

# Fifth Sunday of Easter Graduation Sunday

May 15, 2022 | 11 am



St. John's Lutheran Church | Salisbury, NC







# Welcome to St. John's

We're so glad God has brought you here!

- Today is the 5th Sunday of Easter, a 50 day season of the church year that lasts from Easter to Pentecost. The liturgical color is white, which symbolizes new life in Jesus. The Paschal (or Easter) candle remains in the center of our worship space throughout the season of Easter.
- A reminder that **our nursery** is located in the education building during the renovation project. Please see an usher for assistance.
- Today is Graduation Sunday—Congratulations to the class of 2022! Emily Almond, Ellison Frick, Emily Frick, Luke Graeber, Sydney Hlavacek, Morgan Jeter, Kirstyn Mason, Sascha Medina, McGwire Owen, Wade Robins
- New Members Sunday—Join us in welcoming our new members next Sunday!
- VBS—Registration is open (3 year olds to current 5th graders). Join us for a "Monumental" experience as we celebrate God's greatness! Use the QR code on the left or go to our website to sign up. If you would like to donate items to this year's VBS use the QR code in the middle or sign up at a table in Peeler Hall.



**VBS** Registration



**VBS** Donations



Giving



The Holy Spirit gathers us as the people of God

Beautiful Savior
Janie Rollins, Piano

Setting by Michael Hassell

Call to Worship From Psalm 57

My heart is steadfast, O God!
I will sing and make melody with all my being!
Awake, O harp and lyre!
I will awake the dawn!
I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.
For your steadfast love is great above the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!
Come, let us worship our God!

Entrance Hymn 842 Oh, Worship the King HANOVER
See page 10 of this bulletin or hymn 842 in the red worship book.

In procession today are our 2022 high school graduates.

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

Prelude

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.** 

Welcome and Recognition of the Graduating Class of 2022 and Scholarship Presentation



## We hear God's word in scripture reading, preaching, and song

**Reading:** Acts 11:1-18 Read by Kirstyn Mason, senior at Rowan Early College 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 fourfooted 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.' 17 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! Thanks be to God!

Response Cantate Domino James Chepponis

From Psalm 96:1 St. John's Chancel Choir

Cantata Domino, canticum novum. Alleluia! Sing to the Lord a new song. Alleluia!

#### The Holy 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."

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Sermon Pastor James Demmel

**Hymn** 631 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling HYFRYDOL See page 11 of this bulletin or hymn 631 in the red worship book.

**Apostles' Creed.** Gathered as God's people across time and space, let us confess our faith using the words of the 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 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.

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. Each petition ends: Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

**Sharing the Peace of Christ.** As we prepare our hearts and minds for communion, scripture invites us to make peace with our sisters and brothers in Christ. We share the peace with the words "Peace be with you."



## God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

**Preparation of the Lord's Table:** The congregation stands and sings the Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

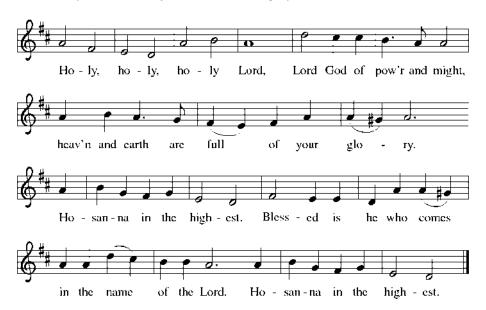
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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



#### **Eucharistic Prayer followed by The Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

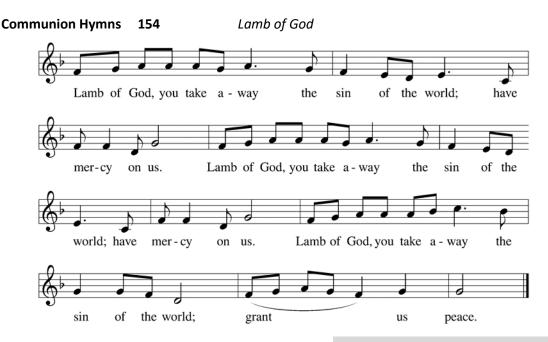
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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.

**Distribution of Holy Communion.** All the baptized are welcome to receive God's gift of grace through the sacrament of Holy Communion. We will commune by intinction (dipping the bread into the wine) at the front of the sanctuary. Proceed down the middle aisle, following the ushers' instructions, and return to your seat by the side aisles. Those not communing are invited forward for a spoken blessing. Grape juice is available in pre-filled cups. All bread in our communion celebration is gluten-free. Persons with walking difficulties may receive the bread and wine by sitting in the reserved front pew.



Hymn 472 Piano Meditation Hymn 494 Eat This Bread Ricky Howsare, piano Communion hymns are found in the red worship book (ELW), unless otherwise indicated.

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

## **Blessing and Prayer**



Forgiven and nourished, we are now sent into the world to share God's love.

#### Benediction

**Sending Hymn** 543 Go, My Children, with My Blessing ARD HYD Y NOS

See page 12 of this bulletin or hymn 543 in the red worship book.

**Dismissal** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!** 

#### Postlude

Unless otherwise indicated, today's service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship and is reproduced by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies annual license #26999.

# **Worship Participants**

**READER:** Kirstyn Mason, Senior at Rowan Early College

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Luke Graeber and Sydney Hlavacek, Seniors at Salisbury High

School

**SOUND:** Mike Agee

**PRODUCTION MANAGER:** Taylor Hutchins



4 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in you do we trust, nor find you to fail; your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

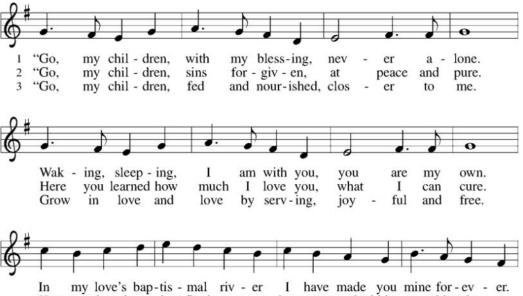
Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt. Music: HANOVER, William Croft, 1678–1727

# Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

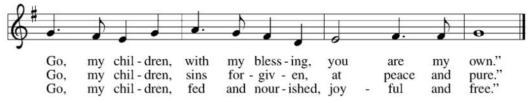


Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

# Go, My Children, with My Blessing



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er. Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry. Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

