**Order of Service May 18, 2025—Lay Member Led: Cindy Manecke**

**EASTER 5/Graduate Sunday**

**Easter Shout of Joy**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Announcements, Concerns, Joys** *(Cindy)*

**Call to Worship Psalm 148**  **(Read responsively)** pew Bible p.982

**\*Thanksgiving for Baptism** (from Sundays & Seasons, copyright 2024, Augsburg Fortress)

*This is used during the season of Easter instead of the Confession*

L: In the name of +the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **C:** **Amen**.

L: baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism

*(Water may be poured before or during the Thanksgiving)*

L: 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,

**C: Make us one as you are one.**

L: 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.

**C: Make us one as you are one.**

L: 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.

**C: Make us one as you are one.**

L: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.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn**  *I, The Lord of Sea and Sky* WoV #752

HP #2441

**\*Kyrie** (response: **Lord, have mercy**) LBW p.78

**\*Prayer of the Day: 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.**

**Introduction of Graduates**: *Tatum Bargender and Carlie Stahel*

L: Dear Friends: Life presents us with various significant milestones that set the stage for the next phase in our earthly journey. Graduation from High School is one of these milestones. Today we wish to honor those who are moving through this special time of accomplishment, transition, and change, and to show them that we, their community of faith, stand with them and support them as fellow believers in Jesus Christ.

**Address to the Graduates**

*Presentation from the Quilters of St. John*

**Address to the Congregation:**

L: Members and friends of St. John ELCA Edgar, will you promise to keep these graduates and

their families in your thoughts and prayers as they go forth into the future?

**C: We will.**

L: Will you as fellow believers in Jesus Christ, promise to help these young people as need

and opportunity arise?

**C: We will.**

**Blessing of Graduates**

L: To our Graduates: Carlie and Tatum,

Will you always remember this is your home church, and that your church family will always welcome you with open arms?

**Carlie & Tatum: I will.**

*Parents, Sponsors, and Congregation please stand as we pray for God’s blessing.*

L: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord watch over you and keep you safe.

May the Lord guide your every step. May you always know of our unending love for you.

**All: AMEN.**

**Sharing the Peace**  *(Spoken only, refrain from shaking hands)*

**Receiving our Offerings of Thanksgiving**

**Offering Prayer**

L: 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, that we may live as your risen body in this world**. C:** **Amen.**

**A reading from Acts, the 11th chapter (11:1-18)** pew Bible, p.1711

(after each reading, “Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!**)

**A reading from Revelation the 21st chapter (21:1-6)**  pew Bible, p.1937

**Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia*. Everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another. *Alleluia.*** *(John 13:35)*

**\*The Holy Gospel according to John, the 13th chapter (13:31-35)** pew Bible, p. 1674

Before the gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord!**

After the gospel: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Sermon/Homily**

**\*Hymn of the Day** *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* WoV #754

HP #2430

**\*The Creed** LBW, p. 85

**\*The Prayers of Intercession** (Each petition ends: God of grace, **hear our prayer**.)

**\*Blessing**

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, +Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

\***Sending Hymn** *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* WoV #721  HP #670

**\*Dismissal**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C:** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**