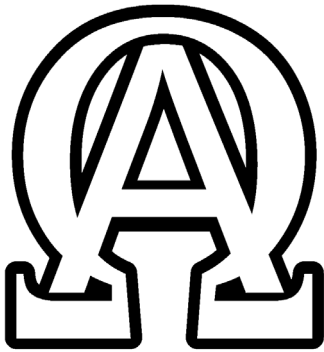


Easter 5

May 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

When we find ourselves in the midst of grief, pain, and sorrow, it is almost impossible to dream of better days. We may know intellectually that things will turn around and healing will begin, but our hearts are broken and we mourn. Jesus spoke to those raw emotions as he told his followers that their sorrow would soon turn to joy. Our Lord turns mourning into dancing as he brings new life out of death.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18 **No Distinction Among Foods or People**
Word of Peter’s ministry to the Gentiles reached the other apostles, who criticized him for eating with those who were not Jewish. Peter explained to them what happened by the Holy Spirit: God revealed to him that there was no longer clean and unclean food, and no one was exempt from receiving God’s mercy.

Psalm 150 **Sing God’s Praises**
Praise the Lord in all ways, in all places, and at all times. The psalmist proclaimed, “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-7 **I Will Be Their God**
John’s vision continued with a view of a new heaven and new earth where God makes his dwelling place with his beloved people. The use of wedding imagery signifies that God’s covenantal promises with humanity are infinitely permanent: “I will be their God and they will be my people.” All things will be made new, and God will wipe every tear away so that mourning will be no more.

Gospel Reading: John 16:12-22 **Sorrow Will Turn into Joy**
As Jesus prepared his followers for his imminent departure, he knew they could not understand all that was to occur or why. He promised them that the Spirit would come among them and give them all they would need when they were ready to receive it. He comforted them by saying that their sorrow will turn into joy as events unfold in the near future.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: White or Gold
- Use the Kyrie and the Hymn of Praise in the Easter season.
- Use the Nicene Creed during this festival season.
- How do we care for one another in times of grief? Martin Luther wrote many letters of comfort to those he cared for, including these words penned to his mother when she was very ill in 1531: “You also know the true center and foundation of your salvation from whom you are to seek comfort in this and all troubles, namely, Jesus Christ, the cornerstone. He will not waver or fail us, nor allow us to sink or perish, for he is the Savior ... rely on him, and call on his name.” (LW 50:13)

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Where Charity and Love Prevail	126	---	845	359	---	---
Beautiful Savior	518	---	537	838	252	252
Lift High the Cross	377	---	837	660	269	269
O Blessed Spring	---	695	595	447	---	---
Thine is the Glory	145	---	---	376	161	161
Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing	559	---	528	886	30	30
If You Will (But) Trust in God to Guide ...	453	---	750	769	222	222
When Peace Like a River (It is Well)	346	---	763	785	224	224
Jesus, Still Lead On	341	---	---	624	237	237
At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing	210	---	633	362	150	150

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

Our God’s Alive
(CCLI# 6190356)

Everything That Has Breath
(CCLI#3220205)

How He Loves
(CCLI# 5032549)

All the Earth Will Sing Your Praises
(CCLI# 4037057)

Oh Sing
(CCLI# 7067566)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.