

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

## WELCOME TO ST. ANDREW

**Welcome** to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to the faith.

**Welcome** to all who have no church home, want to follow Jesus, have doubts, or do not believe.

Welcome to new visitors and old friends.

Welcome especially to all who have ever felt unwelcome in the church.

**Welcome** to believers, questioners, and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and grieve, to rejoice and recover.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. This is a place where lives are made new.

## HOW WE WORSHIP

When we gather for worship, we rejoice in God's grace through songs, prayers, scriptures, and the sacraments. The history of Christian worship is rich with traditions and rituals formed by generations which help to connect our lives with Christ.

By its very nature, Lutheran worship is participatory. The Holy Spirit joins our hearts and voices through songs and prayers that are both ancient and modern, biblical and relevant. Worship leaders guide us through the service and our responses are printed in **bold type**.

We are sent from this gathering into the world where we live on mission for Christ in our daily lives, loving and serving our neighbors and sharing the good news of Jesus with a world in need.

St. Andrew Lutheran Church Rev. Christopher D. Steubing 7420 FM 2673 • Canyon Lake, Texas 78133 • 210-688-3090 • sastaff@standrewofcl.org

#### PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

Please rise as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

## Amen.

Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world. We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious. Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Christ is Risen! The stone is rolled away, the tomb found empty. Mary calls out, "I have seen the Lord!" We have seen Christ, too, in every helping hand, in every heartfelt gift, in every choice to restore life in this world. We are called to this new life, a life of forgiveness and reconciliation. You are forgiven; receive your forgiveness and know that God loves you and desires great joy for your life. Walk forward on this journey of faith, knowing your brothers and sisters are with you. **Amen.** 

The Confession and Forgiveness was written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, and posted on her **Rev-o-lution** blog. <u>http://rev-o-lution.org/</u>

GATHERING HYMN

Hymn #424

"Ye Watchers, and Ye Holy Ones"

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

#### And also with you.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

#### WORD

#### FIRST READING

#### Acts 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup>But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up

again to heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" <sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



# REFRAIN

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the

heights.

<sup>2</sup>Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

<sup>3</sup> Praise the Lord, | sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

# REFRAIN

<sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
 <sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
 <sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

# REFRAIN

## REFRAIN

<sup>10</sup> wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

- <sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
- <sup>12</sup> young men and maidens, old and young together.
- <sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

## REFRAIN

SECOND READING Revelation 21: 1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

<sup>1</sup>I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trust-worthy and true." <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

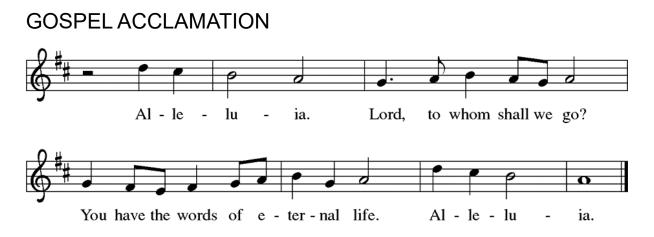
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Chris Steubing

Please rise as you are able.



The Gospel according to John.

## Glory to you, O Lord.

# GOSPEL John 13:31-35

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

<sup>31</sup>When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Praise to you, O	Christ.
Pasto	or Chris Steubing
"A New Commandment"	(next page)
	Paste

Please rise as you are able

#### A New Commandment



THE APOSTLES' CREED

Together with the whole church, we confess our faith:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

...Hear us O, God

Your mercy is great,

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

#### And also with you.

Please share Christ's peace with one another.

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

"He Is Among Us"

(next page)

Please rise as you are able as the offering is brought forward.

#### OFFERING MUSIC "He Is Among Us (The Least of These)"

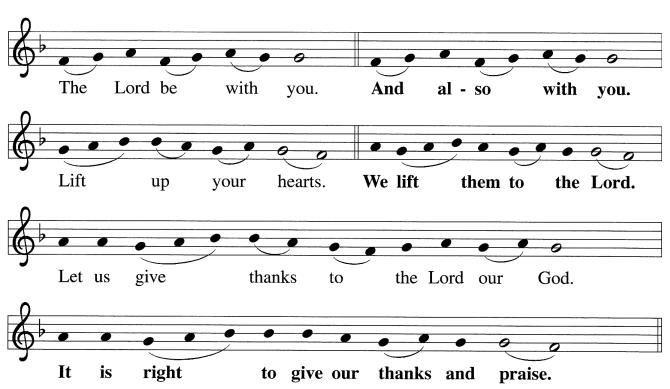
By Andy Piercy, Isaac Wardell. John Swinton, Orland Palmer, Paul Zach. ©Common Hymnal Publishing. IAMSON Productions: Integrity Worship Music; Integrity's Alleluia! Music; Paul Zach Publishing; PG Songs & Hymns. Used by permission CCLI # 2561118



OFFERING PRAYER

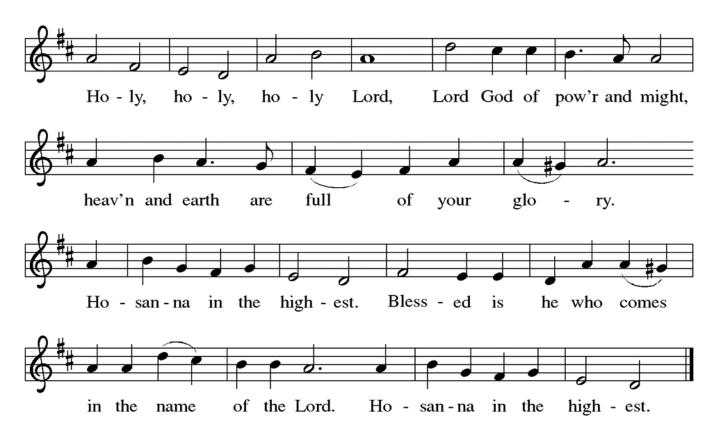
Let us pray. **Risen One, you have gathered us around your table** of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen

MEAL



#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise. . . We praise your name and join their unending hymn:



In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

#### Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

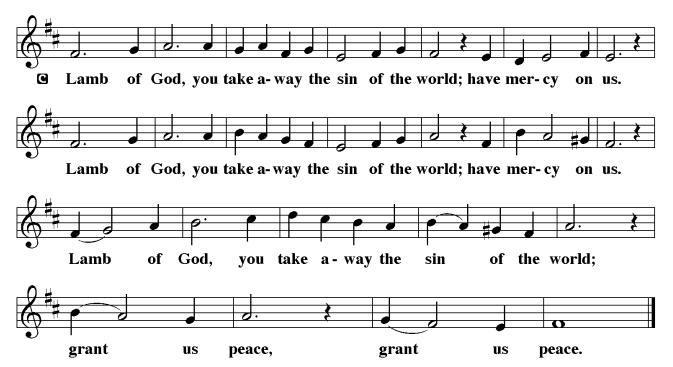
Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness!



Communion Distribution---All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's table. If you'd like to receive a blessing instead, you may simply come forward and cross your arms over your chest. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and we will bring the sacrament to you. The communion cups contain wine (red) or grape juice (white). Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

**Communion Hymns** 

Hymn #453	"Baptized and Set Free"
<i>Hymn</i> #744	"Lord, Be Glorified"

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.



SENDING HYMN

"Spirit, Open My Heart"

(next page)

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE.

Our thanks to those who serve as our worship leaders today:

Our Reader—Gerri Whitman Our Liturgist—Don Gillett Organist—Jimmy Cheung Choir and Hand Bell Director—Wendy Kuenemann Pastor—Rev. Chris Steubing

# Spirit, Open My Heart

