

## THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17-18, 2025

***“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education”***

***“Persevere With Thanksgiving”***



*Malachi 3:6 - “For I the Lord do not change”*

*Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

**Music of Preparation,**

**Welcome, Announcements, Greeting**

**Our Ministry:** We are a people of God who are: ***“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education.”***

**Welcome!** Psalm 148 calls all creation to praise the Lord. We join with springtime blooms and buds, more hours of sunlight, newborn animals, singing birds and greening landscapes. Welcome to worship!

**Devotions & Publications** are available in the Main Entryway. Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate.

### ..... WORSHIP NOTES .....

#### **\*Communion:      *The Lord’s Supper - A Reverent Sacrament***

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:27,29, “Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the Lord’s cup in an unworthy way is guilty of sinning against the Lord’s body and blood. Anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the Lord’s body brings judgment on himself as he eats and drinks.” In view of the serious nature of the Lord’s Supper, Paul commands us to examine ourselves to see if we are partaking the supper for the purposes for which Christ instituted with our hearts properly prepared. We heartily invite Confirmed members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to receive of the Lord’s Supper. Other guests, we ask you to see the pastor or lay minister first so that you may receive the supper to your benefit rather than to your harm as the Apostle Paul warns.

NOTE: If you are allergic or cannot drink full strength wine, The two (2) cups in the center of each tray have water with a drop or two of wine.

**Note About Attendance Cards...**Remember that the only way we may know you are worshiping with us is by seeing your name on an attendance card. These cards may be completed as you enter for worship and will be collected after the offering. Use one card for each family that is gathered. ***Please list the name of each person in worship.*** (Parents, please take responsibility for signing in your children) There is a "Member" side as well as a "Guest" side. Please fill out the appropriate side and pass them to the center aisle during the gathering of the offerings. The cards are gathered after the offering has been collected.

**To Our Visitors...**Please sign our guest book found in the main entryway. Our school has a few nooks and crannies, so don’t be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available in the main entryway.

## DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE

*(The music for the liturgy may be found on page 151 in the Hymnal)*

**Notes for Worship:** As you prepare to receive the Lord's Supper this day, we invite you to turn to the prayer section of the Hymnal (page 305). In addition to prayers for before and after worship, there are prayers for use before and after receiving the Lord's Supper (page 308 as well as on the inside front cover of the hymnal). May these prayers be useful in your worship.

### **Before worship prayer**

*We implore You, O Lord, in Your kindness to show us Your great mercy that we may be set free from our sins and rescued from the punishments which we rightfully deserve; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.*

**Preservice - 8:30am - Special Music**

*Youth/Adult Band*

### **We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!**

**Opening Hymn: "How Firm a Foundation"**

*LSB, hymn #728*

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said  
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

"Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never, forsake!

"When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.  
The flames will not hurt you; I only design  
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

"Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove  
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,  
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne."

## **INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

- P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C: **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b*  
P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8-9*  
P: Dear Friends in Christ, let us humble our hearts before our Holy God and silently reflect upon our sins.

*(Moment of silent reflection)*

- P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen**  
P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*  
C: **Amen.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**

**This is the Feast (Sung)**

*Revelation 5:12-13, 19:5-9*

- C: **This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

P: The Lord be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22

**C: (Sung) And also with you.**

P: Let us pray . . . O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**  
*(Please be Seated)*

**THE READING OF THE WORD**

**Old Testament Lesson:** Malachi 3:1-6 *(I, The Lord, Do Not Change)*

“Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.”

**Epistle Lesson:** Hebrews 13:1-8 *(Jesus Christ The Same Always)*

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?” Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Stand (as you are able)

**Alleluia and Verse - Common** *John 6:68*

**C: (Sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter.

**C: (Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Gospel Lesson:** John 16:12-22 *(Sorrow Turned To Joy)*

[Jesus said:] “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them,

“Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **(Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(Please be Seated)*

**Sermon Hymn: “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”**

*LSB, hymn #733*

O God, our help in ages past,    Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,    And our eternal home:

Under the shadow of Thy throne    Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,    And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood    Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,    To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight    Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night    Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,    Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream    Dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past,    Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last    And our eternal home!

**Sermon: “Change. . . “**

*Malachi 3:6 and Hebrews 13:8*

Stand (as you are able)

P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen**

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

P: Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus, for His church, and for all people according to their needs. . . . With joyful hearts, Lord, we bring You our prayers this day. We remember Your acts of kindness to Your people through all ages. We bless you for Your saving power shown to all people through the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. As Your Holy Spirit works among us, may we give bold testimony to the resurrection of Christ in our words and deeds. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: O Lord, In this season of new life we pray for our world and for all people who share it. Enable us to be courageous witnesses to Christ Jesus as were the faithful women and the blessed apostles in the days and weeks after the first Easter. May the salvation of Christ be made known to all peoples throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: According to Your will, O Lord, You heal the sick. Hear us on behalf of all who suffer any ill of body or mind and grant them strength for the day and keep them in Your grace to everlasting life. We lift up before You those hospitalized this past week (*Especially, . . .*). Also be with those who continue treatment and healing at home. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). O Lord, Grant them a strong and sturdy faith in the days of their trial and deliver them from their troubles. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: By Your grace, O Lord, You have named us as Your own in the baptismal water and joined us to Christ's death and resurrection. Grant that by Your grace we may live holy, upright, and godly lives, displaying in our life and conduct the goodness of Your love and mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*(Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . .)*

P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

**C: Hear Our Prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen**

*(Please be Seated)*

**Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards**

**8:30am - Special Music**

*Youth/Adult Band*

**OFFERTORY - Let The Vineyards**

*LSB, Hymn # 955*

**C: (Sung) Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

*(In preparation to receive the Sacrament, please read the Communion notes on page 2)*

P: The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**C: (Sung) And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

*Colossians 3:1*

**C: (Sung) We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*Psalms 136*

**C: (Sung) It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

### **SANCTUS ~ Holy, Holy, Holy**

*Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9*

**C: (Sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

P: O 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**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my  $\dagger$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me. In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my  $\dagger$  blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

*Mt 26:26-28, Mk 14:22-24, Lk 22:19-20, 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*John 20:19*

**C: And also with you.**

**Agnus Dei ~ The Lamb of God**

*John 1:29*

**C: (Sung) Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*(Please be Seated)*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

**LSB629 - What Is This Bread**

What is this bread?  
Christ's body risen from the dead:  
This bread we break, This life we take,  
Was crushed to pay for our release.  
O taste and see—the Lord is peace.

What is this wine?  
The blood of Jesus shed for mine;  
The cup of grace Brings His embrace  
Of life and love until I sing!  
O taste and see—the Lord is King.

So who am I,  
That I should live and He should die  
Under the rod? My God, my God,  
Why have You not forsaken me?  
O taste and see—the Lord is free.

Yet is God here?  
Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,  
In mouth and soul He makes us whole—  
Christ, truly present in this meal.  
O taste and see—the Lord is real.

Is this for me?  
I am forgiven and set free!  
I do believe That I receive  
His very body and His blood.  
O taste and see—the Lord is good.

**LSB730 - What Is the World to Me**

What is the world to me With all its vaunted pleasure  
When You, and You alone, Lord Jesus, are my treasure!  
You only, dearest Lord, My soul's delight shall be;  
You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!

The world seeks to be praised And honored by the mighty  
Yet never once reflects That they are frail and flighty.  
But what I truly prize Above all things is He,  
My Jesus, He alone. What is the world to me!

The world seeks after wealth And all that mammon offers  
Yet never is content Though gold should fill its coffers.  
I have a higher good, Content with it I'll be:  
My Jesus is my wealth. What is the world to me!

What is the world to me! My Jesus is my treasure,  
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my pleasure,  
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss eternally.  
Once more, then, I declare: What is the world to me!

**LSB735 - Have No Fear, Little Flock**

Have no fear, little flock; Have no fear, little flock,  
For the Father has chosen To give you the Kingdom;  
Have no fear, little flock!

Have good cheer, little flock;    Have good cheer, little flock,  
For the Father will keep you    In His love forever;  
Have good cheer, little flock!

Praise the Lord high above;    Praise the Lord high above,  
For He stoops down to heal you,    Uplift and restore you;  
Praise the Lord high above!

Thankful hearts raise to God;    Thankful hearts raise to God,  
For He stays close beside you,    In all things works with you;  
Thankful hearts raise to God!

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. . . . We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us in every way through this life-giving Sacrament. We pray that we may be strengthened through it to sing Your praises and love one another each day until we celebrate at the heavenly feast; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

### **BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: **(Sung) Amen**

**Closing Hymn: “With Thanks, We Persevere” (Anniversary Hymn)**

*tune LSB, hymn #651*

With thanks, we persevere,  
And serve our Lord each day.  
We gather and we serve Him here,  
Rejoice, with thanks, we say.

With thanks, we praise our God,  
For His great love and grace.  
He uses us to share His love,  
With every tribe and race.

We worship and we pray,  
Confess, give thanks and sing.  
We gather as God’s children here,  
And let our praises ring.

For teachers, we give thanks,  
In church and school, they teach,  
The truth of Jesus and His love,  
Is shared with all we meet.

With thanks, for pastors here,  
That served for countless years,  
And boldly shared God’s Word and truth,  
To all whom God holds dear.

With thanks, we persevere,  
His truth, we preach and share,  
For countless years, we still proclaim,  
God’s love, salvation dear.

All praise to God most high,  
Our Father, Son, most dear,  
and Spirit, evermore we praise,  
With thanks, we persevere!

**See You In Worship Next Week!**

**Post service - 8:30am - Special Music**

*Youth/Adult Band*



**After worship prayer** - Almighty and everlasting God, through Your Son You have promised us forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that in our daily need, and especially in all time of temptation, we may seek Your help and, by a true and lively faith in Your Word, obtain all that You have promised; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

*There is a Prayer Ministry Member(s) in each service that is wearing a prayer ministry tag around their neck. Please look for them if you want a prayer for someone else, a concern or situation you may have, or yourself.*

*Please join us for coffee and donut holes in the cafeteria after Sunday services.*

**Altar Flowers** Altar flowers this weekend are given in celebration of our anniversary, by Rob & Mary Wood; also in loving memory of our mom and Ahma, Sue Milton, by the Milton families.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

<b>Rev. Karl J. Koeppen</b> . . . . . Senior Pastor	<b>Rev. David Baker</b> . . . . . Missionary to Mongolia
<b>Rev. Roger A. Drinnon</b> . . . . . Associate Pastor	<b>Rev. Ross Engel</b> . . . . . Adopt-A-Chaplain
<b>Mr. Brian Porter</b> . . . . . Principal	<b>Church &amp; School Office:</b> . . . . . 932-0312
<b>Church Campus</b> . . . . . 348 E. Merchant, Kankakee	
<b>School Campus and Church &amp; School Office</b> . . . . . 1780 Career Center Road, Bourbonnais	
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Rev. Dr. Joel C. Elowsky



Dr. Joel Elowsky is Professor of Historical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and Director of its Center for the Study of Early Christian Texts. He also serves as a researcher for the Center for Early African Christianity and has taught at the Seminary since 2014. His expertise includes early church studies, the history of exegesis, African Christianity, and mission work.

He holds degrees from Concordia Seminary (M.Div., S.T.M.), Drew University (M.Phil., Ph.D.), and Concordia University Ann Arbor (B.A.), and previously studied at Westfield House (Cambridge) and Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary (Canada).

Elowsky has served in various academic and pastoral roles, including at Concordia University Wisconsin and Drew University, and was research director for the Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. He has contributed extensively to patristic scholarship, editing or authoring works in the Ancient Christian Doctrine, Texts, and Devotional series, as well as the Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity.

He has lectured widely, particularly in Africa and Europe, and participates in ecumenical dialogues, including Evangelicals and Catholics Together. He is president of the Institute for Classical Christian Studies and a board member of the China Academic Consortium.

Elowsky lives in St. Louis with his wife, Joy, a church musician. They have two sons, Christian and Luke. In his spare time, he enjoys sailing in northern Michigan.