

Sunday May 18, 2025 Fifth Sunday of Easter

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.

WELCOME! We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

Worshipping. Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

Communion. Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.

Coffee Hour. We hope that you will join us for coffee and conversation in the lobby following the worship service.

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

270 South Broadway + Hicksville NY 11801 Church Office: Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Church Office: 516/931-0710

Barbara Barcavage, Church Council President (email ststephenstreasurer1@gmail.com)

Kate Lenzo, Parish Administrator (email office@ststephenshicksville.com)

Church Website www.ststephenshicksville.com

Join us on Facebook: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hicksville, NY

+ GATHERING +

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

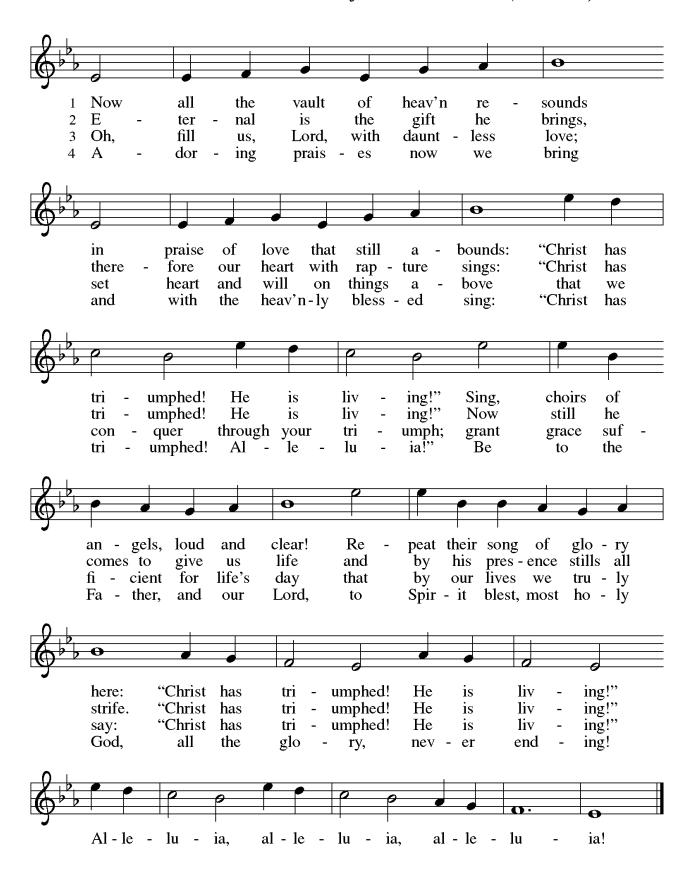
- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. C Amen.
- P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C** Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds (ELW 367)



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





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. 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.

+ WORD +

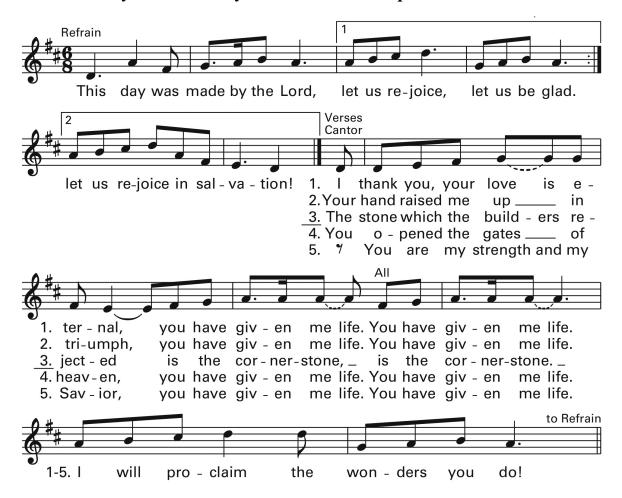
FIRST READING - Acts 11:1-18

A reading from Acts.

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.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM - This Day Was Made by the Lord ~ Christopher Walker



SECOND READING - Revelation 21:1-6

A reading from Revelation.

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.

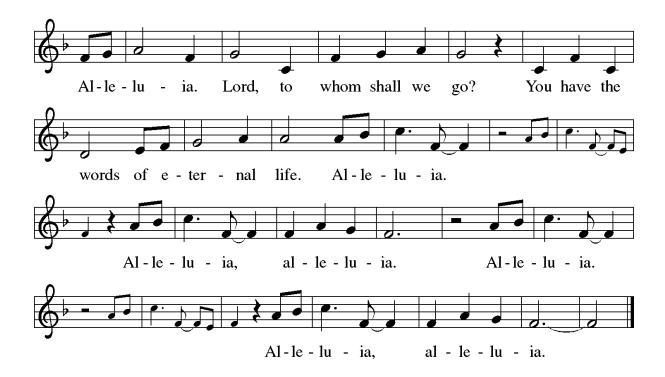
Death will be no more;

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. C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL - John 13:31-35

P The holy gospel according to John. C Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (ELW 836)



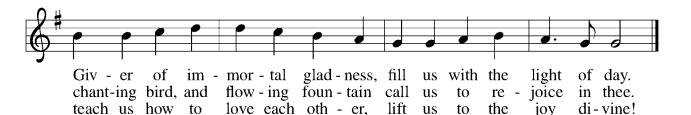
- 1 Joy ful, joy ful we a dore thee, God of glo ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv ing and for giv ing, ev er bless-ing, ev er blest



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be-fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove. stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise. well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way. Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea, Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



APOSTLE'S CREED

A With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A 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.

A Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. Hear us, O God. C Your mercy is great.

A Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness. Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God. C Your mercy is great.

A Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God. **C Your mercy is great.**

A We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God. C Your mercy is great.

A 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. C Amen.

PEACE

- P The peace of Christ be with you always. C And also with you.
- P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Roger Engert (5/18); Dorothy Eberhardt (5/19)

BIRTHDAY SONG

He who began a good work in you (2x)
Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)
Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)
He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you!

+ MEAL +

OFFERING: Let the Vinevards Be Fruitful (ELW p.190)



OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord.

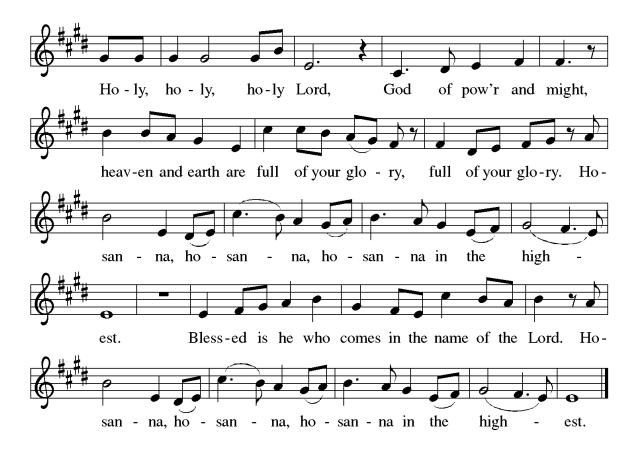
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **C** Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

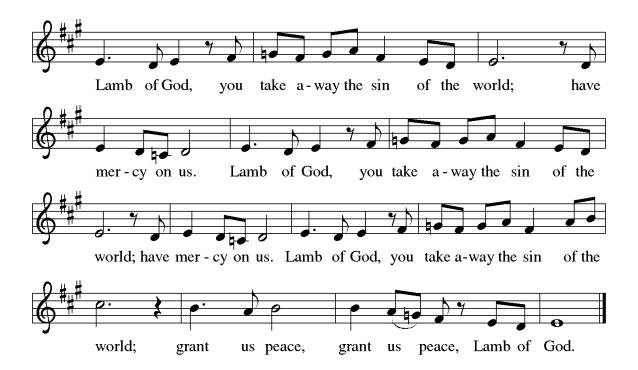
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

LAMB OF GOD



SONG DURING COMMUNION: One Bread, One Body (ELW 496)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C Amen.

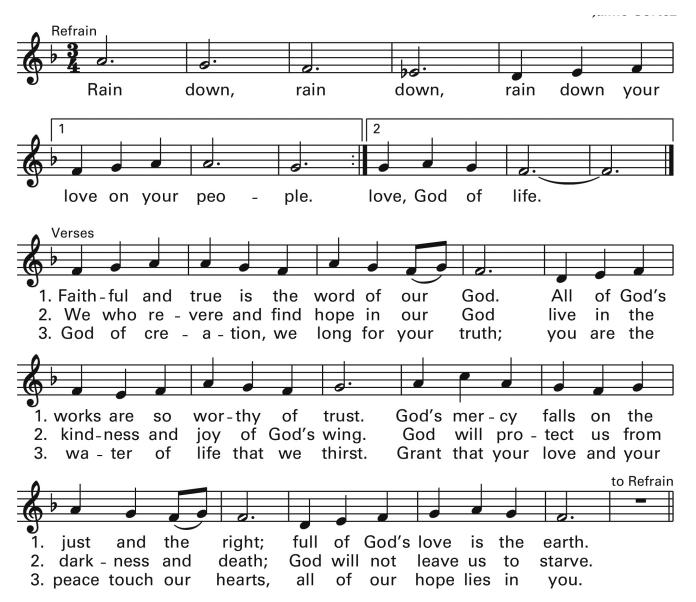
+ SENDING +

BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: Rain Down – Jaime Cortez



DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you. C Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160 Sunday, May 18, 2025

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330 Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.

Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783; scientists Saturday, May 24, 2025

These two men were both scientists who helped to explain the wonders of God's universe. Copernicus is best known for promoting the idea that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of our solar system. Euler was one of the founders of pure mathematics, and contributed to many other fields.

Announcements for the week of May 18, 2025

Altar Flowers are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ed Dressler by Loretta Dressler, and in celebration of her Mother's birthday by Ellen Eberhardt.

Sanctuary Lamp Candle for May is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Elaine L. Bloom Lehe, given by Maureen O'Brien.

- ~Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet for April June is available in the Narthex. Please consider hosting a coffee hour by suppling refreshments and/or serving.
- ~ A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly <u>Sunday service</u> altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial/in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored/memorialized by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at 516-931-0710.

~ Lutheran Bible Study:

Topic: A six-week course on the Acts of the Apostles

Dates: Tues, April 29 - Tues, June 10

Time: 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Zoom Link

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86449108753?pwd=R79zyFKLG12zYgCi66AGshu4eOrZa1.1

Meeting ID: 864 4910 8753

Passcode: 782457

~ From the Altar Guild:

Our numbers are few; and the Guild would welcome your assistance. We are a small assembly dedicated to arranging the sanctuary for the Sunday services of Holy Communion, festive worship services, and the Services of Word and Light. Don't feel overwhelmed with what you see as our worship space changes with each season or with the task to be done. The work is done as a team of two or with the entire Altar Guild when necessary, and on occasion with assistance from the Property Committee. It is a labor of love and service to the Lord, a small but important charge. If you are interested, even if you just have questions, you can speak with Lauren, Bill, Beth, or Jane.

~ Also from the Altar Guild:

The Easter plants are gone; however, the bulbs remain. If you would like to take some daffodil, tulip, or lily bulbs to plant in your garden to bloom and to enjoy next year, please see any member of the Altar Guild following worship. Thanks.

~ St. Stephen's Newsletter

Do you have news, events, photos, or reflections you'd like to share with our church community? We'd love to include them in our monthly newsletter! **Please submit all items by the 23rd of each month** to ensure they make it into the next edition. Submissions can be emailed to tmaurer145@aol.com or called in to the church office. Thank you for helping us stay connected and informed!

~ Note from the Office

Please note that due to the holiday (Memorial Day) on May 26th, Kate will not be in the office. Her regular hours will resume Tuesday - Friday, 10-2 pm.

~ Movie Night - Cool Runnings



Sunday May 18th | 4:30 pm Pastor's Lounge

You'll love *Cool Runnings* - the outrageously funny comedy hit inspired by the true story of Jamaica's first Olympic bobsled team.

A GREAT MOVIE FOR EVERYONE! Refreshments, Pizza! **Please sign up**: call Maureen 938-7706 or email mozieob@gmail.com

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (May 18th - May 25th)

DAY	EVENT	TIME
Sunday, May 18 th	5 th Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion 9:00 am
	HSS Yoga	10:00 am
	Satsang With A Smile	2:30 pm
Tuesday, May 20 th	Back to Basics	7:00 pm
	Zoom Bible Study	7:00 pm
Wednesday, May 21st	N.A.	7:00 pm
Friday May 23 rd	June Newsletter Submissions Due	
Sunday, May 25 ^h	6 th Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion 9:00 am

SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, 9:00 AM

ASSISTING MINISTER: Barbara Barcavage

LECTOR: Kevin Dolan

ACOLYTE: AJ Mangiaracina

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Mason Griffin

USHERS: Kevin Barcavage

GREETER: Lynn Browning

AUDIO/VISUAL: Tyler LaVorgna

ALTAR GUILD: Beth Feeney

PARISH PRAYER LIST



If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. <u>Please remember to keep the office updated.</u>

PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Vinny Aiello

Dottie Eberhardt

Barbara & Roger Engert

Richard Engert

Pastor Ron Klose

John Parrett

Ilona Riggers

Lenny Schiliro

The family and friends of Claire Parrett

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

Vinny Aiello (husband of Laureen Aiello)

Fred Barrell (brother-in-law of Paul and Susan Portz)

Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien)

James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger)

The family and friends of Roberta Fleming (cousin of Bob Maurer)

Jim Fritz (cousin of Lauren Artus and John Langbehn)

Lucky Hagner (beloved new dog of Joan Hagner)

Vicki Maurer (daughter-in-law of Nan and Bob Maurer)

John Peck (nephew of Christel LaVorgna)

Tom Portz (brother of Paul Portz)

Jean Riolo (mother of Christine Carlson)

William Stanton (cousin of Kellie Barone)

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS

Angela Capo (friend of Laureen Aiello)

Rich Carlstrom (friend of the Staton family)

Maryellen Collins (friend of the Staton family)

Cheryl Glasini (friend of the Ahlers-Pendas family)

John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)

Jim Lasurdo (friend of the Maurer family)

Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)

Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)

Martina Schmid (former member of the congregation)

John Sheridan (friend of Bob and Nan Maurer)