

Order of Worship for May 18, 2025

Prelude

P: Jesus Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Opening Hymn: *“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”* - Hymn #803

Confession and Absolution pg. 151

Service of the Word

Entrance Psalm

P: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

C: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

P: The LORD has made known His salvation;

C: He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

P: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

C: break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

P: Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre

C: with the lyre and the sound of melody!

P: With trumpets and the sound of the horn

C: make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

C: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

The Kyrie: *(Lord, Have Mercy):* pg. 152-3

Hymn of Praise: *“This Is the Feast”* pg. 155

Salutation: (sung)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

First Reading: Acts 11:1–18

R: Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." But Peter began and explained it to them in order: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave the same gift to them as He gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified

God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Revelation 21:1–7

R: Then 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. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And He who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also He said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And 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 from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be His God and He will be my son."

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse: pg.

Holy Gospel: John 16:12–22

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 16th chapter

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (sung)

P: [Jesus said:] “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that He will take what is mine and declare it to you. A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.” So some of His disciples said to one another, “What is this that He says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what He is talking about.” Jesus knew that they wanted to ask Him, so He said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘In a little while and you will not see Me, and again in a little while and you will see Me’? Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (sung)

Sermon Hymn: “*Our Paschal Lamb. That Sets Us Free*” - **Hymn #473**

Sermon: “*From Sorrow into Joy*” - **John 16:12-22**

The Iowa State University men’s basketball team was up and down. Surprisingly they remained a top team even after a lot of losses in the Big 12. Then didn’t go far in the conference tournament, but got a three seed for the NCAA, but then lost in the second round.

Those of us who have followed Iowa State sports for a while were not surprised. We are used to a team getting our expectations up, then failing. We have learned not to get too excited when a team draws some attention, because we know it won’t last. No, it is not like the Cub’s fans who are used to always losing, but we don’t get our hopes up too high.

Yet there are stories that always make the news about how things go from failure to success. We like stories about how the underdog wins, like a “Rocky” or “Rudy” or the “Miracle on Ice” (1980 U.S. hockey team). We like when the sick person gets well, the little guy sticks it to the crooked bad guy, and the shy girl wins the contest.

But is that what we see in life? Once upon a time Iowa State had a football coach named Gene Chizik who was supposed to shake things up here. He left after

a few years to go to Auburn, where he won a national championship. But in the ensuing years it became apparent that quarterback Cam Newton, not Chizik's coaching, won that title as Chizik's team lost, there was a recruiting scandal, and Chizik was fired. Most veterans of the NFL have severe physical problems as a result of the hits they took in football. For everyone who becomes a millionaire entrepreneur, many are in debt or unemployed. And no matter how joyfully our victories are in life, at the end there is sorrow; there is death.

Think of the Presidents of the United States. We all know Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Teddy Roosevelt from Mt. Rushmore. We see faces on our money. But other than what we were forced to memorize in school, who cares about Millard Fillmore or Benjamin Harrison or Warren Harding? Even for us. We may know the names of our great-grandparents, but what about their parents and grandparents?

Jesus said to His disciples on the night before He died, "You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy." It sounds like those "happy stories" in the movies where the good guy saves the girl from the evil villain. But do we see that in life? What does it really matter if we find a cure for cancer when people will still die instead of heart failure? Maybe all our stories should end, "And they lived happily ever after," but do they?

Jesus promised the disciples that their sorrow would turn into joy. We can certainly see how that promise came true in their near future. They would see Jesus arrested and find out that he had been crucified and buried. Then the news would come that He was alive again. That was too good to be true until Jesus appeared to them and even let them touch Him and watch Him eat food to prove that He was real. They went from the rock bottom to "cloud nine." But then Jesus ascended into heaven. They had to live their lives without Him physically there. In our student center, we have a clock with the symbols of the apostles around it. Many of those symbols deal with how they died. The up-side-down cross is the symbol for Peter. The X-shaped cross is for his brother Andrew. Three parallel knives represent how Nathaniel was skinned alive. St. James the Lessor's symbol is the saw that was used to cut him in half. St. Thomas' symbol has a spear, stone to explain about his death. Though St. James' symbol is three seashells, we know from Acts that was killed by a sword. How could anyone say that these people "lived happily ever after"?

But Jesus' resurrection is not just about Him coming back to life. He had brought back to life His friend Lazarus, who later died. But Jesus' raising was to

eternal life. He didn't die later on. He ascended into heaven. He still lives. And as He lives, He will come again. That is what Jesus meant when He said to the disciples that their sorrow would turn into joy. Any other attempt we make to turn failure into success, defeat into victory, poverty into plenty, sorrow into joy will bottom out, because it will die with us. But Jesus gives us eternal joy. And it is that alone that turns our grief into joy.

Rick Reilly wrote regularly for Sports Illustrated. The magazine has a feature article each month called "Faces in the Crowd." It recognizes local athletes. Reilly was contacted by an Iowa truck driver named Mark Lemke whose son had been quite a golfer until he was killed at age 19 in a motorcycle accident. Reilly wrote the article. His way of describing how devastating this loss was to Lemke was with these words: "Lemke, 51, is just an ex-jock with a simple life that a motorcycle drove a hole through."

Several months later Mark Lemke was contacted by a man who introduced himself as Tony Dungy. Lemke thought this must be some kind of joke. Dungy was the coach of the world championship Indianapolis Colts. But the man insisted he was Dungy and told Lemke he called because he read the article. Dungy's own 18-year-old son had hanged himself just days before the Christmas of 2005.

Since then, they have stayed in contact, even when Dungy was busy with football that playoff season. Lemke drove an 18-wheel rig to Miami and met Dungy for the first time before the Superbowl. They hugged. They prayed. They visited. They talked about their loss, but especially they shared their faith. They know that despite their grief, there is joy because Jesus rose from the dead. And they will see their sons when He raises us as well.

God has given us each other like Tony Dungy and Mark Lemke. We can be there to help each other through the sorrows in life. The disciples would see Jesus in just a few days when He rose again. But He was even more talking about when He comes on the last day. Then there will be no more sorrow. And that is what we are here to remind each other of and to share with others. In Jesus we are certain that all our sorrow will turn to joy.

Creed: Third Article of Creed and Explanation pg. 323

Prayer of the Church: (P: Lord, in Your mercy . . . C: Hear our prayer.)

Sharing Our Ministry:

Offering:

Offertory: *“What Shall I Render”* pg. 159

Service of the Sacrament

Preface: p. 160

P: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should in all times and in all places give thanks to You, almighty God, heavenly Father for in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead You have turned our sorrow in to joy, therefore with angels and all the army of heaven we praise and make great Your holy name, evermore praising You and singing . . .

Sanctus (*Holy, Holy Holy*) p. 161

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

P: P: Lord God Almighty, heavenly Father, You have promised that we will join You in the new, heavenly Jerusalem when Jesus comes again. We thank You for sending Jesus into this world to die outside the gates of the earthly Jerusalem so our sins could die with Him. We praise You for raising Him from the dead so that we too will rise to enter that New Jerusalem. Give us Your Holy Spirit so that we join in the wonderful meal of Christ's body and blood trusting that by it our sins are forgiven. We pray this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer and The Words of Our Lord: pg. 162

Pax Domini (*Peace of the Lord*) **and Agnus Dei** (*Lamb of God*): p. 163

Distribution of Holy Communion:

“Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs” - **Hymn #812**

“Jerusalem, O City Fair and High” - **Hymn #674**

Dismissal:

Children's Message:

Blessing of the Seed and Soil:

P: While earth remains, there will be day and night, summer and winter, planting and harvest, cold and heat. For as the rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return until they have watered the earth, making it blossom and bear fruit, and give seed for sowing and bread to eat, so shall the Word, which comes from God prevail.

C: It shall not return to Him fruitless without accomplishing His purpose of succeeding with the task He gave it.

P: Lord of springtime and harvest, bless these plants as symbols of the seed that is sown

throughout the world that it may nourish and sustain Your people. And so water the soil with Your gentle rain and warm it with Your golden sunshine, that it may bear fruit to the glory of Your name and the welfare of Your people.

C: Amen.

Children and Youth Dismissed to Plant Flowers:

Prayer After Communion:

P: Lord Jesus Christ, we come to Your table, receiving more than a meal.

C: We receive a vision of heaven's high and holy feast.

P: Inspire us, by this vision, to live lives of service...

C: to live lives of love.

P: We bless You now and evermore.

C: Amen.

Blessing: (Pastor)

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: “In Thee Is Gladness” - Hymn #818