

The Fifth Sunday of Easter



Saint John Lutheran Church

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

April 28, 2024

Welcome!

"How great is the Love the Father has lavished on us!" (1 John 3:1).

We are thankful that you are joining in the worship of the people of God this day. Ushers at the door are glad to assist you at any time.

- Please check that cell phones are silenced.
- Restrooms are located on the right in the lobby and down the bell tower hallway to the right towards the fellowship hall.
- Prayer requests may be written on the white cards in the pew rack and given to an usher before worship begins, or as you leave.
- A self-staffed nursery is available to parents as needed, passed the wooden double doors on the left.
- Activity bags to help keep young children occupied during the message are provided in the back right corner of the sanctuary.

Notice to Worshipers: Today's service is livestreamed and recorded. It is available for public viewing and playback at www.SaintJohnHattiesburg.com by clicking on the 'Watch Live' button.

About the Offering

An offering is gathered today during the worship service. Here the people of God bring their tithes and sacrificial offerings as an expression of their discipleship, and for the continuation of Jesus' mission work, both in this community and to the ends of the earth. Guests are not expected to bring financial gifts but are welcome to join the congregation in offering their prayers and praises.

About Holy Communion

Today we celebrate Holy Communion. In this, we remember that the divine is united with the created as one in the person of Jesus.

This altar is the Lord's table. Here all are welcome who acknowledge their need for a Savior and look to Jesus. We believe what he simply says about the bread – "This is my body, given for you." – and about the wine – "This is my blood, shed for you." Thus, the Lord Jesus is truly present for his redeemed people in this holy meal. In this we retain the divine mystery in the midst of his ordinary creation. From the many seeds of wheat come one loaf. From the many grapes are pressed one cup. His many diverse people constitute one body and community of faith.

Young children are welcome to this altar to receive a blessing, as are those who have not been instructed in the Christian faith. Please indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest or by simply asking for a blessing.

The individual communion cups in the center of the tray have white grape juice for those who desire it. Gluten-free wafers are available at distribution upon request.

We are imperfect people, and we live in an imperfect world. We are all in this together. So when we believe or act wrongly towards someone, or when we feel that another has wronged us, we commit ourselves to the humble teaching and forgiving pattern of Jesus in Matthew 18.

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

+ GATHERING +

Prayer As We Begin — *Please remain seated.*

G Heavenly Father, as we come before you this morning in Jesus' name, we pray all that we say and do in our worship will give you glory. Help us, Lord, to focus our thoughts on you, so your Word will find fertile ground in our minds and hearts. May the worship service today accomplish in us the purpose you desire. Amen.

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

LSB 904



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your Word We are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light of Light, from
△ 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Lord, Praise to You and



all to hear You. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed Till Your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we may trust Your Word,



Now to seek and love and fear You, By Your teach - ings,
With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
Help us by Your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry Your
Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love You sole - ly.
God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
Church now rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, Till we sing Your prais - es yon - der.

The Invocation, Confession, and Absolution — *Please stand*

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection on God's word and for self-examination. Then the confession.

P I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers, and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

C **The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.**

P Amen.

C **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers, and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

C **Amen.**

Salutation and Collect Prayer

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P We pray together:

C **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. Amen.**

Please be seated.

+ WORD +

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

L *The First Reading for the Fifth Sunday of Easter is from Acts, Chapter Eight, Verses 26-40. After a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria (8:1). On his first missionary journey, Philip the Evangelist, one of the Seven (6:5), travels north of Jerusalem to Samaria (8:5). On his second journey he travels south towards Gaza (8:26).*

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet

and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture, he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Behold, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip, and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through, he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L This is the Word of the LORD.

G Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem ~ *Soon and Very Soon*

Epistle Reading

1 John 4:1-11

L *The Epistle is from First John, Chapter Four, Verses 1-11. You are God's beloved, sent to love others in the same way that God has loved you and sent his Son as the Savior of the world.*

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore, they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but

that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

L This is the Word of the LORD.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse — *Please stand.*

LSB 173

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 15th Chapter, Verses 1-8.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

P This is the Gospel of the LORD.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Childrens Message

Hymn of the Day

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

LSB 633



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
7 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy! This a -
△ 8 Fa - ther, who the crown shall give, Sav - ior,



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
lone can sin de - stroy; From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
by whose death we live, Spir - it, guide through all our days:



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
New - born souls in You to be. Al - le - lu - ia!
Three in One, Your name we praise. Al - le - lu - ia!

The Message – Rev. Chet Scherbarth ~ on *First John, Chapter 4*

The Prayers of the Church— *Please stand.*

Apostles' Creed

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

I 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. Amen.

+ MEAL +

This is Christ's table. Our Savior invites those who trust in him to share the feast which he has prepared. In this meal we truly receive the body and blood of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. This is a great and divine mystery! Here we are joined with God and all the saints, and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Young children and those who would prefer to receive a blessing are welcome to come forward.

The individual communion cups in the center of the tray contain white grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available at distribution upon request.

The Preface, Proper Preface, and Sanctus

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

LSB 178

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Our Father

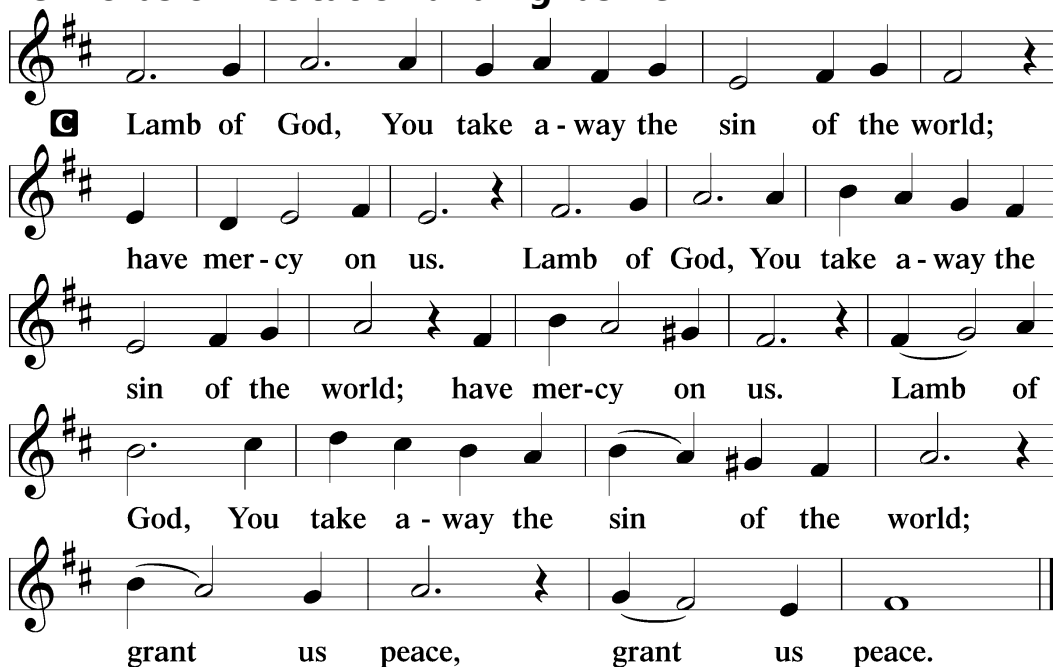
C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,

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.

The Words of Institution and Agnus Dei

LSB 180



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.

Please be seated.

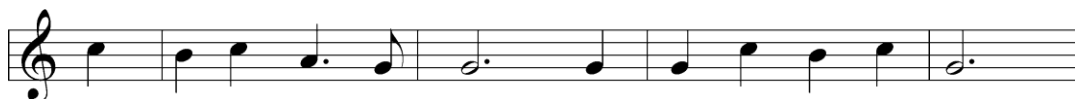
Distribution Hymns

When Morning Gilds the Skies

LSB 807



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, My heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, This is my song of songs:
5 Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,



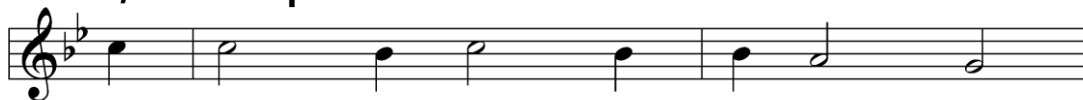
“May Je - sus Christ be praised!” When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
“May Je - sus Christ be praised!” God’s ho - ly house of prayer
Sing, “Je - sus Christ be praised!” God’s whole cre - a - tion o’er,



This rings my cur - few call: “May Je - sus Christ be praised!”
Hath none that can com - pare With “Je - sus Christ be praised!”
Both now and ev - er - more Shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

O Love, How Deep

LSB 544



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
3 For us bap - tized, for us He bore
6 For us He rose from death a - gain;
△ 7 All glo - ry to our Lord and God



Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
His ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;
For us He went on high to reign;
For love so deep, so high, so broad;



That God, the Son of God, should take
For us temp - ta - tion sharp He knew;
For us He sent His Spir - it here
The Trin - i - ty whom we a - dore



Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
To guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

+ SENDING +

Dismissal, Concluding Prayer, Benedicamus, and Blessing

P Let us bless the LORD.

C Thanks be to God.

P We speak the Romans 15 blessing to one another:

**May the God of HOPE
fill you with all JOY and PEACE
as you TRUST in him,
so that YOU may overflow with HOPE
by the POWER of the Holy Spirit.**

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 Amen

Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise

LSB 680



1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly Thine the
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more



lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head
 prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree
 dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the
 All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the
 Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly



sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the
 rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the
 ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the



vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 splen - dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.



Take Home Announcements — Sunday, April 28, 2024

Serving the Lord Today

Pastor	Rev. Chet Scherbarth 619.385.2094 pastorscherbarth@gmail.com
Pastor's Office hours:	Tue-Thu 9-1, Fri-Sun, by appt; Mon-off
Pianist	Lewei He
Altar Guild	Patricia Davenport Christina Keiper
Lector	Patrice Lovdahl
Acolyte	Tessa Blair

Today's Theme

The waters of Baptism connect us to God forever. Baptism, through water and the Word, creates faith in our hearts by which we are able to confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh and is from God. Through Baptism, we are able to believe, to love, and to bear fruit. In the fulfillment of all deeds, witnessing and believing, we are to abide in the Word, which is Christ Himself.

Birthdays

Ron Johnson	April 30
Ellen Heck	May 4

Altar Flowers:

Eternal Candle: In Memory of Rochelle Kemnitz and Sharon Andrews

Live Streaming of Worship Services —

www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com

Online Giving — Online giving is available to members and friends of Saint John via the 'Give' tab on our webpage. Thank you for supporting our work together in Jesus' name.

Elders Meeting – TODAY, Elders will meet after the worship service.

Kaffee Klatsch – will meet May 1st at 1:30pm

Men's Breakfast – will meet May 4th at 9am at Chesterfield's Restaurant.

Vacation Bible School – There will be a planning meeting on May 5th after the worship service.

LWML - MITES will be collected NEXT Sunday. Thank you for supporting the Mission Grants of the Gulf States District and National LWML. There will be no LWML Business meeting in May.

LWML - Coming on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024, the LWML will host a congregational "Potluck" following the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. This is a special day to celebrate with our fellow members and guests the "Love of Jesus" in our community and all over the world. Please plan to bring your favorite main dish, salad, or dessert. LWML will provide the drinks. If you would like to help, please contact any LWML member.



Prayers Needed			
Elizabeth Thiel	Deployed to Jordan	Wife of Kelly Thiel	4/14/24
Chris Thiel	Serving stateside (NC)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	4/14/24
Kelly Thiel	Serving stateside (NC)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	4/14/24
Cory Thiel	Serving overseas (Germany)	Father of Cheyenne Thiel	4/14/24
Vanessa Ajayi	Breast cancer	Friend of Lillian Smith	9/10/23
Lisa Boswell	Colon cancer	Friend of Lillian Smith	9/10/23
Warner Boortz	Health and Strength	Member	2/25/24
Mini Jasper & Family	Serious burns		1/28/24
Ruby Ezell	Mobility difficulties	Mother of LaToursha Ezell	1/28/24
Kiri	Deliverance from Islam	Daughter of Josie Nwachuku	2/18/24
Bob Glascon	Congestion-4th round of antibiotics		3/24/24
W.F. Perkins	Complications from COVID	Husband of Susan Perkins	3/13/24
Jim Thone	Stage 4 Cancer	Father of Debbie Geroux	3/14/24
Van Lowry	Prostate Cancer	Member	3/17/24
Skip Lambert	Healing-pulmonary embolism	Relative of the Scherbarth's	3/24/24
Joy Reagan	Multiple health issues		3/31/24
Keisa Warren	Surgery & recovery		3/31/24
Lisa Case	Multiple health issues	Member	4/15/24
Dewey Case	Ongoing issues with West Nile Virus	Member	4/15/24
Cindy Landry	Health & strength	Member	3/7/24
Gracie Scherbarth	Concerns with medications	Member	3/7/24
Lillian Smith	Health Concerns	Member	4/21/24
Ryne Lovdahl	Shoulder Surgery	Son of Terry and Patrice Lovdahl	4/21/24



Saint John Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours: 8:00am – 12:00pm, Monday – Thursday

Pastor's Office Hours: Tue-Thu: 9:00am – 1:00pm; Fri – Sun: by appt.