

# EASTER 5

May 2, 2021



**Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**66325 M 152, Dowagiac (Sister Lakes), MI 49047**

David Schaller, pastor 269-424-3035

Sunday Worship, 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School, 10:15 am

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A Member Congregation in the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

# ORDER OF SERVICE FOR EASTER 5

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## OPENING PRAYER

HYMN 204 (TLH)

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

## THE INVOCATION

(We declare that the triune God is the God we worship.)

P In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

(God cares for our spiritual needs.)

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

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

**C If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us pray.

**PC Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, out of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful to us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need.

## KYRIE ELEISON

(Latin for "Lord, have mercy." We ask God to care for our earthly needs.)

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

(We sing a hymn of glory to God.)

Melody: TLH 191 Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!



**C** **Glory be to God on high; Alleluia!**  
**Christ is ris'n, He meets our eyes! Alleluia!**  
**God shows His goodwill toward men; Alleluia!**  
**Peace now reigns on earth again; Alleluia!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

(A prayer that collects and reflects the themes of the day.)

## THE LESSONS

(We hear Bible readings that support the thoughts of the season.)

**1 John 3:18-24**<sup>NIV84</sup> *Let's not only "talk the talk" but also "walk the walk."* | Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. <sup>19</sup> This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence <sup>20</sup> whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup> and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup> Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

**John 15:1-8**<sup>NIV84</sup> *Those who remain connected to Jesus will bear much fruit (good works) in their lives.* | "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

## PSALM FOR THE SEASON

(see insert)

Psalm 118  
I Will Praise You

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

(We respond to the lessons by reciting what we believe.)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN 194 (TLH)

Abide with Us, the Day is Waning

## THE SERMON

(We learn from God's word.)

### I Know That My Redeemer Lives "He Lives to Silence All My Fears"

**Matthew 28:1-10**<sup>NIV84</sup> After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. <sup>2</sup> There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." <sup>8</sup> So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

## PRAYER

(We respond to the sermon in prayers to God.)

P And the peace of God which is a greater peace than any our own minds can give to us shall guard your hearts in Christ Jesus unto life everlasting. Amen.

## THE OFFERTORY

 **C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

## OFFERING

## PRAYERS AND LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 755 (see insert)

What Is This Bread

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

(We receive the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.)

† **To any visitors seeking communion:** Since the Lord's Supper is a public expression of agreement in beliefs, we ask that only those who are members of congregations in the Church of the Lutheran Confession come forward to receive the sacrament. We observe this practice in loving obedience to the Scriptures, and not as a judgment against anyone's personal faith, sincerity, or standing before God. For more information, see the pamphlet in the entryway entitled *Why Close Communion?* †

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them up to the Lord.**

P It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give You thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God: But we especially praise You this season for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for He is the Passover Lamb who was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world; who by His death has destroyed death and by His rising to life again has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we glorify Your name, praising You and saying:

## THE SANCTUS

(A hymn to the Lord based on Isaiah 6:1-4.)

Melody: TLH 2 To Thy Temple I Repair

 **C Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim  
Shout the glory of Your name.**

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(We declare that we are now celebrating the Lord's Supper, distinguishing it from other ordinary meals of bread and wine.)

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed took bread . . . The peace of the Lord be with you always!

## THE AGNUS DEI

(Latin for "Lamb of God." A hymn to Christ who died for our sins.)

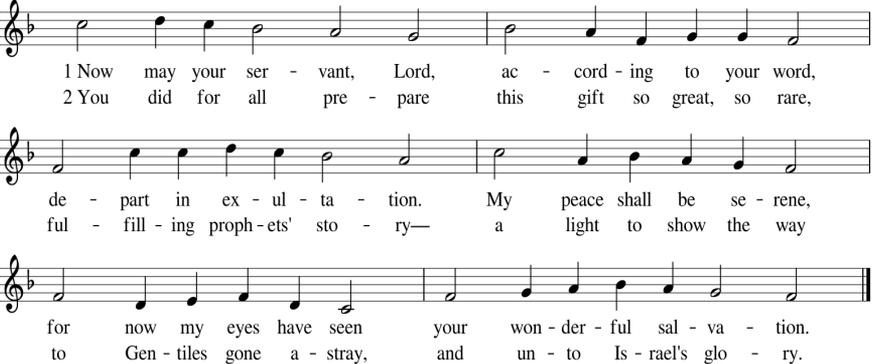
Melody: TLH 147 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God

 **C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,  
That takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy upon us!  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,  
That takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy upon us!  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,  
That takest away the sin of the world, Grant us Thy peace! Amen.**

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

### THE NUNC DIMITTIS

(Latin for "Now you are dismissing." A hymn based on Simeon's words in Lk 2:29-32.)



1 Now may your ser - vant, Lord, ac - cord - ing to your word,  
2 You did for all pre - pare this gift so great, so rare,  
de - part in ex - ul - ta - tion. My peace shall be se - rene,  
ful - fill - ing proph - ets' sto - ry— a light to show the way  
for now my eyes have seen your won - der - ful sal - va - tion.  
to Gen - tiles gone a - stray, and un - to Is - rael's glo - ry.

## CLOSING PRAYER

The Collect for Peace

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; 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

(The Lord sends us home with His blessing.)

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

♪ C **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

HYMN 52 (TLH)

Almighty Father, Bless the Word



## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions, May 3-8, 2021

by Prof. Paul Koch (retired)

**Mon Acts 8:26-39** God's Holy Spirit threw out the lifeline and pulled this Ethiopian cabinet official aboard so he could learn that God included him in His search-and-rescue-mission. He had already been brought to understand God's methodology (a Substitute would suffer and die for sinners), and he wanted to know more specifics (34). What a flood of blessings God showered on him before the sun went down that evening (36-39)!

**Tues John 15:1-8** As the parent vine supplies nutrients to its branches, in due season they sprout, blossom, and develop fruit. But did you know that the life span of each fruiting branch is limited to one season and must be pruned away so that next spring a new twig will sprout in its place? Pruning phases out the old and activates the new. God grant that our children fill in the gaps we leave behind, sprout, and bear their fruit in due season!

**Wed 1 John 3:18-24** *In deed* is the opposite of *in word*, just as the gridiron athlete outclasses an armchair athlete. Does not our conscience condemn us for not loving our neighbors in their needs? We know we fall short, and so does God—but He understands us and still loves us (18-21).

BTW, *commandments* means **directives** for God-pleasing conduct.

**Thurs Psalm 67** First things first: "God, be merciful to us and bless us, smile upon us and our efforts to laud you at home and abroad as Savior (1-2). God, apply Your skills and muscle to rescue souls so that people of all nations will come around and praise You as the Judge whom they will face from behind the protecting shield of Jesus (3-5)." That's the Christian stance, the very stance which promotes many collateral advantages (6-7). Praise the Lord!

**Fri John 15:7** deserves more than passing attention, so we ask, "What's the importance of the qualifier: '*If My words abide in you*'? It's the crucial factor of being bonded to Jesus **when we are bonded to His Word**. Jesus repeats this in ch. 14:23-24, also in ch. 17:6,8,14,17, and John summarizes his entire Gospel enterprise in verses 30-31 of ch. 20. Blessed are they who hear the Word of God, hold onto it in their hearts, and live according to it! Amen!

**Sat Acts 24:14-27** The crux of Paul's case was his commitment to the Bible teaching of Resurrection (15). Felix, the civil magistrate, adjourned the court proceedings in order to summon Lysias, the Roman officer who had rescued Paul from the mob back in Jerusalem. During those weeks of waiting, the Holy Spirit nudged Mr. & Mrs. Felix to pay attention to Paul's theology—which set them back on their heels (24-26). Two years later Paul's case was still on the docket (27), but being under house arrest did not stop him from telling the truth about Jesus, God's gift to humanity. Stay tuned.



## WHAT IS THIS BREAD

1 What is this bread? Christ's bod - y  
 2 What is this wine? The blood of  
 3 So who am I, That I should  
 4 Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By  
 5 Is this for me? I am for -

ris - en from the dead: This bread we break,  
 Je - sus shed for mine; The cup of grace  
 live and He should die Un - der the rod.  
 Word and prom - ise clear. In mouth and soul  
 giv - en and set free! I do be - lieve

This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our re -  
 Brings His em - brace Of life and love, and so I  
 My God, my God, Why have You not for - sak - en  
 He makes us whole — Christ, tru - ly pres - ent in this  
 That I re - ceive His ver - y bod - y and His

lease. Oh, taste and see — the Lord is peace.  
 sing: Oh, taste and see — the Lord is King.  
 me? Oh, taste and see — the Lord is free.  
 meal. Oh, taste and see — the Lord is real.  
 blood. Oh, taste and see — the Lord is good.

Text: Frederic W. Baue, b. 1946

Tune and Setting: Jean Neuhauser Baue, b. 1951

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PREPARATION

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