

CHRIST PREPARES TO DEPART

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH | Kearney, Nebraska

Sunday, April 24, 2016

WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

We are so happy you could join us today! If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you.

For your convenience, **Listening Devices** are available for those who need assistance in hearing the service. Please speak with an usher if you need one. A **Nursery** is also available and is equipped with a speaker so that a minimal amount of the service is missed. The nursery is located in the hallway just off the entryway (first door on left).

SERVICE NOTES FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus had told them that he was leaving. Today, John gives us a picture of it, and what it will be like when we join Jesus there. St. John gives a vision of the new heaven and the new earth, the home beautifully crafted and lovingly prepared for the Bride of Christ. Here there is nothing of the old sin, death and pain. All is new for all is done. So now, even in the face of persecution, love led the apostles to boldly proclaim the message of the risen Christ. Filled with joy and the Spirit, Christ's love compels us to proclaim the same Word of Life.

HOLY COMMUNION IS OFFERED TODAY

In Holy Communion, we share in the mystery of the bread and wine offered together with the body and blood of Christ. As Christians who believe that the Bible is inspired by God and that every word written in it is God's holy word, we believe that we receive the body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine.

While this is something that goes beyond our human understanding, our faith allows us to accept this as true. God warns us in the Bible that anyone who doesn't understand this teaching or who denies this real presence of Christ's body and blood will do damage to his or her soul if not taught first.

As a congregation we care about people and about the spiritual well-being of individuals. For that reason we ask that only confirmed members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS] and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] join us in Holy Communion this morning. If you have questions, or are interested in communing with us in the future, please speak with Pastor Seelow after the service.

THE PASCHAL CANDLE



The Paschal Candle is a special candle used at every service during the Easter season and at baptisms and funerals year-round. The Paschal Candle—rededicated this morning in our Easter Vigil service—symbolizes the resurrection victory over the darkness of sin and death. It emphasizes the presence of the resurrected Christ and the link between baptism and the resurrection (Romans 6).

The name *Paschal* comes from the Greek, *pascha*. Before the time of Christ, this word was used for Passover; after Christ, Christians took to using the word when referring to the Festival of the Resurrection (The term *Easter* came into use in later centuries).

Throughout the fifty days of Easter, the Paschal Candle traditionally stands near or in front of the altar as a symbol of resurrection. It is lighted for each service and is traditionally extinguished after the reading of the Gospel on Ascension. The Paschal Candle is of substantial size so its important symbolism speaks clearly. Even the stand in which it sits is of great size.

Even as the Advent candles bring wonderful meaning to the celebration of Advent, so the Paschal Candle is intended to add meaningful symbolism to our celebration of Easter, Baptisms, and Christian funerals.

SERVING IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

Preacher & Presiding Minister	Pr. Nathanael Seelow
Pianist	Logan Hansen
Ushers	Les Adelung & Chris Stutz
Greeters	Randy & Vicki Webb

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THE DIVINE SERVICE

The Service of Word & Sacrament — Christian Worship, pg. 26



During the time of Luther, the organ would usually not play along with people singing the **Hymns** of the service. The organ would introduce a hymn, and then people would sing it a capella, without accompaniment. Occasionally, the organ would play in between stanzas of a hymn.

OPENING HYMN

Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now | CW 230

INVOCATION

Please stand.

- M The grace of our Lord ❖ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- C And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

- M Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

- M I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

M God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Silence for meditation on God's Word and for self-examination as you consider your thoughts, words, and actions according to the Ten Commandments.

- M Holy and merciful Father,
- I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in

eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

ABSOLUTION

- M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ♣ and of the Holy Spirit.
- c Amen.

"All confidence is empty, except confidence in mercy. Mercy delivers us; our own merits, our own efforts, do not."

 Apology to the Augsburg Confession, V:209

LORD, HAVE MERCY — Kyrie

M For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



M For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



M The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise!



The Dignus est Agnus, Latin for "Worthy is the Lamb," is an exclusively Lutheran canticle of the liturgy. It is sung in place of the Gloria in Excelsis during the season of Easter and on the last Sunday of the Church year—Christ the King. It is most certainly an appropriate song to sing as the Church has always had at the center of its theology the Lamb of God who shed his blood upon the Cross to save a fallen race.



PRAYER OF THE DAY—Collect

M

Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated.

The Service of the Word



FIRST LESSON Acts 13:44-52

⁴⁴ The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. ⁴⁶ And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

"'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

⁴⁸ And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up

The Collect (also called the "Prayer of the Day") is a concise prayer which "collects" the thoughts of the day and presents them to God in his mercy. Most of these prayers have been in use in the Church for more than 1,500 years. By praying these prayers, we join with the great body of believers, the communion of saints, and with the generations yet to come. The congregation makes the Collect its own with its "Amen," "Yes, yes, this is most certainly true."

Even in the face of persecution, love led the apostles to boldly proclaim the message of the risen Christ. Filled with joy and the Spirit, Christ's love compels us to proclaim the same Word of Life.

God is our King, and all generations and all the earth must hear about him. He abounds in mercy, which extends to all his works. The Lord will draw near to those who fear him (those who have been broken by the Law). He drew near to us in Christ, our King. His Word resounds form generation to generation, bringing the kingdom of God to all the world and to us.

persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. ⁵¹ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

- M The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 145 | **CW p. 119**





Refrain

Great is the LORD and most worth- | y of praise;* his greatness no one can | fathom.

One generation will commend your works to an- | other;* they will tell of your | mighty acts.

The LORD upholds all | those who fall* and lifts up all who are | bowed down.

Refrain

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the | proper time.*

You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every | living thing.

The LORD is near to all who | call on him,* to all who call on | him in truth.



He fulfills the desires of those who | fear him;* he hears their cry and | saves them.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit, as it was in the be-ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON Revelation 21:1-6

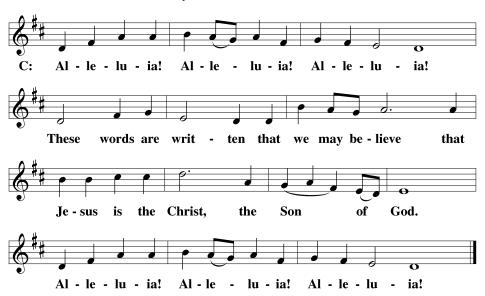
¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ And 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 from the spring of the water of life without payment.

- M The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!

Jesus had told them that he was leaving. Here John gives us a picture of it, and what it will be like when we join Jesus there. St. John gives a vision of the new heaven and the new earth, the home beautifully crafted and lovingly prepared for the Bride of Christ. Here there is nothing of the old sin, death and pain. All is new for all is done.

M Alleluia! Alleluia Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia!



HOLY GOSPEL John 13:31-35

Please stand.

M The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter thirteen.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Having come from God and now preparing to return to God, Jesus gives his disciples the command to love one another. Disciples of Jesus are marked by their love for each other. For it is a reflection of the same love our now glorified Savior has for us.

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing | CW 141

SERMON Acts 13:44-52

⁴⁴ The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. ⁴⁶ And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

"I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

⁴⁸ And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. ⁵¹ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

See what the Word of God does!

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing, a 7th century hymn, is known as an Ambrosian hymn. So named because Ambrosian hymns were formerly supposed to have been written by St. Ambrose, or because they imitate the form by which he wrote hymns.

This hymn has customarily been sung during the Easter Vigil as the Lord's Supper was being distributed. An ancient custom of the Church was to use the season of Lent as a period of catechesis, or teaching of church doctrines. During the Easter Vigil, the catechumens (today's confirmands) would be given the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. During the service, the neophytes, vested in beautiful white robes, were admitted for the first time to the "banquet of the Lamb," i.e., to the Lord's Table.

NICENE CREED

Please stand.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

OFFERING

Moved by God's love in Christ, by our Offering we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to give an offering.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Please stand.

The Service of the Sacrament



SALUTATION

M The Lord be with you.



M Lift up your hearts.



M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



PROPER PREFACE

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

In the era of the Reformation, announcements about births, deaths, and marriages were made after the sermon. Then prayers were offered. This is why the Prayer of the Church is often placed in this position in the Divine Service.

This canticle is based on Isaiah 61:1-4. Like Isaiah, we are in the presence of God: the Lord is here with us in a special way in Communion. "Hosts" means armies. The "heavenly hosts" are God's armies of holy angels.





PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M Blessed are you, O God Almighty, who through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, created all things and made mankind in your own image. When Adam sinned and lost your image, you did not forsake the people you had created. You sent your only begotten Son to take on human flesh through the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary. As our substitute, he fulfilled all of your laws in our place and died the death we deserve because of our sin.

Blessed are you, O God our Savior, for you have gathered us here to remember Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. In this meal you give us his true body and blood, which paid our debt to you and assures us of your forgiveness. For all of your undeserved love toward us, we give thanks and praise to your living and life-giving name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father, in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
 are yours now and forever. Amen.

"The Lord's Prayer is a prayer above all prayers, the greatest of all prayers, which has been taught by the greatest Master of all, in which all spiritual and bodily trouble is comprehended and which is the strongest consolation in all temptations, and in the last hour."

- Martin Luther

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

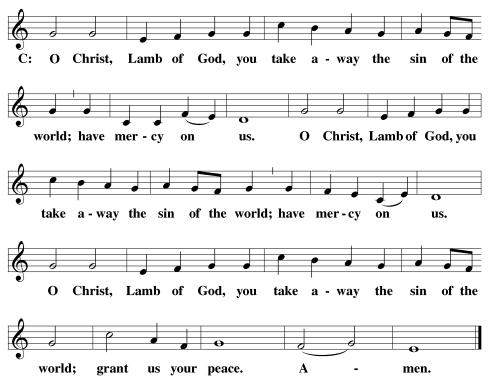
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



The Pastor makes the sign of the cross during the Words of Institution, not because it is some magical incantation or spell, but rather to mark and set apart the bread and wine for the purpose of eating and drinking in the Sacrament.

LAMB OF GOD — Agnus Dei



Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Those who will be receiving Holy Communion today may wish to read **Personal Preparation for Holy Communion**, found on page 156 in the front section of the hymnal. This page helps put into practice what the Bible encourages: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." (1 Corinthians 11:28)

Prayer suggestions for before and after receiving the Lord's Supper can be found in the hymnal on pages 10-11 and 134-139.

In dismissing the communicants, the minister says:

M Now, may this true body and blood strengthen and keep you in the true faith to life everlasting. Your sins ❖ are forgiven. Go in peace. Amen.

Good Shepherd confesses and practices the Biblical teaching of a **Closed** Communion. We ask that only members of the Wisconsin Synod [WELS] or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] join us at the Lord's Table. If you have questions concerning our communion practice, or would like to inquire about how you, too, can commune with us, please speak with the Pastor following the service.

THANK THE LORD

Please stand.



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



PRAYER FOR GRACE

M Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



The Prayer for Grace, which we often pray, was included in a version of the Divine Service written by Martin Luther in 1526. We ask God to work powerfully in our lives through what he has just given to us.

BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the LORD with gladness.

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look on you with favor and ◆ give you peace.



Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

Jerusalem the Golden | **CW 214**



This ancient hymn, written by Bernard of Cluny, reminds us of the heavenly Jerusalem, a land flowing with milk and honey. It is the goal of our faith in Jesus and the free gift of our loving heavenly Father in Christ.



MY WORSHIP NOTES



For children to use during the Divine Service, or for parents to use with their children following the service.

Name:	Date:		
What is the name of the church season or	special day to	oday?	
What is the color of the church season too	day? (Circle one)		
Blue White	Purple	Red	Green
The Sermon Text was: This is in the: Old Testar What was the sermon about?	ment □ N	New Testamen	t
My favorite hymn or song today was:			
Did we celebrate a Sacrament today? Baptism? Lord's Supper Yes Yes No No	Draw a pict	ure of somethi	ng you heard or saw today:
What did you learn about God today?			

Announcements

BIBLE CLASS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY! Following the service today, Sunday School and Bible Class will meet. Sunday School will begin at 10:45 at the front of the church. Bible Class will begin at 10:55 in the Multipurpose Room. We will be continuing our look at Paul's letter to the Romans, chapters 1-8.

ASCENSION SERVICE & SOCIAL On May 4, Good Shepherd will celebrate the *Festival of the Ascension of Our Lord with a Divine Service at 7p.* The Lord's Supper will be offered in that service. Following the service, an Ice Cream Social will be held in the Ed. Building. All are invited to the service and to the social afterward!

SPRING WORK DAY On Saturday, May 7, a work day will be held here at the church. This is meant to serve as a type of "spring cleaning" for the buildings and grounds. If you are able to help, or have questions concerning the day, speak to Tony Wenz.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION Following the service on next Sunday, May 1, the high school and college graduates of our congregation will be recognized. Cake will be served, and the congregation will have an opportunity to offer their words of encouragement and congratulations to the graduates.

FELLOWSHIP TREAT SIGN-UP A sign-up sheet is on the board in the entry way to be able to volunteer to bring treats for our fellowship time following the service. This "treat time" runs through the end of May and has no volunteers past today. If you're so inclined, please consider signing up to bring treats.

HELP NEEDED A member of our congregation is in need of help for transportation to medical appointments on a weekly basis in the next few months. If you are willing and available to pick up and drive someone a couple times a week in the morning hours, please speak with Pastor.

CONGREGATION AT PRAYER A copy of the newest "A Congregation at Prayer" is available on the table in the entryway. This packet is not only a good outline for personal and family devotions, but it also includes an up-to-date prayer list for those in (and outside) our congregation.

This Week's Calendar

Wednesday, April 27	AM — Shut-in/Hospital Calls 4p — Confirmation 7p — Bible Class: Connecting Sinai to Calvary
Sunday, May 1	9:30a — Divine Service with Lord's Supper 10:30a — 2016 Graduate Recognition 10:45 — Sunday School 10:55 — <i>Romans 1-8</i> Bible Class
	Ushers: Randy Webb & Trevor Adelung Greeter: Wenz Family Sound Tech: Jamie Scott
Cleaning (4/24-4/30)	<i>Church</i> —Adelung; <i>Fellowship</i> —Brei; <i>Ed. Bldg.</i> —CantrellAdelung



www.goodshepherdkearney.org