

FIRST READING. Acts 11:1-18

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."

SECOND READING. Revelation 21:1-6

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."

GOSPEL. John 13:31-35

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."

Fifth Sunday of Easter



Sunday May 18, 2025

Welcome!

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Our Lord's Supper is being celebrated today. Everyone is welcome to receive this Holy Sacrament.

You are invited to come forward via the centre aisle and form a single line across from the steps leading to the altar area. Once you have communed and the pastor has spoken the communion blessing, you may place your used wine glass into the bowl on the stand near the side aisle. Then you may return to your seat via the side aisle.

If you missed last week's sermon, it is available on our website.

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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"In response to God's love, St. Matthew's is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone."

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Vice-Chairperson: Marilyn Schultz

Church Secretary: Rona Devreese905-734-4746

Organist: Lily Jasinskas

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name.

Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.

Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

Amen.

Weekly Calendar:

Monday: Pastor's day off

Tuesday: Pickleball 9:30 am to 11:30 am
Pastor in Port Colborne

Wednesday: Rose City Quilters 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm (first of the month)
Pastor in Welland

Thursday: Pastor in Welland

Friday: Pickleball 9:30 am to 11:30 am
Pastor in Port Colborne

What's your favourite hymn? In the coming weeks we'd like to know what your favourite hymn is and, also, if you have a story to share about what the hymn means to you. Thereafter, we would like to incorporate that hymn, and the story, into our worship services this spring and summer.

Upcoming Events & Dates To Remember

Next Church Council will meet on Thursday May 22 @ 10:00 am.

Pickleball continues every Tuesday and Friday at 9:30 am until 11:30 am.
Email Margaret at margaret@kleinsmith.ca if you have any questions.

Worship leaders, ushers and counters for this week's service:

Scripture Reader Bobbye Goldenberg
Prayers Linda Borland
Usher/Greeter Norm & Carole McLeod
Counters Bob Hansen & Carole McLeod

Worship leaders, ushers and counters for next week's service:

Scripture Reader Marilyn Schultz
Prayers Bobbye Goldenberg
Usher/Greeter Bob Hansen
Counters Bob Hansen & Carole McLeod

Attendance Sunday May 11 - 17 people, attendance 1 year ago - 15

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

GATHERING

Thanksgiving for Baptism (in the worship guide)

Gathering Hymn..... **ELW # 424**

"Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"

Apostolic Greeting

Kyrie..... **HS Page 3**

Hymn of Praise "Now the Feast" **HS page 4**

Prayer of the Day

WORD

First Reading.....Acts 11:1-18

Psalms 148..... **ELW**

Second ReadingRevelation 21:1-6

Gospel Verse.....**HS Page 8**

"Glory to you O Lord"

GospelJohn 13:31-35

"Praise to you, O Christ"

Sermon

Hymn of the Day..... **ELW # 631**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Nicene Creed..... **HS Page 10**

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving (sung).....**HS Page 14**

Sanctus "Holy, Holy".....**HS Page 15**

Eucharistic Prayers & Acclamations.. **HS Page 16**

The Lord's Prayer

"Lamb of God"**HS Page 18**

Communion Hymns.....**ELW # 453 & 860**

Blessing after Communion

Song after Communion.....**HS Page 20**

"Thanks be to you"

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

Sending Hymn.....**ELW # 379**

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

Dismissal: Go in peace. Live in hope.

"Thanks be to God"