

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, May 18, 2025**  
**Shepherd of the Hill ELCA, 10 am**

“Encouraging faith and proclaiming God’s love by  
Gathering, Growing, Giving.”



**Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreement to be on our live broadcast.**

**INTRODUCTION**

*disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.*

Please stand for the parts of the service designated with †

**PRELUDE**

**EASTER GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

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.**

In the name of † the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

**C: Amen.**

**WELCOME**

**GATHERING HYMN**

“Oh, Praise the Gracious Power!”

**WOV 750 v1-4**

## REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

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

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.**

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.**


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.**

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.**

## KYRIE

*Refrain*



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



*Refrain*  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**HYMN OF PRAISE**      “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”      **LBW 143 v. 4**

### † PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

## **Our first reading is from the 11<sup>TH</sup> chapter of ACTS**

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> 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."

Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 148**      *please speak responsively*

<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.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup> **who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<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;

<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.

<sup>14</sup> **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

**Our second reading is from the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter of REVELATIONS**

REVELATIONS 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 trustworthy 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."

Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## † GOSPEL

### † JOHN 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel according to the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of JOHN

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

*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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### SERMON

**Pastor Natalie Leske**

### † HYMN OF THE DAY

“ Where Charity and Love Prevail”

**LBW 126**

### † APOSTLES' CREED

**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 power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**and he will come 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**

## † PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness (*especially*). Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

## † GREETING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

*Please share a greeting of peace with one another.*

## **OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER**

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 AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,  
you alone are holy,  
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:  
beyond the stars; beneath the sea;  
within each cell; with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness:  
through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**We bless you, O God**

We give you thanks for your dear Son:  
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;  
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:  
in our gathering;  
within this meal;  
among your people;  
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you,  
holy God, through Christ Jesus,  
by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

#### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

#### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

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.**

## † BLESSING

Almighty God, who raised our Lord Jesus from death, lift you up and restore you to wholeness.

**C: Amen.**

Jesus Christ, the Word of life, bless you and send you to be his witnesses.

**C: Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who renews the whole earth, refresh you in the gift of baptism this day and always.

**C: Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### † SENDING HYMN

“Love Divine, All Love Excelling”

**LBW 315**

### † DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Presiding Minister

Guitarist

Usher

Acolyte

Video

Reader

Pastor Natalie Leske

Michelle Young

Sara Carstens, Tim Jenson

Elise Carstens

Billy Heltne

Sara Carstens

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## **2025 WELCA Retreat**

### INFORMATION SHEET

**Wed. June 4 & Thur. June 5**

**Presenter:** Destiny Jackson

**Music:** Looking for a volunteer to play the piano

**Hosted by:** Chippewa Valley Conference  
Jacki Johnson – coordinator 715-864-1489

**Held at:** Luther Park Bible Camp  
944 24 ¼ Street Chetek, WI

**See Holly Sweeney if interested!**

**Mailing Addresses** of folks to send words of sympathy, care or cheer.

*Please let the secretary know if you would like to be added or know someone who might.*

- Conrad Barth: 6160 807<sup>th</sup> St. Elk Mound, WI 54739
- Dave Gilbertson: 1176 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. Elk Mound, WI 54739
- Audrey Bracher: Colfax Health & Rehab, Room 310 110 Park Dr. Colfax, WI 54730

- No Sunday School Until September
- No Adult Bible Study the rest of May

~ VBS "**Christmas in July**" July 27-31, 6-8 pm ~

**THIS WEEK AT CHURCH AND BEYOND OUR DOORS**

SUNDAY	5/18	10 am	- 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, communion
MONDAY	5/19	4:30 pm	- Finance Meeting
		7 pm	- AA Meeting
TUESDAY	5/20	4-6 pm	- Food Pantry
WEDNESDAY	5/21	3:20 pm	- Last Day of Confirmation
		6:30 pm	- Church Council
FRIDAY	5/23	10-Noon	- Food Pantry
SUNDAY	5/25	10 am	- 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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Secretary Kris Jenson 715-563-1402 [krisjens4@hotmail.com](mailto:krisjens4@hotmail.com)

Custodian Terry Stamm 715-379-3728

Sunday School Coordinators: Jaime Folczyk [mjfolczyk@gmail.com](mailto:mjfolczyk@gmail.com)

and Holly Sweeney [hollysweeney65@gmail.com](mailto:hollysweeney65@gmail.com)

Giving questions contact: Barb Vadnais [barbvadnais1@gmail.com](mailto:barbvadnais1@gmail.com)