



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025 | 9:30am

Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We affirm that all people are created in the image of God, and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome all people into full participation in the life and ministries of Normandale Lutheran Church.

We celebrate that there are differences among us, and believe that we can love one another, even though we may not think alike. We proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the church and society.

Normandale Lutheran Church is committed to a ministry of reconciliation. We welcome and affirm our human family's diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith, history, socioeconomic status, physical and mental ability. We embrace this diversity as a gift from God, and invite all into a faithful journey toward greater love, understanding, and reconciliation.

Congregational responses in **bold**

* Please stand as you are comfortable

Gathering Music

Mountain Springs

Let All That Hath Breath Praise the Lord

Sondra K. Tucker

Brenda Austin

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Lord, Let Your Spirit Enter

Brett Epperson

*Gathering Hymn

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! (vs. 1-4)

ELW 377

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name 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.**

*Greeting

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

*Hymn of Praise

This is the Feast

ELW Page 149

*Prayer of the Day

God of all goodness, as you tear down barriers and construct bridges in love, you astound us! Awaken our hearts to welcome your presence in places and people that we'd call "unclean". Then fill us with gratitude, vision, and love, to share in the name of Jesus, the Christ, who dares to make us holy, too. Amen.

Reading

Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "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. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 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. 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; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 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.' 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?" 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."

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148:1-6

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

**Praise the Lord, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

**Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
who commanded, and they | were created,
**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**

*Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?

ELW page 151

*Gospel

John 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel according to John.

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. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 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.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Rebecca Gamble

*Hymn of the Day

I Come with Joy

ELW 482

*Sharing of the Peace

Music at the Offering

If Ye Love Me

Philip Wilby

***Noisy Offering | Offertory Response**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia!(2)
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! (5)

*Children are invited to cheerfully bring their "Noisy Offering" to the front during the Offertory Response.
This offering will help Every Meal in their fight to end child hunger.*

Holy Communion

***Prayer**

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

***Great Thanksgiving**

ELW Page 152

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 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Sanctus**

ELW Page 153

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's 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.

Agnus Dei

ELW Page 154

Distribution Anthem

Come, Let us Eat

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Distribution Hymn

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

ELW 461

Communion Blessing

Blessing of Graduating Seniors, Class of 2025

Congregational response after all seniors' candles have been lit

Blessed are each of you who journeys ahead during a time of transition. Shine your light before the world, and know that wherever you may go, God goes with you, this place is for you, and you are called beloved.

***Sending Hymn**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

ELW 543

***Blessing and Sending**

Go in peace. Shine your light.
Thanks be to God!

Sending Music

Celebration

Jacob B. Weber

WELCOME TO NORMANDALE



Led by the Holy Spirit and living in God's grace, Normandale Lutheran Church is a community of believers who love, learn, worship, and serve as we walk in relationship with Jesus Christ and others. We hope you find in us a place of welcome, a place of worship, a place for you.

Normandale Lutheran Church is a member of the ELCA, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation.



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Normandale Lutheran Church
Normandale Lutheran Youth

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SUNDAY AT NORMANDALE

Join us for Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship in the Fireside Room following worship.

Livestream of Sunday worship is available as a way to participate in the regular worship life of our community. Visit normluth.org/livestream to watch from wherever you are.

Holy Communion is offered during worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. All are welcome at God's Table. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available.

Hymnals are located in the pew backs. Both the ELW (red) and ACS (purple) hymnals are used in worship.

Hearing Devices are available to enhance your worship experience. Please ask an usher if you need assistance.

WAYS TO GIVE

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normluth.org/give

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NLC Kids

PrayGround is located at the front of the worship space and is filled with quiet toys and comfy seating for the littlest in our midst and their caregivers.

Extended PrayGround is located outside of the sanctuary next to the Fishbowl for children age 4 and up and their families. There are quiet activities and a screen to see and hear worship.

Busy Bags filled with quiet activities are hanging outside the main entrance of the sanctuary.

Bulletins & Coloring Sheets are located on a table by the main sanctuary doors.

Noisy Offering: Children are invited to cheerfully bring their "Noisy Offering" to the front during the Offertory Response. This offering will help Every Meal in their fight to end child hunger.

WORSHIP LEADER

Preacher: Pastor Rebecca Gamble
Liturgist: Pastor Hans Lee
Organist: Lorna Wolthoff
Cantor: Rachael Leadholm
Choir: Normandale, Brad Beale, guest conductor
Accompanist: Lorna Wolthoff
Instrumental: Normandale Bells, Lorna Wolthoff, director

Acolytes: Jacob Hegrenes & Wyatt Pence
Greeters: Dave Myhre
Lector: Lee Newcomer
Sacristan: Edel Henningsen
Ushers: Kemme Team
Communion Set Up: Jim Niemeier, Martha Taylor, Kim Sannerud
Communion Servers: Jacob Boettcher Belz, Pat Lindstrand, Lee Newcomer, Susan Sackrison