

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18th, 2025



Gethsemane Lutheran Church

3600 Hampton ~ St. Louis, MO 63109

Worship God, welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.

Welcome to worship! We're delighted you are here!



Gethsemane Lutheran Church is a *Reconciling in Christ* Congregation. **You are welcome here.**



We ask all members, guests, and visitors to please fill out the **attendance slip** in your worship folder and place it in the offering plate.



Please **silence** phones and other devices during the worship service. Sharing that you're at Gethsemane on social media is encouraged! "Check in" using hashtag: #glcstlCheckIn.



The presence, energy, and noise of **children** are always welcome in worship at Gethsemane. The sound of a child in worship is music to our ears. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. Additional space to move and Wiggle Bags are located in the narthex entry area.



Postures are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; please engage in them only as you are comfortable or able.



Holy Communion is offered to all who seek the presence of Christ. This is a welcome table.



Gethsemane Lutheran Church wishes to **acknowledge** and **honor** the Osage, Quapaw, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówinj, Kaskaskia, and Kickapoo peoples upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship, as well as all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place—this land—and call it their home.

CHURCH STAFF

Minister: Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
Connections Coordinator: Gretchen Jenson
Music Director: Dr. Aria Thomé
Organist: Amy Crousore
Council President: Gary Borkowski
Office Manager: Eve Cooney

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Office Hours: Vary. Please call before coming to the church to ensure someone will be here to let you in.

Church Office – (314) 352-8050

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www.gethsemanestl.org

Holy Communion, Now the Feast and Celebration

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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Now the Green Blade Rises*

Medieval French Carol,
arr. by Ruth Davenport

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (ELW p.97)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, . . . the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen

GATHERING HYMN: *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*

HYMN# 424

GREETING:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Now the Feast and Celebration*

HYMN# 167

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: 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.

C: Amen

The congregation is seated.

WORD

THE FIRST READING: ACTS 11:1-18

n defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

¹ Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then 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. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The 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. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If 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?" ¹⁸ When 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."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 148

A cantor will lead the singing of the Psalm with the congregation singing the bolded lines.

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord ¹ from the heavens;
praise God ¹ in the heights.

² **Praise the Lord, ¹ all you angels;**
sing praise, all you ¹ hosts of heaven.

³ Praise the Lord, ¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you ¹ shining stars.

- ⁴ **Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**
- ⁵ Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
who commanded, and they | were created,
- ⁶ **who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**
- ⁷ Praise the Lord | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
- ⁸ **fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**
- ⁹ mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;
- ¹⁰ **wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;**
- ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;
- ¹² **young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.**
- ¹³ Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. | Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: REVELATION 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

¹ 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. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then 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 water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

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

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 13th chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 13:31-35

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little 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.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our faith using the words of Martin Luther, taken from the small catechism, the explanation of the second article of the Apostles' creed.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true. Amen.

BLESSING OF GRADUATES

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, you bless your servants with many achievements. We give thanks especially today for the milestones that these graduates have attained. As they begin new phases of their lives, may they know your love in all the experiences they have. Bless the parents of these students, who have raised their children and nourished them in Christian faith. Give them strength in your holy presence, and give them many joyful reunions with their children, those who are leaving home to go far away, and those staying close by. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

AM: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

AM: . . . Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also, with you.

P: Let us share a sign of peace with one another, using the words of the risen Lord: Peace be with you.

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.***

The congregation is seated.

MEAL

THE OFFERING: *The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

Omer Westendorf
and Carl Schalk

The congregation rises in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!



Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

COMMUNION

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

The congregation is seated.

All who seek the Lord are welcome at Christ's table to receive the gift of God's grace! Those not receiving the bread and wine are welcome to come for a blessing. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION: *Lamb of God*

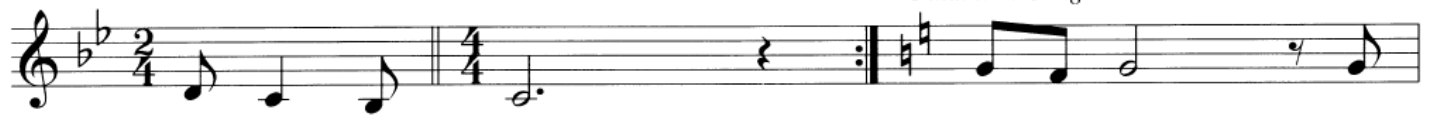
Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 you broke the bonds of sin and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:

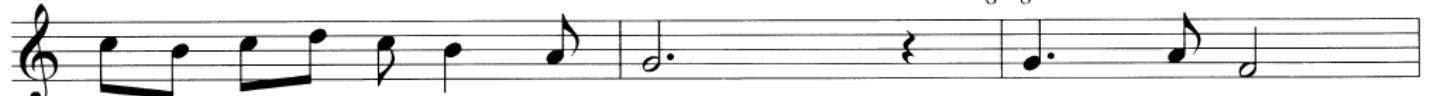
world:
 death;
 peace:
 love:
 have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,

Final time Cong. or assistant:




mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

I Come with Joy
Now the Green Blade Rises

HYMN# 482
HYMN# 379

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

AM: Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

C: Amen

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After making this time to worship God, these are ways we welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

BLESSING

P: Go out into the world in peace;
 be of good courage;
 hold fast to what is good;
 return no one evil for evil;

strengthen the fainthearted;
 support the weak;
 help the suffering;
 honor all people;
 love and serve God,
 rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,
 light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Spirit, Open My Heart*

Refrain

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
 liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
 and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
 goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
 friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
 deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
 day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
 Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953
 Text © 1996 Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved.
 Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

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DISMISSAL

AM: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

AM: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Praeludium 21*

J. S. Bach

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The Altar Flowers are sponsored by Kate Hartz in
honor of teachers and students in gratitude for
curiosity and learning.



WORSHIP LEADERS		
PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie	
GREETER	Lois Wind	Keith Paulson
USHERS	Richard Lima Adam Rentchler	Steve Hetager Nancy Luebke
ASSISTING MINISTER	Richard Schuessler	Carolyn Schainker
LECTOR	Olivia McFarlane	Deb Schaller
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Chris Schmidt	
BREAD BAKER	Natalie Traylor Fontana	
FELLOWSHIP HOST	<i>Available</i>	
DONUT DRIVER	John Sandberg	
ALTAR GUILD	Bauer Family	
CAMERA	Gretchen Jenson	
WINE SPONSOR	<i>Available</i>	

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Barb Johnson: healing and strength
Jessica Freiburger: healthy pregnancy
Dell Roth: healing from eye surgery
Aria Thome': safe travels
Marjorie Thome': healing
Sue Hackman: in rehab for her legs

Request for:	On Behalf of:
Melissa and Mary (employment), Parents (continued health), City of St. Louis, Farmers of the world	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
Prayers for a smooth transition for the kids, with our upcoming move	<i>McElroy Family</i>
The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Ukraine, Sudan and Myanmar; Ginny Olson (healing and strength); Sister Marie Orf (healing and strength); Marcelle (successful treatment); Jojo (healing and courage); all impacted by disasters; for peace with justice in our world.	<i>Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton</i>
The Hoppe Family, especially Jessica Hoppe on her new journey as a stay-at-home mom	<i>Penny Family</i>
Family Harmony	<i>Kate Schejbal</i>
Michael R. & Chris (faith, healing)	<i>Schaller Family</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SUMMER 9:30 AM WORSHIP BEGINS NEXT WEEK, SUNDAY, May 25. Mark your summer calendars! We return to 2 worship services the Sunday after Labor Day, September 7.

The **May Big Ask** is deodorant and bar soap. Please place donations for Big Ask items in the wooden cabinets near the shopping cart. Items placed **IN** the shopping cart go to our Free Food Pantry.

Love to shop? The Social Action Team buys in bulk to supply the Little Free Pantry and get the most out of folks' financial donations to the Pantry fund. But not all of our thrifty volunteers have a way to get that 50-pack of Vienna Sausages from the store to the church basement. Would you be our shopping buddy? We'd let you know what's needed and where it's cheapest, and you'd place and/or pick up the order (covered by the Pantry fund) and bring it to church whenever you usually come. Even occasional help is great! Email Leah Morrell for more info.

Graduation Celebration Please join in the Fellowship Hall between services today to celebrate all graduates with a special treat along with donuts and coffee.

WOMEN'S LUNCH The May Women's Luncheon is **tomorrow**, Monday, May 19, at Salt and Smoke, 4130 Rusty Rd. in South County. Please RSVP ASAP to Lois Wind.

SUMMER FELLOWSHIP Today is our last regular "Fellowship Hour" until we resume our regular two services schedule after Labor Day. Fellowship continues during the summer **only** on Sundays when someone signs up as the Fellowship host. Hosting is simple and involves purchasing cookies (reimbursed with church funds,) making lemonade (provided,) setting up and cleaning up a table near the Parking Lot entrance (not in the fellowship hall.) Sign up today to host a Summer Sunday on the sign-up sheet in the kitchen!

TODAY, the **Social Action Committee** will meet in-between services, and **Worship and Music** will meet following the 11 am Worship.

Vacation Bible School! VBS will be held at Gethsemane on July 28-August 1, 9 am-5 pm with half day and full day options. Registration for volunteers and campers is on Gethsemane's website. VBS is open to kids four-years-old through 5th grade, and volunteer opportunities are available for 6th graders to adults.

Free NorthHampton Neighbors/SouthHampton Neighborhood Association Directories can be found on the table in the parking lot foyer. Look for our advertisement in the Directory this year! This publication is distributed to all residents in NOHA/SOHA.

Worship Leaders! The schedule for June – August was emailed to you last week. If you have conflicts, please make arrangements with a substitute!

The Messenger has a digital format! If you have any items to include for the June newsletter, please send them to Gretchen at glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.org **by May 27**. If you have a high school or college graduate, please send a short paragraph so we can share the news with everyone!



Thursday e-newsletter! Gethsemane uses Constant Contact to send the weekly e-news on Thursdays. If you would like to be included, please click this QR code to be added to the list. Also, be sure to check your spam or junk folders!

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
May 18 - 25, 2025

5/18 Sunday 5th Sunday of Easter	8:30 am 9:45 am 11:00 am Noonish 5:00 pm	Worship Service: In-Person and Livestream Fellowship Hour, Graduation Celebration, Social Action Committee Meets, (No Sunday School) Worship Service: In Person Worship and Music Committee Meets Vocal Choir Rehearsal
5/19 Monday	11:30 am 6:00 pm	Gethsemane Women's Lunch at Salt and Smoke Handbell Choir Rehearsal
5/20 Tuesday	10:00 am 6:30 pm	Bible Study Church Council Meeting
5/21 Wednesday	10-noon	Church Office Staff Meeting, phones unanswered
Sat, May 24	7-9 pm	Synoptic Frequencies Concert at Gethsemane! <i>Synoptic Frequencies is a quarterly music series featuring experimental music performed in sacred spaces</i>
SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS! 5/25 Sunday 6th Sunday of Easter	9:30 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm	Worship Service: In-Person and Livestream Fellowship Hour (only if a host signs up) Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	Time	Event
Mon, May 26	6:00 pm	NO Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesdays	10:00 am	Bible Study
Wednesdays	10 am - noon	Church Office Staff Meeting, phones unanswered
Sun, June 1	9:30 am	Ascension Sunday Worship
Sun, June 8	9:30 am 10:30 am	Pentecost Sunday Worship (Wear Red!) Fellowship and Adult Forum about the Asylum Process in the US (in the chapel)
Mon, June 10	1-5 pm	Blood Drive at Gethsemane

Blood Pressure (BP): First Sunday of each month in the fellowship hall.
Women's Luncheon: Fourth Monday of every month. *Except for Holidays.

Gethsemane is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Affirmation of Welcome

Christ's welcome knows no boundaries! Therefore, our welcome knows no boundaries and we invite all people to full participation in the life of the congregation.

We at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Saint Louis embrace...

People of any race or ethnicity...

People who are male, female, transgender, intersex or any other gender identity...

People of any age...

People wherever they are, or wherever they have been, on their faith journeys...

People who are single, married, widowed, divorced, separated or partnered...

People who are gay, lesbian, straight, bisexual, or any other sexual orientation...

People with a variety of political perspectives...

People who have, or had, addictions, phobias, abortions, or a criminal record...

People who are homeowners, renters, living with parents, or homeless...

People who are fully-abled, disabled, or of differing abilities...

People of differing educational backgrounds...

People of any socio-economic condition...

People not mentioned above, all of whom are created and loved by God!

As we celebrate and seek to preserve the beautiful, amazing diversity of God's creation, we pledge to ourselves and to all others that we will strive to live as a reconciling people in our life together and in our outreach to the world. We are committed to being a radically loving and welcoming community of faith.


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