



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.

Fifth Sunday in Easter
St. John's Lutheran Church
May 18th, 2025

Growing in Grace, Walking by Faith, Serving in Love

*(Please be aware that as we stream this service to a live audience you may appear on camera when you are worshiping with us. We welcome those who attend online and are part of our worshiping community! Please respond with the words in **bold** print and stand, as you are able at the places marked with an *.)*

Prelude: **Valse in E Minor (Posthumous)**
Frederick Chopin
Kate Lee, Piano

Welcome and Announcements

***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.**

***Opening Hymn:“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” ELW #631**
verses 1,4



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry
 3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy
 4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
 trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
 life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-
 let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,
 find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-nings;
 more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,
 ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
 Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.
 its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
 crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

***Greeting:**

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

***Kyrie:.....ELW p.175**



Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .



so - tros. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -
mer - cy. Lord, . . have mer - cy on



dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
us; O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.



Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
Christ, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Christ, have . .



so - tros. Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie -
mer - cy. Christ, . . have mer - cy on



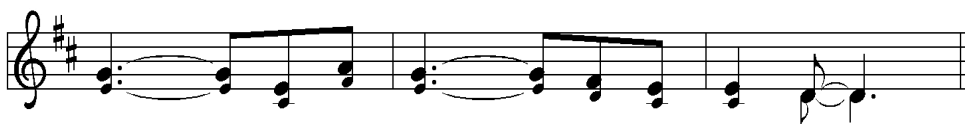
dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
us; O . . . Christ, have . . mer - cy.



Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .



so - tros. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -
mer - cy. Lord, . . have mer - cy on



dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
us; O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.

***Prayer of the Day:**

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.

Amen.

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

In 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 believers 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

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

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

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

⁴ **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,

who commanded, and they were created,
⁶ **who made them stand fast forever 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, doing 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!

***Gospel Acclamation:**ELW p. 179

¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

a - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le - lu - ya!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

***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.

The Gospel of John, the thirteenth chapter and beginning with the thirty first verse.

*Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

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.

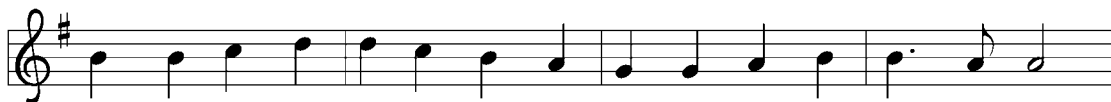
*Response after the conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

Children’s Message:Pastor Keith Weatherford

Sermon:Pastor Keith Weatherford

(Silence for reflection.)

***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;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

***Apostles' Creed:**

**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:**

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

(Each portion of the prayers ends with these words)

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

***Sharing of the Peace:**

...Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” (John 20:19)

As Christ welcomed everyone, let us open our hearts and lives and be like Christ to everyone we meet. The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace and may say “Peace be with you” or similar words.)

Offering:

(An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need, and the communion table is set.)

Offertory Music: **“Percussive Praise”**
Kevin McChesney
Celebration Ringers

***Offering Prayer:**

Let us pray. 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.

Please use the code here for a mobile device online giving.



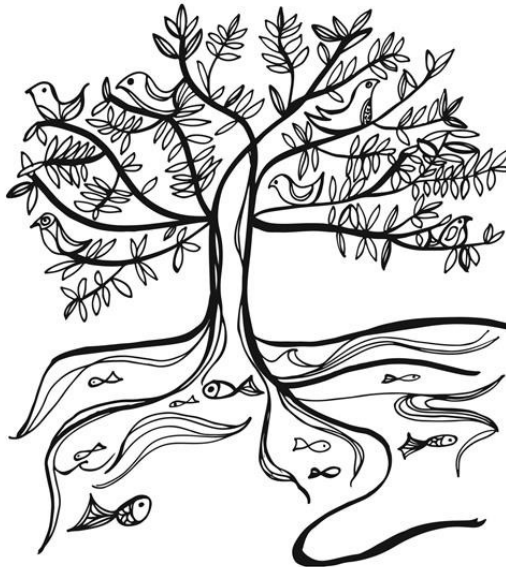
***Great Thanksgiving:**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, 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 angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



***Sanctus:** ELW p.181



San - to, san - to, san - to_{es} el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_{es} el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to_{es} el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_{es} el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on

tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
earth. Blest is he who comes in the

nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.

di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

***Words of Institution:**

For in the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks, 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." 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 which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." As we have died with Christ so have we risen with Him. Remembering this life saving grace and resurrection, we join with all creation in praising Your name.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again. Amen!

***Lords Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

***Invitation to Communion:**

(We celebrate this meal together at Christ's table, and all are welcome and encouraged to receive the forgiving and gracious presence of Christ in communion. Ushers will invite you forward starting from the rear of the sanctuary. Wine is the darker liquid on the outer portion of the tray. Lighter liquid is grape juice in the center of the tray. Gluten-free wafers available. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.)

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

Lamb of God:ELW p.182



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



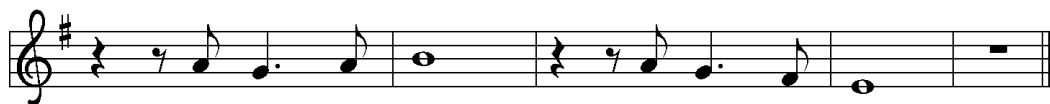
Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

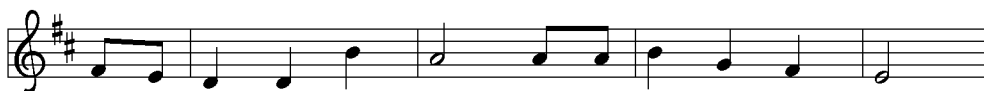
Communion Hymn:“Baptized and Set Free” ELW #453



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

***Prayer after Communion:**

Let us pray. 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.

Amen.

Blessing of High School Graduates:

O God of all life: In their baptism you blessed our sons and daughters with your spirit, promised your aid, and called them into discipleship. For this everlasting blessing,

We give you thanks, O God.

We pray now for those entering new lives after graduation, praising you for their gifts and asking you for your continued blessing. For what you have given and what you shall give,
We give you thanks, O God.

For those graduating into lives of full time employment: Lead them to work that honors you, benefits the world's need, and ennobles their own souls. God of daily labor,
Bless our graduates.

For those continuing their study: As their knowledge grows, increase also its wise and loving use that they, too, might serve you through their learning. God of all truth and understanding,
Bless our graduates.

For those who have yet to perceive where life may turn next: Grant them patience with the struggle, hope for the future and confidence that you will guide them well. God of hope,
Bless our graduates.

Protect our graduates who are younger from any enticement that may tempt and lead them to harm. Keep those who are older from the cynicism and despair that may follow disappointment and failure. Embrace mistakes with repentance and misfortune with restoration, always making clear your word of constant and abundant love. God of mercy,
Bless our graduates.

Help parents and others who share concern for the dangers and decisions that will be faced beyond their caring eyes. Reassure them where they have done their best and heal their regrets as they entrust their daughters and sons to your care. God of grace,
Bless our graduates.

We commend our graduating sisters and brothers to you, O God. By your unceasing Spirit, may their baptismal light so shine before others that they may see their good works and glorify you in heaven and on earth.
Amen.

***Sending Hymn:.....“Go My Children with My Blessing” ELW #543**

1 “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”

2 “Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story, here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”

3 “Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

***Dismissal:**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Christ is Risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Please join us downstairs in the fellowship hall for cake as we celebrate our graduating seniors, after service.

WELCA May Luncheon is rescheduled for Tuesday May 27 at noon. Bring a salad or side dish to share and enjoy fellowship and news about upcoming events.

Music this Summer

Connie and Gretchen would like to feature solos and special music this summer. If you have a piece you prepared or if you want to get something together, but don't know where to start, please speak with us. We are happy to help you and would love to feature your talents.

Submission for Bulletin, Wednesday at noon
Submission for Herald, the 25th of each month

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Sunday, May 18th Senior Sunday

9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 am Fellowship with cake reception for graduating senior high students

10:45 am-New Testament Bible Study

Monday, May 19

10 am Staff Meeting

Tuesday, May 20

9:30 am Morning Circle

Sunday, May 25

9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 am Fellowship

10:45 am Bible Study

Monday, May 26

Memorial Day– office is closed

In our prayers:

Linda McDonald, Susan Olson, Mike McDonald, Paula Blessinger, Diane Evans, Tammy Tetrault, Susan Boettcher, Rosita Moe, Bruce Gottwig, Bob Sorensen, Deb Berg, Meg Biggs and family, Richard Bomar, Jeff Shirley, Jeremy Stockstad, Tatiana Ceaicovschi, Randy Holmes, Kamila Ruth Baker, Vicki Alpiner, Brent Bushnell, Tom Andersen, Sally Indreland, Jana Clark, Ann Hadley, Mary Lou Hadley, Dan Jacobson, Craig Steenberg

For those in residential living centers, extended care or homebound:

Mary Marty, Rev. Wayne Olsen, Rosita Moe, Esther Fuehrer, Julie Wolff, Adeline Rasmussen, Susan DeBree, Jimmie McGee, Al Tompkins

For those who are deployed and getting ready to deploy.

For those who have died and now rest in God's merciful care:

All the Saints in Heaven

For Christ's Flock: The Lopach Family, The Paul Family, The Ruedisili Family, The Schendel Family

For Missionaries: Missionaries around the world; Willie Langdji in Cameroon

St. John's Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor:

Keith Weatherford 406-442-6270

pastorkeith@helenastjohns.org

Choir Director/Music Coordinator:

Connie Conley 406-431-6835

connieconley@yahoo.com

Youth & Family Ministry; Organist:

Gretchen Munding 917-439-0093

youthandfamily@helenastjohns.org

Church Office:

Bonnie Stevens 406-442-6270

Worship Assistants

Presiding: Pastor Keith Weatherford

Acolytes:

Altar Guild: Jennifer Wintersteen, Mildred Twingley, Mait Board

Communion: Paul Hilchen, Laura Nachtsheim, Kari Christensen, Paul Gronbeck

Head Usher: Gail Vennes

Lector: Alexander Michel

Pianist/Organist: Gretchen Munding

Prayer Station: Lorrie Vennes

Sacristan: Mildred Twingley

Streaming/Power Point: Angela Conley

Church Council

President: Paul Hilchen — 406-202-8988 — paulwithstjohns@gmail.com

Vice President: Lee Rhodes — 406-366-2089 — lee.rhodes3032@gmail.com

Secretary: Jennifer Wintersteen — 406-459-1378 — jenwintersteen@gmail.com

Bing Crosby: 714-883-0601 — bingcroz@yahoo.com

K'Lynn Sloan-Harris: 406-438-5404 — klynnsloan@gmail.com

Teresa Kinley: 406-443-5587 — tkinley@mt.gov

Brian Tetrault: 406-461-5389 — brian.m.tetrault@gmail.com

Paul Gronbeck: 913-680-7285 — paul.gronbeck@gmail.com

Jenny Taylor: 406-459-4376 — jennytaylorlea@gmail.com