

May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Sixth Sunday of Easter



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word  
We gather around the Word (worship)  
We grow in the Word (education)  
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



**Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Wisconsin Synod**  
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### **Welcome!**

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Join us after the service for coffee.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

Our worship service is open to all. The forgiveness received in the Lord's Supper is proclaimed to all throughout the service. However, the Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is to be received by those who have been instructed about its meaning and the unity it expresses.

*For this reason, we ask that guests speak with the Pastor  
before partaking of the Holy Supper.*

### ***BECAUSE HE LIVES WE HAVE DEEP AND LASTING JOY***

Conventional wisdom says that joy is a direct result of circumstance. Our disposition is nothing more than the product of the events, conditions, and relationships of which our life consists. Therefore, it would seem that for our disposition to change, our circumstances need to change. But Jesus offers a joy that is superior. It is not a product of circumstance; it's a product of Easter.

Easter proves that God can take what normally causes people to weep and turn it into what causes people to rejoice. Sin, death, and shame went into Jesus' tomb. Forgiveness, life, and glory came out. Our risen Savior gives us a joy that remains constant in the highest of life's highs and the lowest of life's lows. Because he lives, we have deep and lasting joy.

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

## **CONFESSION**

**CW 155**

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

# 885 There Is a Higher Throne



1 There is a high - er throne than all this world has known,  
2 And there we'll find our home, our life be - fore the throne;



where faith - ful ones from ev - 'ry tongue will one day come.  
we'll hon - or him in per - fect song where we be - long.



Be - fore the Son we'll stand, made fault-less through the Lamb;  
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye as thirst and hun - ger die;



be - liev - ing hearts find prom - ised grace; sal - va - tion comes.  
the Lamb be - comes our Shep - herd - King; we'll reign with him.

## Refrain



Hear heav - en's voic - es sing; their thun-d'rous an - them rings through



em - 'rald courts and sap - phire skies; their prais - es rise.



All glo - ry, wis - dom, pow'r, strength, thanks, and hon - or are



to God our King who reigns on high for - ev - er - more.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980

Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980

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# THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you are the giver of everything good. Inspire us, your humble servants, to long for what is right and, through your gracious guidance, accomplish it to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING

**ACTS 14:8–22**

<sup>8</sup>In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. <sup>9</sup>He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed <sup>10</sup>and called out, “Stand up on your feet!” At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

<sup>11</sup>When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in human form!” <sup>12</sup>Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. <sup>13</sup>The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

<sup>14</sup>But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: <sup>15</sup>“Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. <sup>16</sup>In the past, he let all nations go their own way. <sup>17</sup>Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.” <sup>18</sup>Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

<sup>19</sup>Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. <sup>20</sup>But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

<sup>21</sup>They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, <sup>22</sup>strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 65B Every Heart Its Tribute Pays**

- 1 Ev'ry heart its tribute pays,  
ev'ry tongue its song of praise;  
sin and sorrow, guilt and care,  
brought to him who answers prayer;  
there by grace may humankind  
full and free forgiveness find;  
called and chosen, loved and blest,  
in his presence be at rest.**
- 2 Ever while his deeds endure  
our salvation stands secure;  
he whose fingers spun the earth,  
gave the seas and mountains birth,  
tamed the ocean, formed the land,  
spread the skies with mighty hand:  
faroff shores revere his name,  
day and night his pow'r proclaim.**
- 3 Year by year, the seasons' round  
sees the land with blessing crowned,  
where caressed by sun and rain  
barren earth gives life again;  
sunlit valleys burn with gold,  
nature smiles on field and fold,  
gifts of God in plenty poured:  
all things living, praise the Lord!**

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## SECOND READING

## REVELATION 21:21–27

<sup>21</sup>The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

<sup>22</sup>I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup>The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. <sup>24</sup>The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. <sup>25</sup>On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup>The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. <sup>27</sup>Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 30:5

Alleluia. Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. Alleluia.

## GOSPEL

## JOHN 16:16–24

<sup>16</sup>Jesus went on to say, “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”

<sup>17</sup>At this, some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father’?” <sup>18</sup>They kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand what he is saying.”

<sup>19</sup>Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’? <sup>20</sup>Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. <sup>21</sup>A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. <sup>22</sup>So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. <sup>23</sup>In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>24</sup>Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## **SERMON on JOHN 16:16-24**

### **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Offering**



## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Almighty and merciful God, on this glorious day we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Increase our faith that the message of the empty tomb may fill our lives and make us glad each day.

**When we are weak, be our strength; when we are sad, be our song; and when we sin, be our salvation.**

Remove the hurt of death from all who mourn. In moments of grief call believers through the voice of our Good Shepherd and embolden us to follow his promises. In their hopelessness of despair turn the faithless to trust in the only Way, Truth, and Life.

**Wipe away tears born of death and give new birth to a living hope in the hearts of the lost and troubled. Use our witness as compassion and comfort for others in need of mercy.**

King of kings and Lord of lords, destroy all dominion, authority, and power that stands against you, whether seen or unseen. Whatever evil exerts itself against your saving will--false teaching or lukewarm faith, Satan's lies or worldly pleasures, empty worship or futile religion—rule it for the sake of the gospel's free course.

**Triumph over our enemies and empower the Church to fight the good fight to the end. Never leave us or forsake us.**

Walk among our churches, O Living One, as the faithful witness and firstborn from the dead. As your angel sent women with news of the risen Christ, call women in our church to announce, "He is risen!" As you sent your disciples with the breath of the Spirit, call those in our church full of the Spirit and wisdom to administer the keys of the kingdom.

**Wherever we live and whatever we do, help us to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have in Christ.**

Heavenly Father keep the baptized united with your Son in his resurrection. Put to death the fleshly urges of those caught in addictions, clothe in your righteousness anyone ashamed of good intentions which have fallen short, and assure those searching for purpose that their eternal identity as your dear children is sealed.

**Thank you for the power of baptism working in our lives, and for the certainty of its promises through the resurrection. Enrich us with everything we need for life and godliness.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

O Lord of life, you have done mighty things for us! We pray through him who is the Beginning and the End, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**His name is above every name, to the glory of God the Father! Amen.**

# THE SACRAMENT

## PREFACE

*CW 165*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## ♪ SANCTUS ♪

**Sing, “Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts on high,  
your everlasting glory fills earth and sea and sky.”  
Our voices cry, “Hosanna!” Lord, hear our humble plea:  
in mercy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.**

**Hosanna in the highest! How blest is Christ our King,  
who died as our Redeemer, eternal life to bring!  
How blest are you, Lord Jesus, now coming in God’s name!  
“Hosanna in the highest!” our grateful hearts proclaim.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## **♪ AGNUS ♪**

**O Lamb of God, once lifted high upon a cross to bleed and die,  
in perfect love you took our place—bestow on us your saving grace.**

**O Lamb of God, your sacrifice has cancelled sin, has paid its price;  
your perfect love will never cease—have mercy, Lord, and grant us peace.**

*Be seated*

## DISTRIBUTION

<b><i>HYMN: JERUSALEM THE GOLDEN</i></b>	<b><i>890</i></b>
<b><i>WIDE OPEN STAND THE GATES</i></b>	<b><i>664</i></b>

Stand

<b><i>HYMN: LORD, NOW YOU LET YOUR SERVANT</i></b>	<b><i>951</i></b>
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Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.  
**Amen.**

<b><i>HYMN: THE DAY OF RESURRECTION</i></b>	<b><i>450</i></b>
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## Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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