

May 7, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Easter, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

5304 N 44th Ave

Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

Web Address: stjohnwausau.org

E-mail: pastor.maggie.westaby@gmail.com

Email: stjohnwausau@msn.com

Office: (715) 675-6950

Sunday, May 7th 2023
Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A
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WELCOME

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

United to Christ in the waters of baptism,
Saturated in the Spirits renewing energy,
Immersed in God's grace and forgiveness, let us give thanks.

Creator God,
We give thanks for Your Living Water.
Water brought to life by the Holy Spirit, who in the beginning,
Hovered over the face of the deep.

We give thanks for the parting of the Red Sea,
Freeing your people, allowing them to embark on a journey,
Where their thirst was quenched from a rock in the wild.

We give thanks for the river Jordan,
Welcoming your people into the promise land, flowing with milk and honey.
And again, for the river Jordan, where Christ was baptized,
And where You, Holy God Triune, were revealed to all creation.

We give thanks for Your creation,
For our planet earth, connected together in intricate ways,
And through the water cycle.

We give thanks for every molecule of water,
Creating water vapor, alluring clouds, vast oceans, and deep blue glaciers.
We give thanks for the water that fills our bodies,
May it remind us of our connection together,
Of our connection to You,
And our connection to all of creation.

May we flow, like water, being present with one another today
May we join together like water, as we welcome new members today,
May we observe space, like water, holding space for one another,
And may we go deep, like water, allowing the Spirit to hover within.
Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

We will sing the canticle of praise together as one.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

Your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Help us to live into this promise. Give us grace to love one another, to uphold your commandments, and to be a beacon of hope to the world you so love. In Christ we pray.

Amen.

READING: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” ⁸and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love,
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Repeat

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism, and for the following families: Greg, Linda & Maya Grudznske, Carol Smith, Rick & Kim Nevers, Crystal, Chloe & Hunter Zernicke, Mary Kay Van Der Geest, and Cierra Bornheimer, who are one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

As we welcome them let us confess our faith together, in 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.**

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Siblings in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

New Members: **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

Congregation: **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us welcome these siblings in Christ to this community of faith.

Congregation: **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. Responding to "God of grace," with "hear our prayer."

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

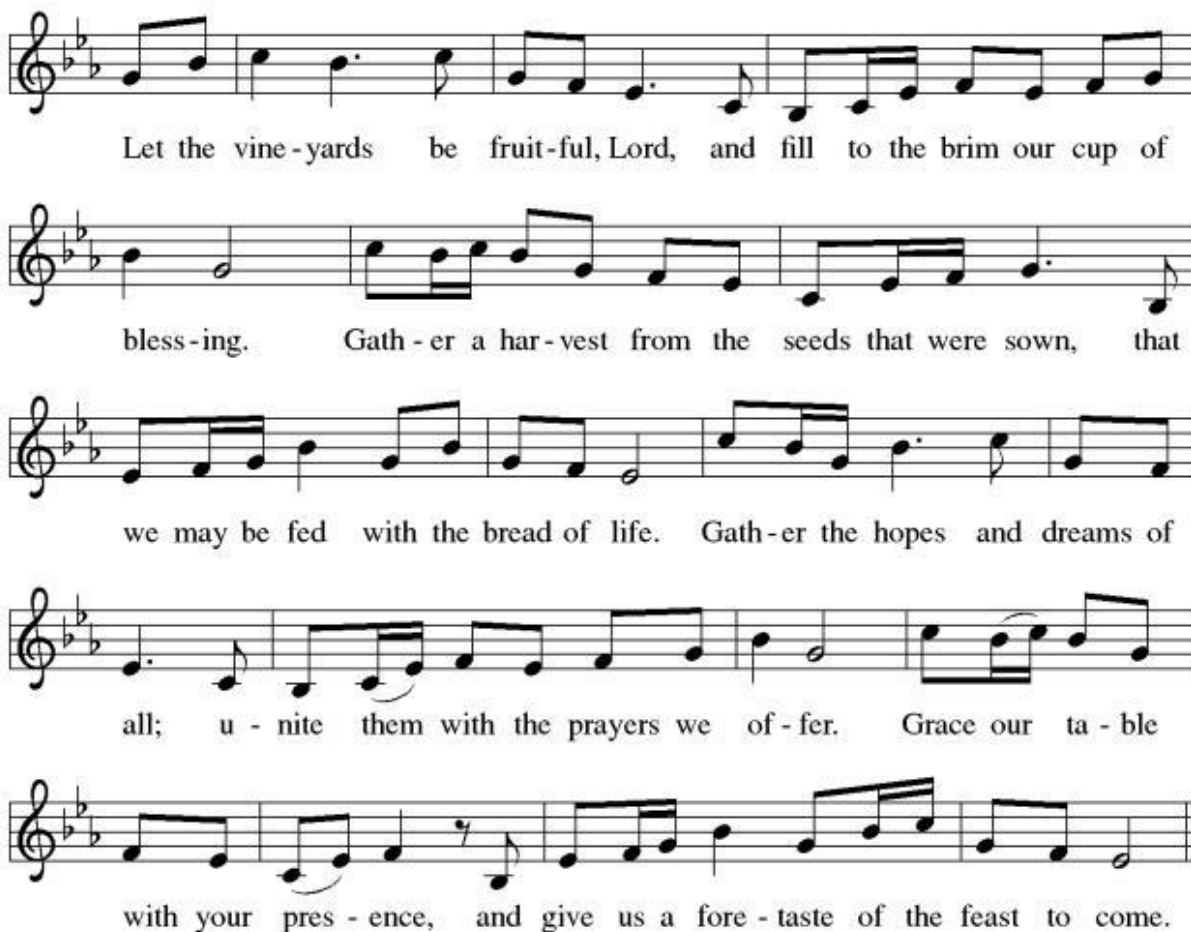
And also with you.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God has prepared a table before us and our cup overflows. Let us give generously from ourselves as a way of praising God and giving to those in need.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,

Receive these and all of our offerings as we present them in faithful service

for the sake of your mission. May all creation be joined together as one in your love. In Christ
we pray.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

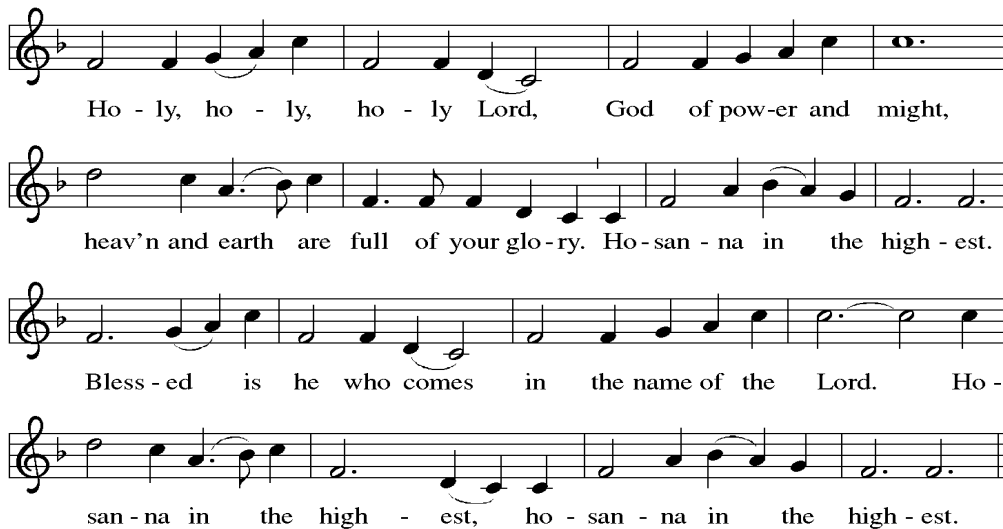
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that God is good.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Give Me Jesus

1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
 2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
 3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
 4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
 5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,

in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
 dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
 just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
 oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
 and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain

Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.

You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2000 Augsburg Fortress.

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Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord,
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,

In you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you;
May the Lord make his face shine on you,
May the Lord be gracious to you, and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,

with a shep - herd's care en - fold you;
 dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain
 Till we meet, till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,
 meet at Je - sus' feet; till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet, till we
 meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 meet a - gain.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904
 Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833-1896

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! You are a royal priesthood, God's own people. Welcome to worship, that we may proclaim the mighty acts of God, who called us into his marvelous light. (Based on 1 Peter 2:9.)

Risen Jesus, as spring blossoms around me, may your love blossom in me, that I might share its fragrance and brilliance with others.

Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.

To those who are visiting: Welcome to St. John and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex. May God bless you today and all days.

Reminder! If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John's at (715) 675-6950

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us.

Food Basket. Each week you are invited to bring non-perishable grocery items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Food Basket* next to the main entrance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Maggie's Book Club. Monday, May 15th at 6:30 p.m. We will be discussing *The Five People You Meet In Heaven* By Mitch Albom.

BINGO Gathering! Let's play BINGO! On Sunday, May 21st, the kids of St. John would like to invite EVERYONE to play BINGO with them in the Fellowship Hall for their last day of Sunday School this year! This will be a fun multi-generational event. BINGO will be called from 10:15am-11am.

BINGO Prize Donations Needed: If you're willing to donate a small item or two as BINGO prizes, please leave them on the back counter in the Fellowship Hall. We'll need prizes for all ages and interests! THANK YOU!

Thursday June 22, 2023 Marathon County Sheriff's Office will be hosting a free event on keeping worship spaces safe. There is a flyer in the narthex for more information, or you can talk to Pastor Maggie if you are interested. It will be at Mount Olive Lutheran Church from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

Coming This Week @ St. John May 7– May 14

Today

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

May 2

8:30 a.m. Quilting

May 14

9:00 a.m. Worship