

**Sunday, May 25, 2025**  
**Sixth Sunday in Easter**



## **Faith Lutheran Church**

*Mission Statement*

*"Building a welcoming, nurturing faith community that  
is guided by Jesus and shares the Gospel."*

**MINISTERS**  
**SENIOR PASTOR**  
**ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

**Every Member**  
**Derek Harkins**  
**Sylvia Bull**

1402 E Ave C Bismarck, ND 58501  
Pastoral Care Emergency Number: 701-595-0223

[faithbismarck.com](http://faithbismarck.com)  
701-223-2236

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING HYMN: ELW 815 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" \***

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

**GREETING**

**KYRIE & HYMN OF PRAISE (ELW Setting 4, pg. 147-148, 149-150)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Word: God speaks to us through scripture reading, preaching and song.*

**READINGS:** see next page

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "This is the Day!"**

**GOSPEL READING:** see next page

**CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 646 "The Peace of the Lord" \***

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**OFFERING MOMENT**

*Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**GREAT THANKSGIVING & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW Setting 4, pg. 152-153) \***

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**LAMB OF GOD (ELW Setting 4, pg. 154) \***

**COMMUNION HYMNS:**

**ELW 496 "One Bread, One Body" \***

**ELW 466 "In the Singing" \***

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Sending: God blesses us and sends us into the world to love and serve our neighbors.*

**BLESSING**

**SENDING HYMN: ELW 866 "We Are Marching in the Light of God" \***

**DISMISSAL**

*\*ELW = Red Hymnal; ACS = Purple Hymnal*

## READING(S)

**First Reading:** *Acts 16:9-15*

**Second Reading:** *Revelation 21:10. 22 - 22:5*

And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**Gospel Reading:** *John 14:23-29*

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am

coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

## **WEEKLY DEVOTIONS**

### **Monday - Prayer of the Day**

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### **Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy**

In several places, Evangelical Lutheran Worship includes the image of the tree of life: the frontispiece to the calendar (p. 11); the frontispiece to the Easter Vigil (p. 266); the frontispiece to the Psalms (p. 333); the Thanksgiving at the Table VII (p. 67); and the Thanksgiving at the Table X (p. 69). Some hymns refer also to God's promised salvation as like the tree of life.

### **Wednesday - Let the Children Come**

"Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them" (John 14:23). What wild and good news this is! If we love God, then God and Jesus will come and make their home with us! Brainstorm with the children in your life about what home with God looks like. What kind of home would God want? What kind of home would make Jesus feel most welcome? What kind of home would you and the children want? What kind of home would make them feel most welcome?

### **Thursday - Life on the Earth**

Purple is usually the color of Lent, not Easter. Yet purple fits this day with Lydia, “a dealer in purple cloth” (Acts 16:14). Purple was associated with wealth because purple dye was rare and laborious to produce, extracted from mucus secretions of Murex sea snails. It took thousands of snails to extract enough, which could be done while the creature was alive but often involved killing them. Our clothing may not require snails but often is resource intensive—in fertilizer for cotton, in water and chemicals for leather, using fossil fuels for synthetics, with human lives in sweatshops. How do you balance the comfort and appearance of your clothing with the environmental costs involved?

### **Friday - Reflection on the Gospel Reading**

This gospel emphasizes the comforting presence of the triune God within the believing community. We are enjoined to keep God’s word (what Lutherans call “law”), and we are given the gospel promise that God will live within us.

### **Saturday - A Hymn for the Day**

Brian Wren, ordained in 1965 in the United Reformed Church in Great Britain and now living in the United States, is well known for his concern for inclusive language and for his mastery of contemporary speech in hymn texts. His Easter hymn “Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!” (ELW 383) is appropriate for this Sunday, given its attention to Christian love, its celebration of the new creation, and its image of the tree of life. Note that in stanza 3 Wren calls God “the First and Last,” rather than Alpha and Omega, an example of his preference for accessible speech.



**Thank you** for your offering of **\$17,842.98** for the week of **May 18!**

**Altar Flowers** for the week are provided by Hertha Adolf in memory of Raymond. **Thank you!**

Our **Summer Worship Hours** have started! From Memorial Day Weekend (Sunday, May 25) to Labor Day Weekend (Sunday, August 31), we will have **one Sunday service at 9:30 am**, along with our usual Wednesday 7pm service.

The **Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 26** in honor of Memorial Day.

**Registration for Vacation Bible School** is now open! Children 4 years old to those entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us for games, snacks, music, crafts and learning about God together. The program will run from **Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, from 6pm to 8pm** each night (opening at 5:30 on Sunday with a pizza party), ending in a performance at the Wednesday 7pm service. Cost is **\$20 per child, or \$30 per family**. Registration can be found on the forms page of our website.

All students who are active members at Faith Lutheran Church may apply for a **college tuition scholarship for the 2025-2026 school year**. Whether a graduating high school student or already at college, head out to our Faith website [www.faithbismarck.com/forms](http://www.faithbismarck.com/forms) and email the completed form and a current transcript to the office [faith.bisfaith@gmail.com](mailto:faith.bisfaith@gmail.com) by July 15.

**THANK YOU** to Jim and Connie Isaak who delivered 8 boxes to Midwest Motors this past week. The boxes consisted of **21 Baby Kits and 26 quilts**. We also have **176 pillowcase dresses** that will be delivered in the near future. Our next and final shipment for the year will be in October. We have also been supporting local organizations and members with quilts. We have donated a total of **132 quilts** to other causes this year! A breakdown of how many quilts each non-profit received will be in the June Newsletter. Thank you also to our quilters who make the quilts and put the kits together. This would not be possible without you! **Full lists for our Lutheran World Relief Kits** are available now on the back counter. Any donations can be brought to the office. Thank you for your generosity!

**Handmade cards for Graduation, Father's Day and Weddings** are available for purchase on the small display table in the Gathering Area.

We are **accepting sponsorships for our NC Trip** this summer! We appreciate any donations to help fund this multi-generational trip to help recovery efforts from Hurricane Helene. Sponsors will also receive updates, and an invitation to a "thank you" dinner after the trip. You can **make a donation to Faith Lutheran with "NC trip sponsor" in the memo line or on a note, or use our Give page on our website.** More information on the different costs for the trip can be found on the bulletin board near our Coffee Hour area.

Please join us on **Thursday, June 19th for a Scripture Circle led by U.S. Jones, III!** This powerful method of studying scripture focuses on details and connections across Scripture. The event, **hosted at Faith Lutheran, will start with a light dinner at 5pm, and then study from 5:45pm-8pm.** A free-will offering will be taken if you feel moved to help supplement the speaker fee. Look out for **other Scripture Circle opportunities** on July 17<sup>th</sup> (at McCabe) and August 14<sup>th</sup> (at MSLCC North Campus)!

**Message: Pastor Derek Harkins**

**Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia**

**Music: Janine Johannes**

**Worship Assistants:**

**Team 4: Andy Steiner, Amy Steiner, Hadley Steiner, Collins Steiner, Lincoln Steiner, Ann Schlafman, Kayla Mahowald, Sue Rydberg, Lisa Bennett**

## CALENDAR

**Monday, May 26**

**Memorial Day**

**Church Office Closed**

7:00 AA

**Tuesday, May 27**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat**

9:00 Quilting

**Wednesday, May 28**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat**

7:00 Worship

**Thursday, May 29**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat**

**Friday, May 30**

**Synod Assembly**

8:00 NA

**Saturday, May 31**

**Synod Assembly**

**Sunday, June 1**

**Synod Assembly**

9:30 Worship

**MISSION**  
*Focus*

### **MAY: CAMP OF THE CROSS SHOWER THE CAMP**

Camp of the Cross is looking for donations to help jumpstart their busy summer camp season! We will be accepting donations of stamps (regular & postcard), Avery 5160 mailing labels, #10 envelopes, copy paper, white cardstock paper, colored cardstock paper, paint (acrylic or tempera), colored construction paper and embroidery floss (or other bracelet making threads). A full list of needs is available on our website, on our Facebook, and paper copies on the back counter.



*"[Jesus] said to them, 'Let the children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.'" Mark 10:14-15*