

TODAY'S BULLETIN

As We Gather: The Greater Testimony

This Sunday is a bridge between the Ascension of Our Lord and Pentecost. Upon the Lord's Ascension, the disciples were not left alone. They had the Word of the Lord and the promise of the Spirit to make known to them all that Jesus said and did. With the testimony of God's Word and the witnesses to the Lord's resurrection and ascension, the Church learned to trust in what the Lord had accomplished for their salvation and to be bold in witness to the truth of this Gospel. The Lord is still working in us through the testimony of His Word so that we may be His witnesses emboldened by the Spirit.

Serving in Our Church Service Today: Jody Wangerin

Serving Next Sunday: Ed Geiger

Saturday's Reader: Pastor Iovine

Sunday's Reader: Jody Wangerin

VADJA HYMN SERVICE: On Sunday, May 26 during Memorial Day weekend, we will bring back the Jaroslav Vadja Hymn Service for our Sunday church services. We will use it through Labor Day weekend in September.

COFFEE HOUR ON SUNDAY: Each Sunday, before and after our church service, we hold fellowship coffee time. Everyone is invited to join.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK: Our verse is taken from 1 John 5:14

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS: Join us this coming Thursday for our noontime Bible Class as we will begin a new Bible study focus. As always, please bring your lunch. See you there!



Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

New Milford, NJ
LCMS — New Jersey District

Sunday
May 12, 2024
Easter 7

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Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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Stephanie Coppola
Elder

JUNE READINGS: Next weekend, copies of the Sunday readings for the month of June will be available on the table in the narthex. A sign up sheet will also be on the table. Anyone can sign up to read. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Iovine before or after our church service.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE:

A food pantry needs update is available on the table in the back of the church. Take one along with you today!

READINGS FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY:

- Ezekiel 37:1–14 (The valley of the dry bones hears the Word of the Lord.)
- Acts 2:1–21 (The Spirit descended upon the disciples as Jesus had promised.)
- John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15 (“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth.”)

HYMNS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

- “Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord” - Hymn 497
- “Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid” - Hymn 500
- “Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling” - Hymn 650
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NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVICES

- **Saint Matthew's** Saturday, May 18 @ 5:00 pm
- **Saint Matthew's** Sunday, May 19 @ 9:30 am
- **Holy Trinity** Sunday, May 19 @ 11:30 am



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Seventh Sunday of Easter

Divine Service 3 from Lutheran Service Book - begins on page 184

Church Announcements

Moment of Prayer

Opening Hymn

"A Hymn of Glory Let us Sing" - Hymn 493

A hymn of glory let us sing! New hymns throughout the world shall ring:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ, by a road before untrod, Ascends unto the throne of God

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The holy apostolic band Upon the Mount of Olives stand. Alleluia, alleluia

And with His faithful foll'wers see Their Lord ascend in majesty.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

To them the shining angels cry, "Why stand and gaze upon the the sky?"

Alleluia, alleluia!

"This is the Savior," Thus they say: "this is His glorious triumph day!"

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

"You see Him now, ascending high Up to the portals of the sky." Alleluia, alleluia!

"Hereafter Jesus you shall see Returning in great majesty."

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, And be our future great reward.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Then, throned with You forever, we Shall praise Your name eternally.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

△ O risen Christ, ascended Lord, All praise to You let earth accord:

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are, while endless ages run, With Father and with Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978, alt.

Tune: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Köln, 1623; setting: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Text: © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: Public domain

Invocation

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

C: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution - page 184

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,

C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-evaluation

P: O Almighty God, merciful Father,

C: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Kyrie - page 186

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis

P: Glory be to God on high:

C: **And on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee
We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father
That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost
Art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Merciful Father, You have given us Your Word and with it Your Spirit, that by the testimony of the prophets and evangelists, we may know the truth that sets us free from sin and fear. Guard Your Word within us, that by this faithful testimony we may be made bold in witness and faithful in service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 1:12–26

(The Lord chooses Matthias to fill the empty spot among the Twelve created by Judas' death.)

L: The First Reading for the 7th Sunday of Easter is taken from Acts, Chapter 1:

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their

own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) “For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

““May his camp become desolate,
and let there be no one to dwell in it’;

and

““Let another take his office.’

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 John 5:9–15

(“Whoever has the Son has life.”)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from 1st John, Chapter 5:

If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

This is the word of the Lord.


C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Reading

John 17:11b–19


(Jesus prays that we may be one as He and the Father are one.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 17th Chapter:

 **C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

(Jesus said) “Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

 **C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

A: 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.

Hymn of the Day

“Christ Sits at God’s Right Hand” - Hymn 564

**Christ sits at God’s right hand, His saving work complete
To reign till ev’ry foe will lie Beneath His feet
All that the Father planned, The Son sought to fulfill
When first he said, “Lord, here am I To do Your will.”**

**Christ was that priest God swore, Uniquely First and Last
Who would in righteousness and love Be unsurpassed
“A priest forevermore,” An oath God would not break
“A priest within the order of Melchizedek.”**

**Christ’ altar was the tree, Where on the world’s behalf
He shed a blow unlike the blood Of goat and calf
To seal God’s guarantee Of grace that cannot fail
With blood He entered for our good Behind the veil**

**What costly sacrifice To cover human sin!
Who but Christ Jesus had the right to enter in?
His blood, that sprinkled price, So we might be assured
That our inheritance in light Has been secured.**

**Then let us now draw near, Washed in that precious flood
And enter the Most Holy Place By Jesus’ blood.
From hearts that are sincere, Let tongues our hope profess,
And trust anew God’s faithful grace That we confess.**

**△ All praise to Christ we bring, Our Lord who intercedes,
Our great High Priest enthroned above Who knows our needs;
And to the Father sing Our songs of thankful praise,
Who with the Spirit reigns in love For endless days.”**

Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955

Tune: Hebrew; setting: *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875

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Music: Public domain

Sermon

 **Offertory** - page 192

**A: 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.**

Prayer of the Church

The Service of the Sacrament

Begins on page 194

Preface - page 194

 P: The Lord be with you.

 C: **And with thy spirit.**

 P: Lift up your hearts.

 C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

 P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

 C: **It is meet and right so to do.**

P: It is good, right, and our very duty to praise You, almighty Father, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose death and resurrection have borne the good fruit of salvation for all who believe. Having shown to us His mercy, clothing us in His righteousness, grant that we be faithful in witness and fervent in love toward those who do not yet know Him. Bring us at last with all the saints of old and all the heavenly host, so that we may join their unending hymn, praising Your holy name and saying:

Sanctus - page 195

**A: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabbaoth
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest
Blessed is He, blessed is He,
blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest**

Lord's Prayer - spoken, page 196

A: 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.

The Words of Our Lord - spoken, page 197

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 \mp 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 \mp blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

Pax Domini - page 197

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

C: **Amen.**

Agnus Dei - page 198

A: **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.**

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

Dismissal

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

C: **Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis - page 198-199

A: **Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
According to Thy word
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people
A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.**

Thanksgiving - page 200

P: O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.

C: and His mercy endureth forever.

P: Let us pray: Holy Lord, mighty God, everlasting Father, You spoke through the apostles and prophets to make known Your Son, Jesus Christ, and the salvation He has accomplished for us. Speak hope and courage into our hearts that we may boldly proclaim Jesus Christ and His work for our salvation. Prepare the hearts of those who hear that the Spirit may bring forth in them the faith to acknowledge all His goodness for our redemption; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Salutation and Benedicamus - page 202

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Bless we the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Benediction - page 202

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

 **C: Amen, amen, amen.**

Closing Hymn

“O Christ our True and Only Light” - Hymn 839

**O Christ, our true and only light, Enlighten those who sit in night
Let those afar now hear Your voice And in your fold with us rejoice.**

**Fill with the radiance of Your grace The souls now lost in error's maze
Enlighten those who inmost minds Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.**

**O gently call those gone astray That they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed In You find peace and heav'nly rest.**

**Shine on the darkened and the cold; Recall the wanderers to Your fold
Unite all those who walk apart; Confirm the weak and doubting heart**

That they with us may evermore Such grace with wonder'ing thanks adore

And endless praise to You be give'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: *Andächtige Haus-Kirche*, Nürnberg, 1676; setting: Johannes C. A. Zahn, 1817–95

Text and tune: Public domain

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Dismissal

P: On this Sunday, go in peace as you serve our living and ascended Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**