

*It is  
the  
Lord!*

**John 21:7**

Complete Worship Folder

May 4, 2025 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

May 7, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

**ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

## **Third Sunday of Easter**

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### Welcome and Announcements

#### Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

P: In the name of ✠ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

**C: Amen.**

P: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C: make us one as you are one.**

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C: make us one as you are one.**

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C: make us one as you are one.**

P: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

**C: Amen.**

Hymn: "Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table" (ACS 977)

Look who gathers at Christ's table!  
Hear the stories that they bring.  
Some are weeping; some are laughing;  
some have songs they want to sing.  
Others ask why they're invited,  
burdened by the wrong they've done.  
Christ insists they all are welcome.  
There is room for ev'ryone.

Clouds of light surround the table;  
ancient followers appear,  
saints confessing how they wrestled  
with their guilt, their doubt and fear.  
Peter tells of his denying  
Christ was ever in his sight;  
Paul relates his fruitless efforts  
to obliterate the light.

Their sad stories are repeated  
in a thousand different ways,  
but they share one thing in common:  
they all end in thanks and praise  
for the host who has invited  
north and south and east and west  
to converge around this table,  
where all life is fed and blest.

Bring your joy and bring your sadness,  
and prepare to be surprised  
by the host whose hands are wounded,  
who will open wide your eyes  
when he blesses bread and breaks it—  
truth and manna from above!—  
and then passes wine that wakens  
in your heart the taste of love.

#### Greeting

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

**C: And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise: (ELW, Setting 10, page 204)

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:  
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;  
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.  
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

#### Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray... **Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Children's Message (10:30 a.m.) & Dismiss to Children's Church*

First Reading: Acts 9:1-20

<sup>1</sup> Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup> He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank. <sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup> I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup> So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup> and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

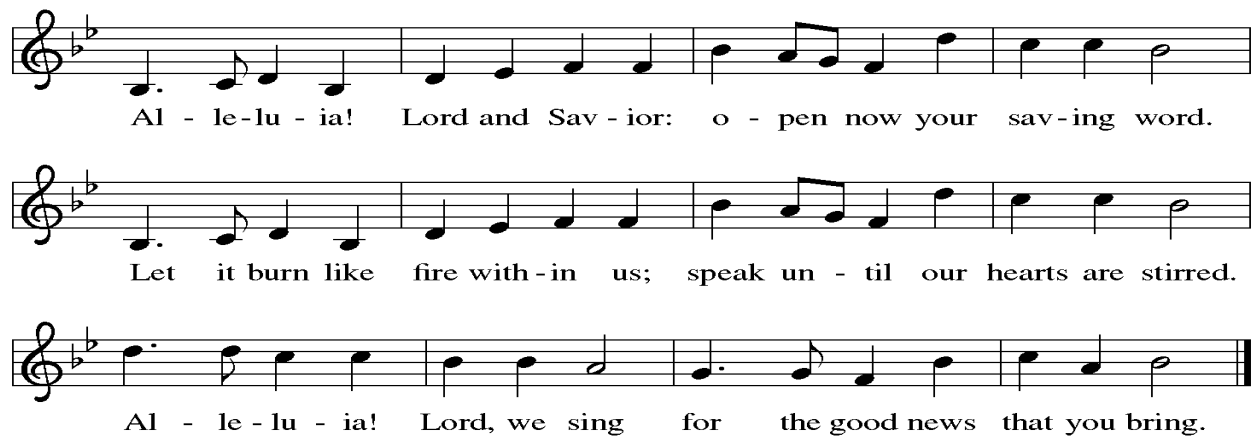
Second Reading: Revelation 5:11-14

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" <sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" <sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation: (ELW, Setting 10, page 205)



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the twenty-first chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 21:1-19

<sup>1</sup> After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. <sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. <sup>9</sup> When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. <sup>15</sup> When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup> A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." <sup>19</sup> (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "The Church of Christ, in Every Age" (ELW 729)

The church of Christ, in ev'ry age  
beset by change, but Spirit-led,  
must claim and test its heritage  
and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street,  
the victims of injustice cry  
for shelter and for bread to eat,  
and never live before they die.

Then let the servant church arise,  
a caring church that longs to be  
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

For he alone, whose blood was shed,  
can cure the fever in our blood,  
and teach us how to share our bread  
and feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve  
in full obedience to our Lord;  
to care for all, without reserve,  
and spread his liberating word.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the Children of God

Each petition ends...Hear us, O God,

**Congregation responds...your mercy is great.**

Sharing of the Peace

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

Offering

Offering Song: "Come to the Table" (ELW 481)

Come to the table of mercy,  
prepared with the wine and the bread.  
All who are hungry and thirsty,  
come, and your souls will be fed.  
Come at the Lord's invitation;  
receive from his nail-scarred hand.  
Eat of the bread of salvation;  
drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Offering Prayer

A: 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.

**C: Amen.**

Thanksgiving

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.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

**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.**

Invitation to Communion / Distribution of Holy Communion

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Communion Songs: "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" (ELW 392)

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;  
his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation  
has redeemed us by his blood."

Alleluia! Not as orphans  
are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! he is near us;  
faith believes, nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received him  
when the forty days were o'er,  
shall our hearts forget his promise:  
"I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of heaven,  
here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! here the sinful  
flee to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
earth's redeemer, hear our plea  
where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal,  
Lord omnipotent we own;  
Alleluia! born of Mary,  
earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.  
As within the veil you entered,  
robed in flesh, our great high priest,  
here on earth both priest and victim  
in the eucharistic feast.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;  
his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation  
has redeemed us by his blood."

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"Build a Longer Table" (ACS 1062)

Build a longer table, not a higher wall,  
feeding those who hunger, making room for all.  
Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,  
Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;  
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.  
For any place where justice is denied,  
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.

Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.  
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.  
When we embrace compassion more than fear,  
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,  
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.  
So must our tables welcome those who roam.  
None can be excluded; all must find a home.



### Post-Communion Blessing

P: And now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

### Post Communion Prayer

A: 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.

**C: Amen**

### Blessing

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Song: “I Love To Tell The Story” (ELW 661)

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

**Refrain**        I love to tell the story;  
                     'twill be my theme in glory  
                     to tell the old, old story  
                     of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy word. **Refrain**

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. **Refrain**

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### Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A: We work together to spread Christ's love with our community

**C: Through Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Lives, and an Open Table.**

A: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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