

Fifth Sunday of Easter

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

May 18, 2025



Welcome to St. Andrew!

At St. Andrew Lutheran Church, we strive to be a loving and welcoming community of faith. We are centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ, who calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

All are welcome, without exception, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, education, income, or family status.

All are welcome here to worship God, receive the sacraments, and share in fellowship, leadership, and service. We commit to treasuring one another's similarities and differences as one body in Christ.

We are called to provide a safe space in the community as we break down the barriers of isolation. We will continue to discover what it means to be "Reconciling in Christ."

"Welcome one another therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

- Romans 15:7

Orientation to the Service

This bulletin will guide you through the entire service. Starting on page 3, words printed in **bold** are for everyone to say aloud together. Instructions and information are printed in *italics*.

Hymns (songs) are found in the hymnals in the pew racks in front of your seat.

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)

ACS = All Creation Sings (blue hymnal)

Green-topped Welcome Cards are found in the pew racks in front of your seat. We would love for guests, visitors, and anyone in need of prayer or more information about the church to fill one out. Please place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher after the service.

Children are welcome in worship! God put the wiggle in children, so please do not feel you have to shush or suppress those wiggles in God's house. All are welcome here! Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear what is happening in the service. There are worship activity bags available for children on a shelf in the back of the sanctuary, and a staffed nursery is available for very young ones. Ask an usher if you need help locating it.

Restrooms can be found by exiting the back of the sanctuary and turning right. Walk straight until you pass the coffee bar, and you will find the women's and men's restrooms to your right. A gender-neutral, ADA-compliant restroom will be found to your left, near the entrance to the kitchen.

Online access to the bulletin and hymns: standrewlutheran.com/worship/worship-bulletins/

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Milestones Sunday, May 18, 2025 | 9:30 AM

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.

PRELUDE

Confidence, Tony W. Wood, Matthew Ross Armstrong,
Jordan Michael Bailey; arr. Evan McGarvey
Contemporary Band

I'm not a warrior, I'm too afraid to lose
I feel unqualified for what you're callin' me to
But Lord with your strength, I've got no excuse
'Cause broken people are exactly who you use

Refrain

So give me faith like Daniel in the lion's den
Give me hope like Moses in the wilderness
Give me a heart like David, Lord be my defense
So I can face my giants with confidence

You took a shepherd boy and made him a king
So I'm gonna trust you and give you everything
I'll be a conqueror 'cause you fight for me
I'll be a champion claiming your victory *Refrain*

I'm gonna sing and shout and shake the walls
I won't stop until I see 'em fall
Gonna stand up, step out when you call Jesus, Jesus
I'm gonna sing and shout and shake the walls
I won't stop until I see 'em fall
Gonna stand up, step out when you call Jesus *Refrain*

GATHERING

THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

Christ Is Living

Christ is liv - ing! — Gone with sor - row! Tears and ter - ror,
For if Christ is — not a - ris - en there is — noth - ing
4 Death is swal - lowed up in — vic - tor - y; sin has lost its —

be no more. Death and grave, you — now are — noth - ing;
to be - lieve. Je - sus' prom - ise — is ac - comp - lished:
7 poi - son sting. Life with blossoms from the — grain sown,

Christ is — free of — ev - ry pow'r. Why then seek the —
"Since I — live, you — too shall live." Dust we are, to —
10 Christ the — first fruits of the spring. For the sure - ness

liv - ing Sav - ior in the haunts of — death and fear?
dust re - turn - ing, but in Christ we — are re - stored.
13 of sal - va - tion let us sing, "Thanks be to God!"

Christ is ris - en! — Shout the good — news
Doubt dis - pel - ling, — claim the tri - umph:
15 Christ is ris - en! — We are liv - ing!

so that — all the world may hear.
Je - sus — is the liv - ing Lord.
Spread the — word of grace a - broad.

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

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.

The congregation is seated.

WORD

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING, AND SONG.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Allison Bengfort

READING

Acts 11:1-18

A reading from Acts.

¹Now the apostles and the siblings 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.' ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven,

‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.

¹²The 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. ¹³He 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.’

¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷If 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?”

¹⁸When 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.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

The holy gospel according to John.
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.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated.

SERMON

Pr. Allison Bengfort

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As resurrection people, every moment offers us an opportunity to divest from the power of death and invest in the power of new life. How are you being called to use whatever resources you have to co-create a world of flourishing for all? You are invited to bring your life-affirming, resurrecting intentions to this offering so that together, we might roll away every stone of injustice, oppression, and harm until all know the true power of Love.

Contributions to St. Andrew Lutheran Church may be placed in the offering plate or made online (standrewlutheran.com/give). Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERING

Close, Brian White, Brian Bunn, Darren Mulligan
arr. Evan McGarvey
Contemporary Band

There's a million things
That I don't understand
I'm just being honest, God
Was it all part of Your plan
You know I wouldn't change a thing
Even though I hate the memory
You gave me a burden that
You said You'd help me carry
I know You're working all things for my good
In the way that only You could
Maybe the why just don't matter
What if it's not for me to know
Maybe the point is just to trust
You Find the faith to let it go

Refrain

'Cause sometimes falling feels like flying
It's the only way I know
So I won't hurry through the heartache
If it's what it takes
To draw me close

God, You know the tears I've cried
And the times I couldn't breathe
Oh, You never left my side
So I rest here at Your feet
I know You're working all things for my good
In the way that only You could
Maybe the why just don't matter
What if it's not for me to know
Maybe the point is just to trust You
Find the faith to let it go *Refrain*

I know You're working all things for my good
In the way that only You could
I know You're working all things for my good
In the way that only You could
Maybe the why just don't matter
What if it's not for me to know
Maybe the point is just to trust You
Find the faith to let it go *Refrain*

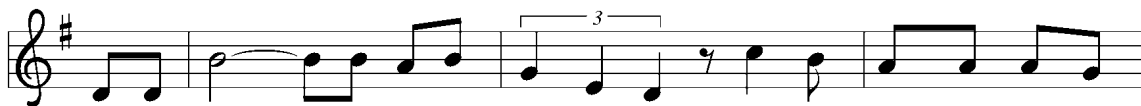
RECOGNITION OF GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is 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.



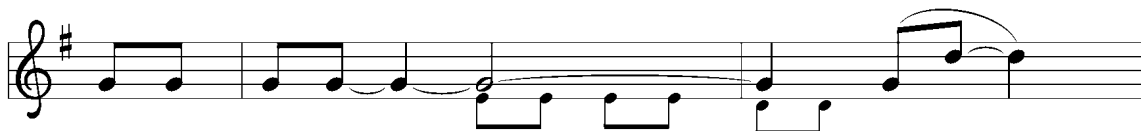
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. *Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',*
 light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



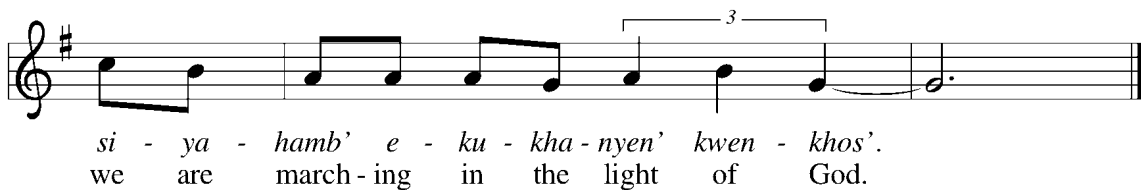
Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Our worship continues with Holy Communion and celebration in Fellowship Hall. No bulletin is needed.

Serving in Worship

Presider: Pr. Allison Bengfort
Preacher: Pr. Allison Bengfort
Assisting Minister: LuAnn Staul
Acolyte:
Altar Flowers:
Altar Guild: Liz Hardy
Communion Assistant:
Greeters:
Lector: Robert Hawthorne
Musicians:
Lead/vocalist - Allison Katsufakis
Percussion - Evan McGarvey

Guitar - Robert Casteel
Bass - Joe Calhoun
Saxophone - Joey Holst
Piano - Susan Reiser
Nursery Attendants: Sonja Ackman,
Lee Anne Knapp
Tech Team: Janet Vorvick,
Chase Isaacson
Ushers: Ed & Linda Fransen
Worship Coordinator: Beth Johnson
Zoom Host: Marlan Bell

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Benson Tunes, Fots Music, Countless Wonder Publishing, Eyes Up Songs, Curb Wordspring Music*

Close lyrics © Curb Dayspring Music, Anthem Music Publishing Iii, Buckeye Boy Gator Girl Music

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