

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our mission is to celebrate and share God's love in Jesus Christ

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little 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.'³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:31-35

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 15, 2022 at 8:15 & 11:00 AM
Liturgy of Holy Communion
Now the Feast and Celebration

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL'S!

If you are visiting with us for the first time, please share in all that is ours in Christ! We invite you to consider making St. Michael's your church home. Please ask us about our participation in God's mission in the world. By God's grace we celebrate and share Christ.

Our worship services this morning are streamed live to St. Michael's Facebook and YouTube pages. Please keep conversation to a minimum in the sanctuary, you may be picked up by our sound system. If you prefer not to be seen on camera please speak to an usher and they will seat you outside of the video frame. Thank you for your understanding.

Ministers: The People of St. Michael's
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INTRODUCTION

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

8:15: “Processional In C”

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The assembly is invited to stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

ALL: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor: In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing. You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through. In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation. Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear. To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #452 "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death" AZMON

- 1 Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and breadth,
its fullness, depth, and height.
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring
from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit's unity,
the very bond of peace.
- 3 There is one body and one hope,
one Spirit and one call,
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,
one God who made us all.
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
who died that he might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive
as God in Christ forgave.
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died,
and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984 Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin.

GREETING

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

ALL: And also with you.

KYRIE

Cantor: In peace, in peace...

Refrain

Cantor: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have
mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

to Verses

Cantor: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all...

Refrain

Cantor: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have

to Verses

mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word...

Refrain

Cantor: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have

to Verses

mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

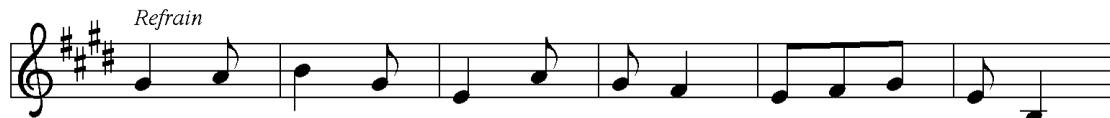
Cantor: Help, save, and defend us, O...

Congregation:

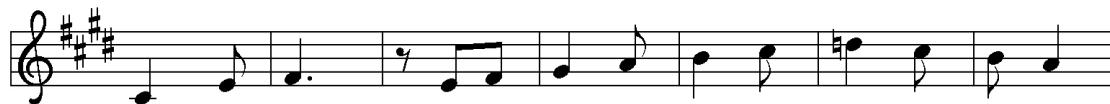
God. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Now the Feast”



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God.

Refrain



2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

Refrain



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

ALL: Amen.

The assembly is seated

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

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.

Lector: A reading from Acts.

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵"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. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I replied,

‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.¹² 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.¹³ 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; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning.¹⁶ 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?”¹⁸ 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.”

Lector: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

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.

Lector: A reading from Revelation.

¹I 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, the 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, “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; ⁴he 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.”⁵ 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.”⁶ 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.”

Lector: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

The assembly is invited to stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

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.

Pastor: The holy gospel according to John.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little 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.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated

SERMON

The assembly is invited to stand.

NICENE CREED

ALL: 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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Assisting Minister: Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation, responding with “hear our prayer.”

A brief silence.

Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. God, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Inspire us to praise you through the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us. Urge us toward more deliberate care of the world you have made. God, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Humble the rulers of nations before your splendor. Direct them to the people who need their attention most, and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power. God, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Hasten to dwell among those who are in pain or distress especially...those we name aloud now...and those we hold in our hearts. As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need. God, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities. By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us. Bring an end to racism in our churches and communities. Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another. God, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Give us a place in the diverse company of your beloved saints. Teach us the value of each person's identity, and bless us with a shared identity as your children, kindred of Christ. God, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Pastor: In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

The assembly is seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Offering is being gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. You are invited to place your offering in one of the offering plates located in the rear of the Sanctuary or send your offering to the church office through the mail or by having your bank mail a check directly. You can also contribute using any of the electronic giving options found on our church website.

MUSICAL OFFERING

8:15: "Choralvorspiel"

11:00: "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

Handbell Choir

The assembly is invited to stand.

OFFERTORY

“As the Grains of Wheat”

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat - tered on the hill were
gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo - ple from
all the ends of earth be gath - ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen

Music: Marty Haugen

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OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ALL: Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves. The first staff shows the Presider's part: "The Lord be with you. And al-so with you." The second staff shows the Congregation's part: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff shows the Presider's part: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is" and the Congregation's part: "right to give God thanks and praise." The fourth staff continues the Congregation's part: "right to give God thanks and praise." The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al-so 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 God thanks and praise."

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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:

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

ALL: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL: 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

Pastor: The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

LAMB OF GOD



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Text: ICET; additional text by Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*All who are guided by faith to receive the Lord's Supper are welcome at Christ's table. We give thanks as we receive the real presence of our resurrected Lord in, with, and under the bread and the wine. **Communion will be distributed continuously, in household groups, under the direction of the usher.** Take an empty cup to receive from a pouring chalice (let the communion assistant know if you prefer grape juice). Please let the pastor know if you require a gluten free host. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you." and each person may respond, "Amen". Worshippers who are not yet communing are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

After all have communed the assembly is invited to stand if able.

TABLE BLESSING

Pastor: The Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in Christ's Grace.

All: Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

Congregation:



1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:
2. From of old you loved and sought us:

Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice

weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for ev - er!
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your

love, re - mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of

life with us. 3. Praise to you, O

God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for
 ev - er! Thanks be to you for ev - er!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

ALL: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Pastor: God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, + bless you now and forever.

ALL: Amen

SENDING HYMN “Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!” EARTH AND ALL STARS *ELW 377*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
 Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
 Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
 Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!</p> | <p>3 Jesus the vine, we are the branches;
 life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
 heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
 gift of the future now flowing to me.
 <i>Refrain</i></p> |
| <i>Refrain</i> | |
| <p>Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
 Give God the glory! Alleluia!</p> | <p>4 Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:
 death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
 Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!
 Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.
 <i>Refrain</i></p> |
| <p>2 Walking the way, Christ in the center
 telling the story to open our eyes;
 breaking our bread, giving us glory:
 Jesus our blessing, our constant sur-
 prise. <i>Refrain</i></p> | |

5 City of God, Easter forever,
golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
river of life, saints and archangels,
sing with creation to God the I AM!
Refrain

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

ALL: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “He Is Risen, He Is Risen”

Upcoming Commemorations

Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330

Saturday, May 21, 2022

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Altar Flowers - The altar flowers this Sunday are given to the glory of God by Ray Kratz and Kelly Daly in honor of their daughter Liz DeBacker's birthday.

MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 17 at 12:00 Noon, in the Social Hall. Vivian Gano's group will be responsible for our lunch. Contact Kathleen with any questions.

SAVE THE DATE - MAY 22

Please plan to join a hands-on inter generational project to support Lutheran Social Ministries "Cherishing our Elders" program. LSM provides affordable housing, social services and healthcare to more than 1,400 NJ seniors. Many are home-bound and have limited incomes. LSM's ministry helps seniors with food and personal care items and nurtures fellowship with cards or room decorations. Our work session will begin with a light lunch at 12:00 Noon in the social hall. All ages and abilities welcome to join in! Project details to follow; contact Kay McConnell with questions. LSM info: <https://www.lsmnj.org/cherishing-our-elders/>.

EASTERN EUROPE CRISIS RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response is joining companion churches and partners in response to this crisis. These partners provide immediate support and supplies. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has joined other religious leaders from Europe and around the globe in issuing an interfaith call for peace in the region.

There are ways to help in support of those in Ukraine, Russia and neighboring countries affected by this crisis. Please pray for healing, peace and hope in their time of need. An offering labeled "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" can be placed in the offering plate in the rear of the Sanctuary or sent to the church office through the mail or by having your bank mail a check directly. You can also contribute using any of the electronic giving options found on our church website.

BIBLE STUDY

There will be no Bible Study May 18. Please join us **May 25-June 15** for our next series, A Prostitute, Two Prophets, and Poor Ol' Job. Please join us in-person or on Zoom. If you have questions please contact the church office or the Pastor.

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

Thank you to everyone who came to help with St. Michael's Spring Clean-up Day.

JOSEPH'S HOUSE BREAKFAST CASSEROLES

Joseph's House continues its ministry to feed the homeless in Camden. Thank you to the "Casserole Crew" for their support. **The next opportunity to provide twelve (12) breakfast casseroles is Thursday, May 26.** Please sign up using the new automated link: https://bit.ly/jhbc_May22. Casseroles can be dropped off at the Elkins Road door on May 26 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

SUMMER CAMP AT CROSS ROADS

Cross Roads offers unique summer camp programs for youth and families. Campers encounter God in nature, in worship, and in relationships during their time at camp. Our amazing summer staff of young adults create an environment for personal growth, wholesome fun, and an experience of genuine community.

Youth Camp (Grades 2-8): Multiple Weeks
High School Week (Grades 9-12): July 10-16
Adventure Camp (Grades 4-8): July 17-23
Leaders In Training (Grade 11): July 31-Aug. 13
S.E.E.K. (Grades 8-10): July 31 – Aug. 13
Family Camp: August 14-19
Family Camp Weekend: August 19-21

Reach out to the Bruesehoff Family if you have any questions about camp and talk to Pastor Chris about financial resources that are available.

For more Information go to: www.crossroadsretreat.com/

**MAY 15, 2022
FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**



God's ways are not our ways.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 13:31-35	Love one another
Monday	Acts 11:1-18	Peter reports to the church
Tuesday	Revelation 21:1-6	New heaven and earth
Wednesday	James 1:2-16	Trials and temptations
Thursday	Isaiah 55:6-13	God's words are powerful
Friday	Proverbs 3:5-8	Trust God
Saturday	Psalms 148	Praise for God's universal glory
Sunday	John 14:23-29	The sending of the counselor

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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." Acts 11:18 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, help us to love one another and to seek to understand before we seek to be understood for the sake of Jesus Christ and the reign of God he brings. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Praise God for this gift of food and all that we have been given. Praise God! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a heart filled with mercy.



MAY 15, 2022

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Here I Am, Lord



taking
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When you feel confused and need guidance, what do you do?
- The Bible makes it clear that God's ways are not our ways. What does this mean to you?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Acts 11:1-18.

Peter was telling a church of Jewish Christians in Jerusalem about what took place that led him to accept Gentiles (non-Jews) into the church. The Jerusalem church was critical of Peter. He had to give a clear, step-by-step description of what he had experienced. To discern or understand how accepting Gentiles into the church as the will of God was not easy. Peter himself had received the message three times. It was hard for Peter to grasp what had happened and it was hard for both Peter and the early church to discern the ways of God. It is still difficult for us today to understand God's ways as being fundamentally different than our ways. God's ways have never been easy for followers of Jesus. Reading the Bible, prayer, meditation, and faith-filled conversations with others in the church guide us as we seek to understand the ways of God and the path that God wants for us as followers of Jesus.

Discuss: What helps you be open to God's ways to guide your life?

Pray: **God of love and faithfulness, help us to see as you see, to judge as you judge, and to show mercy as you show mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show someone God's love?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Psalms 148 calls on us and all of creation to give praise to God. *"Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created"* (v. 5). Go for a walk and look around at God's beautiful creation. When you return draw a picture of your favorite scene or make a list of God's creations you saw while on the walk. Finish by praying: **Dear God, I praise you for _____ . I thank you for _____ . In Jesus name, Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

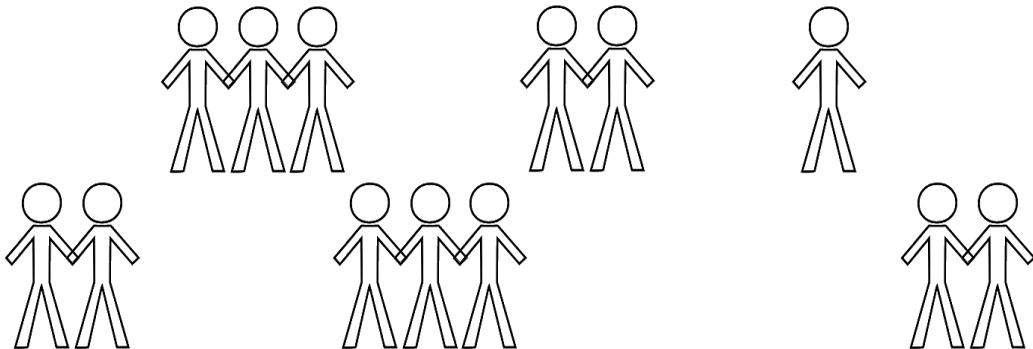
DIGITAL SIGN IN

To help keep each other safe, you are welcome to sign in with our new digital sign in. Please use the QR Code that can be found here in the bulletin or on the tables in the Narthex. You are also welcome to still sign in on the hard copy on the table in the Narthex.



WORSHIP SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

We are asking that folks try not to sit directly behind each other during worship and instead sit in-between the groups in the pew directly in front of you. Think about it like taking a class picture back in school, when you had to stand in the 'window' between the two people in front of you.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.