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.**

**3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home rejoicing brought me.**

**4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.**

**5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!**

**6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!**

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77 Text: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 98:1–2, 4

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

C His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

P The LORD has made known His salvation;

C He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

C break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Confession and Absolution

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son,

Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

WORD

Kyrie

P Lord, have mercy on us.

C Lord, have mercy on us.

P Christ, have mercy on us.

C Christ, have mercy on us.

P Lord, have mercy on us.

C Lord, have mercy on us.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will.

C Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found;

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Proverbs 3:1–12

¹My son, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments,
²for length of days and years of life
and peace they will add to you.
³Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them around your neck;
write them on the tablet of your heart.
⁴So you will find favor and good success
in the sight of God and man.
⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
⁶In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
⁷Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
⁸It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones.
⁹Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty,

and your vats will be bursting with wine.

¹¹My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,

¹²for the LORD reproves him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

St. John Seraphim Choir sings on Sunday

Epistle

Hebrews 13:7–16

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God.
Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹Do not
be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the
heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not
benefited those devoted to them. ¹⁰We have an altar from which
those who serve the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹For the bodies of
those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the
high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹²So
Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people
through his own blood. ¹³Therefore let us go to him outside the
camp and bear the reproach he endured. ¹⁴For here we have no
lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵Through him
then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is,
the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do
good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing
to God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:1–11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

"Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you, and

"On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone."

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me

Upon life's way;

Direct, protect, and feed me

From day to day.

Without Your grace and favor

I go astray;

So take my hand, O Savior,

And lead the way.

2 Lord, when the tempest rages,

I need not fear,

For You, the Rock of Ages,

Are always near.

Close by Your side abiding,

I fear no foe,

For when Your hand is guiding,

In peace I go.

3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen

And night has come,

I know that You will strengthen

My steps toward home.

**Then nothing can impede me,
O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me
Unto the end.**

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Psalm 98:1

At the close of each petition, the pastor will say:

“ Because You love them...”

Please respond with: **“Lord, please bless our confirmands”**

At the end of the prayers, we pray together:

Merciful Father, as the church into which these young people are being confirmed, we ask for your continued blessing to be upon them. Help us, their church family, to love and support them, treat them with kindness, and teach them your truth. May we all continually grow together toward you. Amen.

Offering St. John School Handbell Choir plays

The Rite of Confirmation

Apostles' Creed

Nicene Creed

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.**

At this time the Confirmands will come up to the Altar one-by-one to receive a blessing and their Confirmation verses and stoles.

**Case Kaufman
Xander McDowell
Sophia Nechkash
Mia Schubert
Easton Vetrone**

SACRAMENT

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

LSB 208

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim

shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to

the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

**C 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.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

**C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Distribution Hymns

727 On Eagles' Wings

**1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,**

**Say to the Lord: “My refuge,
My rock in whom I trust!” Refrain**

**REFRAIN: And He will raise you up on eagles’ wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.**

**2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield. Refrain**

**3 You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come. Refrain**

**4 For to His angels He’s given a command
To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone. Refrain**

Text: Michael Joncas, 1951 Text: © OCP Publications. Used by
permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

725 Children of the Heavenly Father

**1 Children of the heav’nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;**

**Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.**

**2 God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.**

**3 Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.**

**4 Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.**

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–
1958 Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come
in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood.

**C Keep us firm in the true faith that we may join the rest of Your
good creation in singing Your praises at the marriage feast of
the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P 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.

C Amen.

685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

**1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.**

**2 Let us suffer here with Jesus
And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy**

**Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe;
Help me there Your joy to know.**

3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.

**Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction,
Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die,
There to live with You on high.**

4 Let us also live with Jesus.

**He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me.**

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2.
Copyright © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.
Used by permission.

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.



Our 2025
Confirmation Class
St. John Lutheran Church
Berlin, WI

Case Douglas Milton Kaufman

Philippians 1:19-21 – “For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

Xander David McDowell

Psalm 18:32-34 – “The God who equipped me with strength and made my way blameless. He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights. He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.”

Sophia Savanna Neckkash

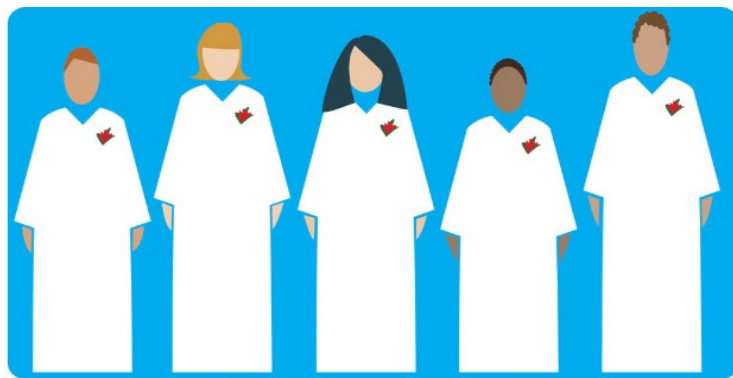
Colossians 2:6-7 – “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

Mia Lynn Schubert

1 Corinthians 13:4, 8 – “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant...Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.”

Easton Grady Vetrone

John 15:4-5 – “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”



Congratulations Confirmands !

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

22 Thursday	Worship Service/HC	6:30 pm
23 Friday	Last day of 3k/4k	
25 Sunday	Worship Service/HC	9:00 am

FIRST MEN'S MINISTRY MEETING: Men of St. John, we will be gathering at the church on Wednesday June 4th at 5:45 PM to begin our men's ministry. All men 16 and up are invited. Brats, hamburgers, and food will be provided. Bring your favorite joke to share. We'll talk about the ministry and spend some time talking about being a Christian man. I hope to see you there!

LWML COLLECTING MITES: On Sunday, May 18th, we will once again be in the back of the church following the service collecting Mites in the large Mite boxes. If you are curious where our Mites go, there is information on the bulletin board in the card room. Thank you in advance for contributing.

CHURCH PICNIC: Our church picnic for 2025 has been scheduled for Sunday, June 29th. Worship at **10:30 am. Lunch at 11:30 am.** The main course of smoked pork butt will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. Beverages will be provided. *If you have corn hole boards, bring them. We are looking to get a couple of games going. Kids games will also be provided. Bring your super soakers.*

****Church Picnic Sunday Service Plans****

On June 29th, we'll have a regular service at the church at 9:00AM and a service at the park at 10:30. It is the 5th Sunday, so it will be Matins and no communion.

A PLACE OF REFUGE LIFE WALK 2025:

Support this important ministry by walking for life! The event, held at Elm Grove Lutheran Church on Saturday June 21, includes breakfast, an opening prayer service, the walk, prizes, music, and lunch. Friends and family are encouraged to support your walk; children are welcome. Registration opens May 1, 2025. Please go to aplaceofrefuge.org to register.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE USING THE SCREENS EXCLUSIVELY and may not want or need a full bulletin...we have available in the back of church and from the ushers a "news" sheet which contains the same calendar, announcements and sermon outline found in the regular bulletin. If interested, please pick one up and see if it meets your needs.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

WWW.STJOHNBERLIN.ORG:

Enter the CHURCH section by clicking on the left portal at the entry page. Once there, you will see tabs for access to the video recording of the weekly church service, copies of the bulletin, the newsletter, the monthly calendar, and other resources. You can also visit the St. John School web pages from a tab in the church section.

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!