+The Divine Service+

The Fifth Sunday of Easter | May 18, 2025 | 10:15AM



Christ Jesus Is The Alpha and the Omega The First and the Last, The Beginning and the End

Saint Paul Ev. Lutheran Church—Preble, Indiana

A Congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod **4510 W. 750 N., Decatur, Indiana 46733 | 260.547.4176** Church Email: <u>stpaulpreble@gmail.com</u> Rev. Andrew T. Yeager, Pastor | 260-226-0375 | <u>andrewtyeager@gmail.com</u> Rev. Dr. Daniel J. Brege, Pastor | 260-223-1962 | <u>djbrege@hotmail.com</u> Seminarian Gunstein Innvær, Field Worker | 260-418-4783 | <u>gunstein.innvær@ctsfw.edu</u> Seminarian Ryan Skove, Field Worker | 909-263-7695 | <u>ryan.skove@ctsfw.edu</u>

The Divine Service

When the bells ring, please stand and face the cross. Processional Hymn | 818 In Thee Is Gladness

The Holy Baptism

of Clayton James Walker

The candidate, sponsors, and family gather with the pastor at the font.

Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." And the apostle Peter has written, "Baptism now saves you."

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own.

The Exorcism

Therefore, depart, you unclean spirit, and make room for the Holy Spirit in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of the candidate while saying:

- **P** Let us pray.
- Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold <u>*Clayton James*</u> according to Your boundless mercy and bless <u>*him*</u> with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in <u>*him*</u> which has been inherited from Adam and which <u>*he himself has*</u> committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that <u>*he*</u> be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, <u>he</u> would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

The pastor places his hands on the head of the candidate, and the congregation joins in praying: **Lord's Prayer**

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.

Sit

The pastor addresses the candidate and asks the following questions:

- **P** <u>*Clayton*</u>, do you renounce the devil?
- **R** Yes, I renounce him.
- **P** Do you renounce all his works?
- **R** Yes, I renounce them.
- **P** Do you renounce all his ways?
- **R** Yes, I renounce them.
- **P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?
- **R** Yes, I believe.

- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?
- **R** Yes, I believe.
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?
- **R** Yes, I believe.
- **P** <u>*Clayton*</u>, do you desire to be baptized?
- **R** Yes, I do.

The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:

P <u>Clayton James</u>,

I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The pastor anoints the newly baptized with oil while saying:

C Amen.

 \mathbf{P} Peace $\mathbf{+}$ be with you.



The Baptism party returns to its pew.



The Service of the Word

Psalm 98:2–6; antiphon: v. 1

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made known his salvation;

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

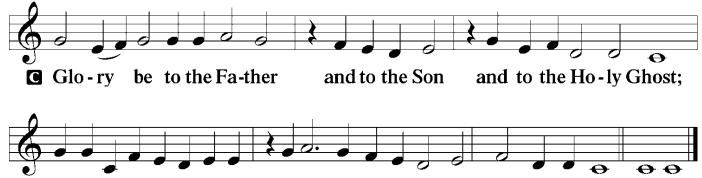
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,

with the lyre and the sound of melody!

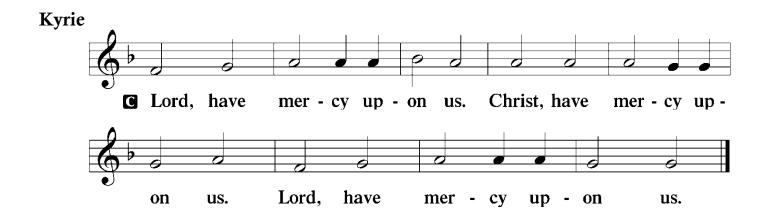
With trumpets and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

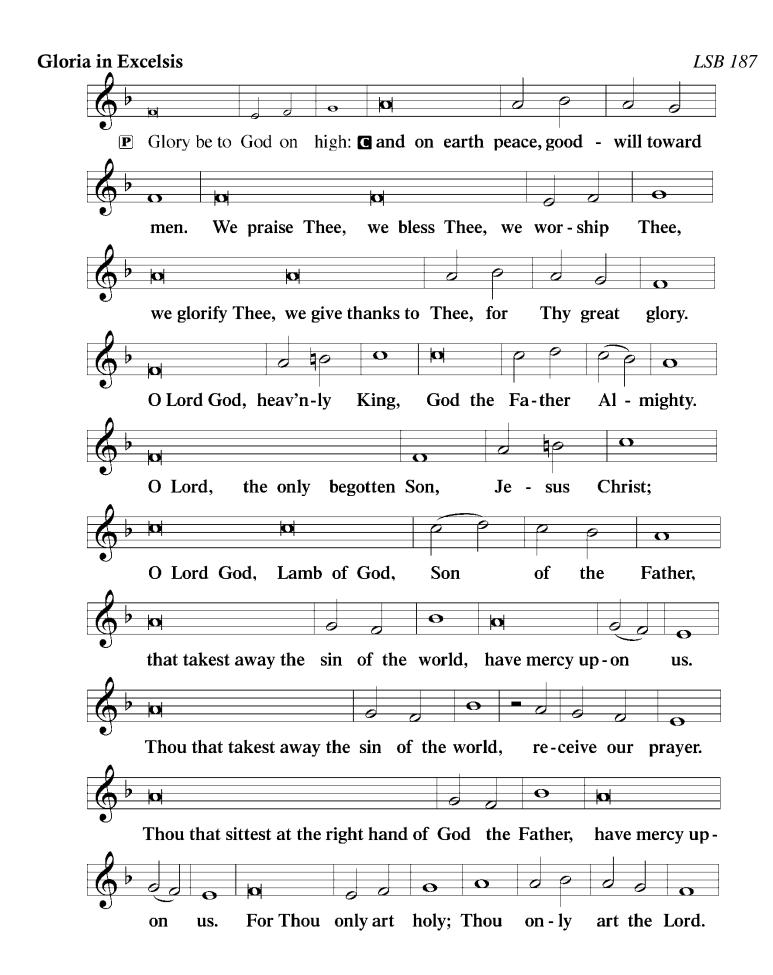


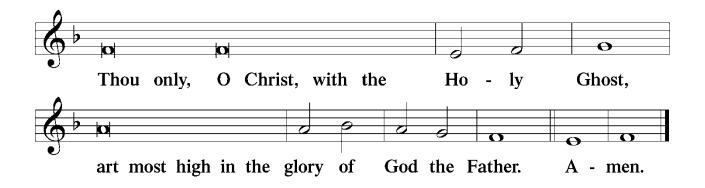
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

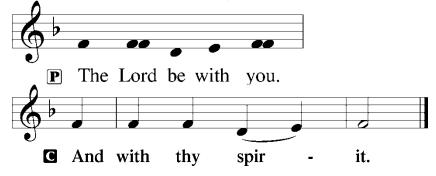


Introit





Salutation and Collect of the Day



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.



Sit First Reading

Acts 11:1–18

¹Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, ³"You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." ⁴But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. ⁶Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ⁷And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' ¹⁰This happened three

times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹²And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' ¹⁵As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?'' ¹⁸When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.''

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Revelation 21:1-7

LSB 190

ia.

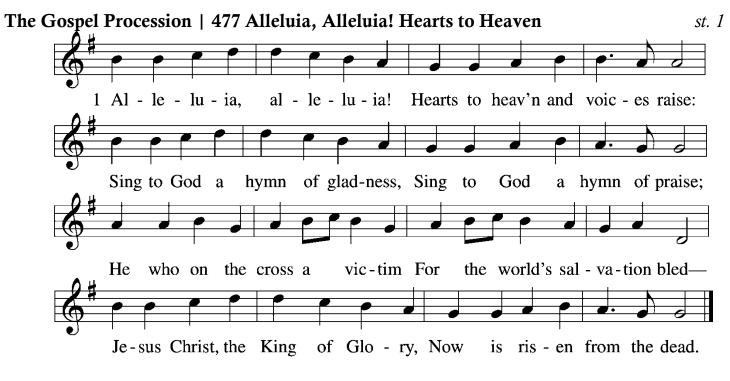
¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶And 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 from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

 \mathbf{P} This is the Word of the Lord.







Holy Gospel

John 16:12–22

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



¹²[Jesus said:] "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When 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. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

¹⁶"A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." ¹⁷So 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'?" ¹⁸So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." ¹⁹Jesus 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'? ²⁰Truly, 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. ²¹When 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. ²²So 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.



The Nicene Creed

back cover of the hymnal

Sit Hymn of the Day | 633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

The Sermon

The congregation rises for the Apostolic greeting:

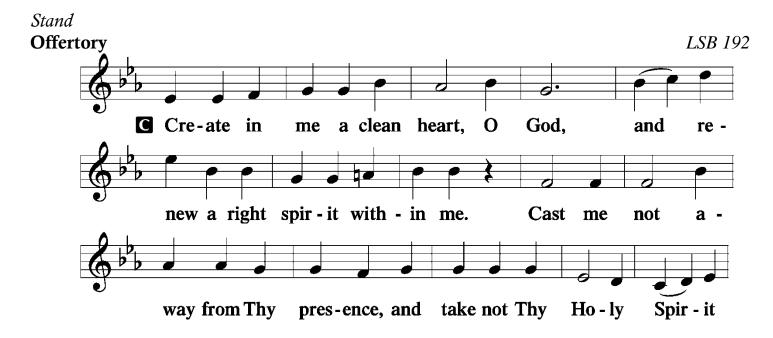
- **L** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- **C** Amen.

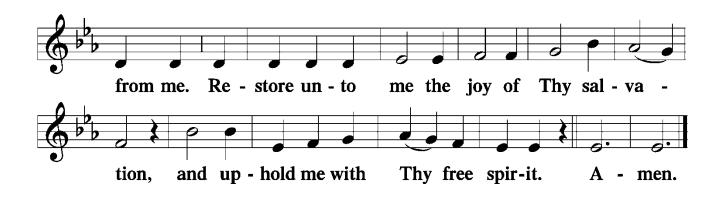
It is customary for the preacher to read a section of the text for meditation here:

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

At the end of the Sermon, the pastor invites the congregation to rise for the blessing:

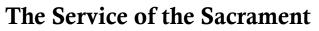
- **L** The peace of God which passes understanding guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **C** Amen.





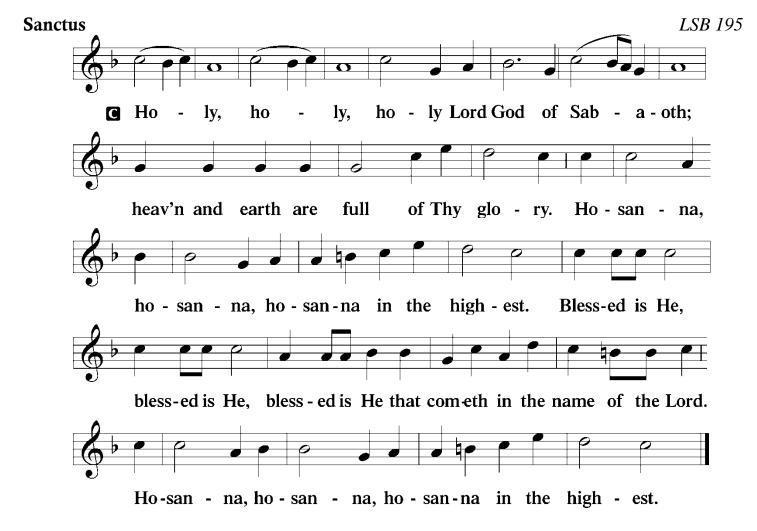
Sit The Offering

Stand **Prayer of the Church**





It is truly meet, 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 Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

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 + 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 cup is the new testament in My +

LSB 196 LSB 197 blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



Holy Communion at St. Paul

Our congregation confesses the bodily presence of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar. To care for those who are about to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, the Altar is open to those baptized Christians who repent of their sins, have been catechized in the Faith, and are members of our congregation, another congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or of another Church body with whom we are in fellowship. If you have not communed in a year or are visiting, please speak with one of our Pastors before communing today. Thank you.

Distribution Hymn | 631 Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

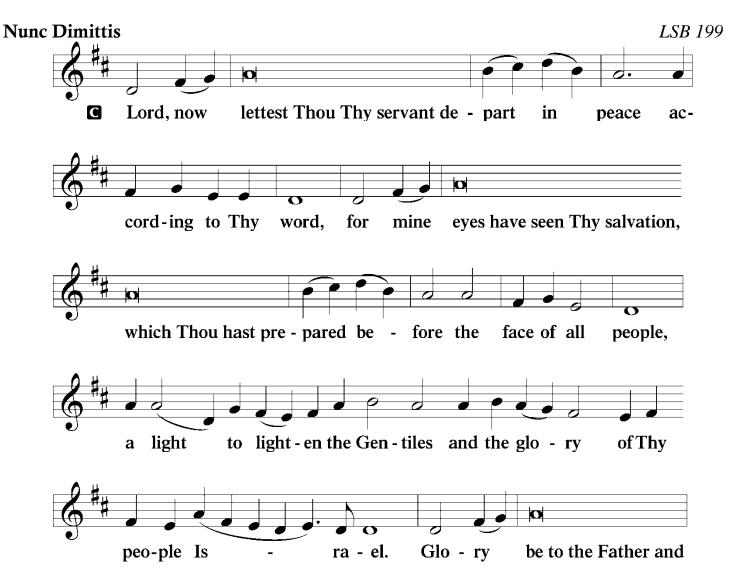
Distribution Hymn |822 Alleluia! Let Praises Ring

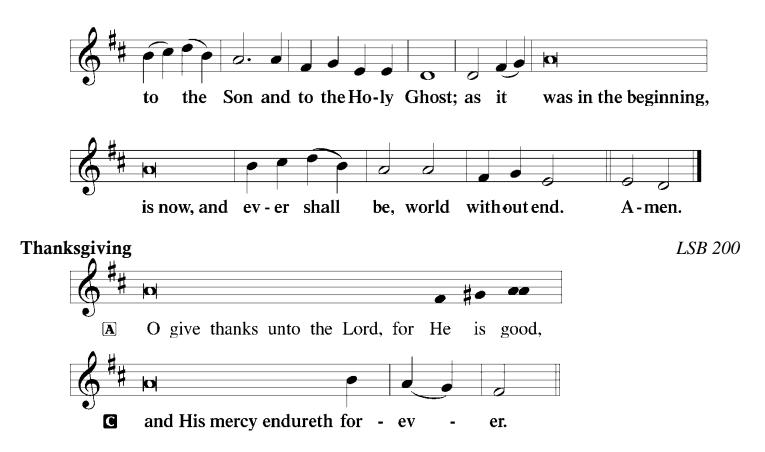
Distribution Hymn | 602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives

Stand **The Dismissal**

▶ The holy body and precious blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in the one true faith unto life +everlasting! Depart in peace.

C Amen.



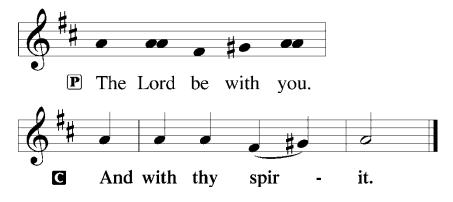


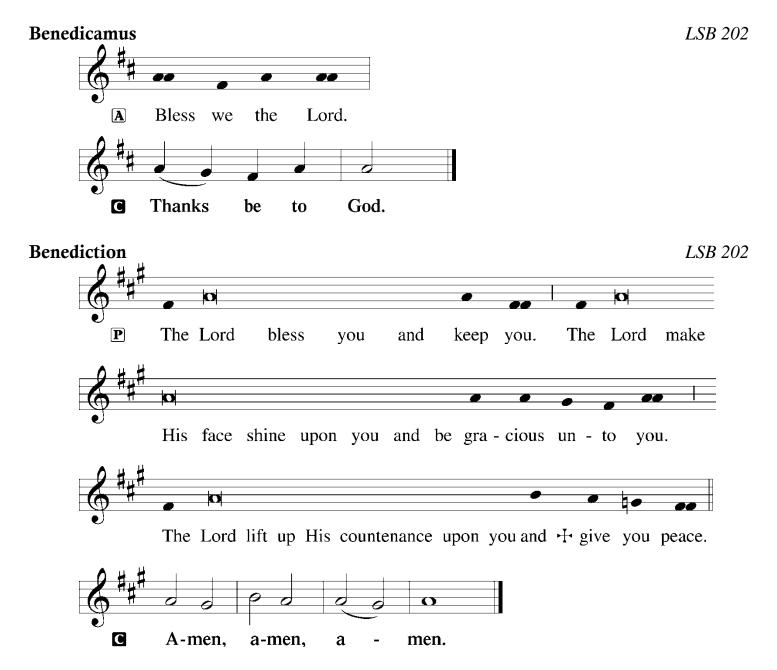
Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

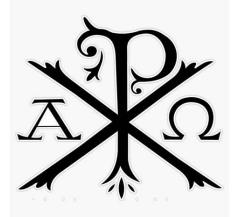


Salutation





Hymn to Depart | 768 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray



The Final Goal of the Christian Life *A Meditation on the Word of God* | Revelation 21:1-7

The present heaven and earth is filled with evil. The beast rules here. Satan is king, and God's name is not glorified in the world. When God's glory appears on earth, it usually appears negatively: as God's destructive judgment against evil. We do not see God or experience his presence on earth. God is with us but only in a hidden way, beneath word and sacrament. We walk by faith and not by sight. This present heaven and earth is destined to be burned by fire. This is God's plan for the world. He must purge it of evil. He must create a new heaven and a new earth. Only after evil is purged and the kingdom comes can God dwell with man.

The distinctive feature of the new heaven and the new earth as St. John describes it in Revelation *is the immediate presence of God*. Note this. For the first time, since the Fall into Sin, God is described as dwelling with his people immediately, without barriers or anything separating him from them. God is making his home with man in a new heavenly city (V3). This city is filled with God's holiness for evil has been fully banished from it. The city is marked by an absence of mourning and death, for these are described as **'the former things'** (V4)—results of sin and evil that have no place in the new creation. In our present world, God is with his people, but only in a hidden way: working through intermediaries like pastors, parents, Christian friends. In the new heaven and the new earth, God is present immediately for his people, to put away their grief and replace it with heavenly joy (V4). There is nothing separating them from him, for evil has been banished forever. The new heaven and the new earth might be described as *theocentric*, which means, God is at the center of it. His glory is seen, his presence is evident to all. This is how it was in the first creation, before the fall into Sin (Genesis 1-2). The new heaven and the new earth is creation restored to its original purpose and glory, as all creatures are destined to live and move and have their being before God.

Jesus says, **I am the Alpha and the Omega** (V6). These are two Greek letters (look at the bulletin cover for today and you will see them artfully drawn and entwined). They are the first and last letter of the Greek alphabet, like our letters A and Z. So, when Jesus says he is the Alpha and the Omega, he means that he is the first and last, the beginning and the end. Not only was Jesus present at the *beginning* of creation as the Word of God through whom God the Father spoke this creation into existence. Jesus is present as the *final goal* of creation. He is our <u>Creator</u>—our beginning. But he is also our <u>Destiny</u>: the goal of our lives. All things are from him—he is the Source of all things, and all things are going back to him—he is the Goal.

Life in the immediate presence of Jesus will be life in its fullest sense. It will be life beyond the reach of all that threatens and contradicts life now. It will be eternal life because it will be life that is *immediately joined to its source in God*. The thirsty are bid to drink from the spring of the water of Life (V6). This is a river which flows out of the Temple (22:1), and ultimately, out of the riven side of Christ. The picture here is of man being made full partakers of the divine life—God's life flowing into ours, and our lives, reflecting his glory. In the new heaven and earth, that blessed hope will be fully realized. Don't let the sorrows of this present life get you down. These promises are **trustworthy and true** (V5) for the one who speaks them to you is trustworthy and true. Hold onto these promises and all the more as you face evil in your life.

Announcements

St. Paul

We rejoice with Bryan and Karley Walker on the Baptism of their son, Clayton James, which takes place today in the late service. His sponsor is Breanna Strome and witness is Bruce Walker. Thanks be to God for granting new life to Clayton James by water and the Spirit!

Summer Schedule. On Sunday, May 25th, which is Memorial Day weekend, we will revert to our summer schedule at St. Paul. One service will be offered at 9AM on Sunday mornings with no Bible Class or Sunday School. Wednesday services continue weekly at 7PM.

Sunday School materials for our Kindergarteners, 2nd, 4th, and 6th grade students will be passed out on **Sunday, May 25th** at the end of the service. Kindergarteners will get a storybook, 2nd graders a study Bible, 4th graders a hymnal and 6th graders a catechism. Please have your student to Church this Sunday to receive their materials. Thank you!

High School graduates. We will recognize and pray for our high school graduates during the service on <u>Sunday, May 25th</u>. Our 2025 HS grads are Ayla Bowersock, Emma Ehlerding, Madison Hamilton, Drew Kolter, Dane Lenegar, Evan Sovine, Eli Steiner, Maddie Vitatoe, and Daniel Vogel. Parents, if you could have your grads to the May 25th service so that they can be recognized, we would appreciate it. God bless our graduates in Jesus' Name.

Church Picnic has been scheduled for <u>Sunday, June 1st at 11:30AM</u>. Sign up in the narthex to bring a side dish or dessert to share. <u>There will be a cornhole tournament too with untold riches</u> <u>as prizes for the winners—sign up in the narthex for teams</u>. Do you have any talents like face painting? We could use your help! Come and join us for some good fun and fellowship!

****A Note on Christian Stewardship: SGOs.**** SGO gifts must be in by the end of May to be applied as a credit to St. Paul for to next school year. SGO gifts are a wonderful way to increase our giving to support our school AND reduce St. Paul's annual commitment to Wyneken. There is a personal benefit as well, as individuals receive a 50% tax credit on their state taxes. Donation forms are located in the narthex. Go to <u>lutheransgo.org</u> to learn more.

***<u>10lb. bags of noodles may be donated and left in the kitchen for upcoming</u>

noodling.* Noodles. From the Ladies Aid:** We will be making noodles in June two weeks in a row. Starting Sunday, June 15 with set up after church. We'll make noodles on the 16,17,18, bag on the 19th, rest then start again on the 22nd making the loaves and then cutting them into noodles the 23, 24, 25. with bagging and clean up in the 26th. All are invited to come and help! We start at 8am on the week days and try to finish up by 1-2pm. Lunch is a carry-in.

Housing help sought: Seminarians. Seminarian Cory Gabor and his wife Megan are looking for a home to rent. Cory is finishing up his second year at the seminary in Fort Wayne. He is serving as a fieldworker at St. John Flatrock. He plans to take one more year of classes before going on a delayed vicarage. Before attending seminary, Cory was a dairy farmer in Wisconsin. Megan works in the baby room at the childcare at Wyneken. They have six children and two

dogs. Please contact Pastor (260-226-0375) or Heather (443-615-6359) if you know of a home they could rent this year. They need to move in by the end of June. Thank you!

Youth

Wyneken Service Night for high school students is 6:30-8:30PM at Wyneken on May 25th.

– Gathering at Roger and Lisa Hormann's Home (10537 N. 700 W.-1; Ossian, IN 46777) Sunday, June 15; 3:00-6:00 p.m.

<u>Wyneken</u>

Assistant AD Sought for the 2025-2026 school year. For additional information, please contact Andrew Gavrun at 260-639-6177 or <u>principal@wyneken.org</u>.

Wyneken Childcare is excited to offer Summer Care starting May 23rd-August 12th. We will be open 7am-5:30pm. If interested, please contact Janine Albert at <u>childcare@wyneken.org</u>.

Summer Art and Music Camp: Zion Friedheim is holding Art and Music Camp on Tuesday, May 27th-Thursday, May 29th from 9-11:30. Students entering 2nd-8th grade are eligible to participate. Students will sing and play instruments with Allison Ulmer and create artistic masterpieces with Joan Tietz (acclaimed multimedia artist and art teacher), A supply fee of \$25/student will be collected to offset the cost of t-shirts and art supplies. Register here or text Allison at 361-236-5507 before May 5th to ensure that your child gets a spot and a shirt!

All day preschool and pre-K. It is our pleasure to announce that Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School is now offering a full day pre-school option and a full day pre-kindergarten option for the 2025-2026 School Year! All students will be together in the mornings to learn core concepts. Those who stay for the afternoon will build on those foundations with enrichment activities and work on school-readiness skills. We are blessed to have this opportunity and feel that it will truly benefit both the families and the children of our community.

Pre-School (*age 3 by August 1st, 2025 and potty trained*) will have two options to choose from for the 25/26 school year:

- 1. Part Day: ***Tuesday and Thursday** from 8:00am 11:00am
- Part Day transition to Full Day after Christmas: *Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00am 2:45pm

Pre-Kindergarten (*age 4 by August 1st, 2025 and potty trained*) will have two options to choose from for the 25/26 school year:

- 1. Part Day: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00am 11:00am
- 2. Full Day: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00am 2:45pm

Please carefully consider what option would be best for your family and contact Mrs. Dressler in the school office (260)-639-6177 to confirm the option you would prefer. If you have questions concerning these options, do not hesitate to contact Jen Conrad at <u>jconrad@wyneken.org</u> or speak to her personally. ***Note: the change of days offered for preschool are different than the registration paperwork previously sent to you.**

Prayer of the Church

+Those who rejoice: Clayton James Walker on his baptism day.

+Wyneken: our teachers, Courtney Butcher, students, staff, and childcare.

+Expectant mothers: Kelly Skove, Danielle Meshberger.

+**The Homebound**: Laurna Bulmahn, Marilyn Werling, Cindy Gallmeyer, Warren Scheumann (all at Woodcrest); Mike Hoffman (Cedarhurst Fort Wayne); Gene Bulmahn (Christian Care, Bluffton); Don Haines (home), Ron Selking (Assisted living facility—Chesterton, Indiana).

+Birthdays 5/18-5/24: Garrett Strome, Ella McCullough, Leslie Miller, Laura Baker, Jon Miller, Joshua Vogel, Emily Minnich, Leroy Bulmahn.

Acolytes 5/18

8AM Gus Fuelling

10:15AM Andrew Yeager

Attendance

Wed. 5/7 7PM: 10

5/11 8:00: 119

5/11 10:15: 78

Stewardship

Offering 5/6: \$7,447.02

Online: \$1,134.02

Total F.T.W.: \$8,581.04

vs. weekly goal (of \$9,675): -\$2,227.98

Y.T.D.: -\$48,154.39

Weekly Calendar

8AM Matins, Fifth Sunday after Easter
9:15AM Sunday School/ Bible Class
10:15AM Divine Service, Fifth Sunday after Easter
Baptism of Clayton James Walker
7PM Divine Service
Summer Schedule begins: no Sunday School/Bible Class
9AM Matins
High School Graduates—prayer and recognition
Sunday School materials—K, 2, 4, 6th graders
6:30-8:30PM Service Night at Wyneken

Sunday, May 18

Wednesday, May 21 Sunday, May 25