EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00 18 May 2025

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION OF THE ELCG WELCOMES YOU!

We are a church with open arms, where each person is welcome in God's all-inclusive love.

Jesus shared God's gracious love with all people, and we seek to follow this example. People of any economic status, marital or family situation, sexual orientation, gender identity, or ability are welcome to full participation in our congregation. We honor the unique gifts of each.

Read more about who we are at: www.genevalutheran.church

If you are worshipping with us for the first time or if you have been here before and would like to know more about our community, please fill out a connection card. You can scan this QR code to submit one online, or you can fill out the card on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering basket or give it to one of the ushers.



We are glad you are here—welcome!

Thank you to those sharing in worship leadership this morning:

Prayer leader: Dinesh Suna

Reader: Clare Duran

Altar care: Grace George, Benjamin Le Geyt

Assisting ministers: Filipa de Chassey, Eva de Chassey, Marc de Chassey,

Nyambura Njoroge

Ushers: Caetano de Chassey, Eva de Chassey

Offering counters: Johnny Camaddo, Penuel Kiondo-Zanetti

Church school: Marc de Chassey, Tim Fieldsend,

Grete Willis

Flowers: Rumiko Jaussi

Videgraphers: Breanna Ndwiga, Ray Woodcock

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva

English-Speaking Congregation
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pastor@genevalutheran.ch office@genevalutheran.ch www.genevalutheran.ch Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis

Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Fifth Sunday of Easter + 18 May 2025, 11h00

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal

Welcome

Prelude

Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Greeting

Unrestricted love. fearless love, boundless love. glorious love, crucified love. resurrected love, perfect love, embodied in Jesus Christ, the Beloved of God, who is love. whose Spirit opens our hearts to be commanded by love divine, all loves excelling this love comes in our midst so love becomes our beginning and our end, as we become free in the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, the Blessed Trinity, now and ever.

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling

While we sing, children may go to church school



Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

God of love,

we confess to you all in our lives that is not love,

the unkind words,

the spite that so easily arises when others seem to get in our way, the judging that casts others aside,

the frustrations that we cannot manage,

the fears that we are falling behind, left behind, tossed behind.

Forgive us for not loving you with all our heart, strength and mind.

Forgive us for not loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Forgive us all our idolatries, serving other gods,
other wishes, other goals, other rites.

Turn us from hatred to healing, from fear to openness,
from selfishness to community,
with all those who are also combatting hatred and fear and selfishness,
so together we might become the loving, living body of Christ,
through the grace of Jesus Christ,

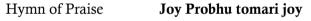


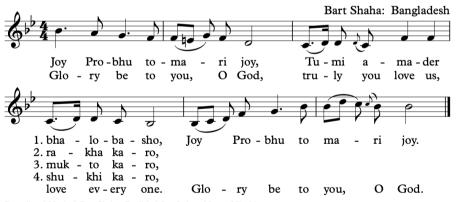
Words of Grace Revelation 21:1-6

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, the 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,

"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then 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 water as a gift, from the spring of the water of life."





Bengali and Music © Bart Shaha. English © I-to Loh and James Minchin.

- 2. truly you saved us, saved sinners all.
- 3. truly you freed us, freed those in chains.
- 4. you made us joyful, brought happiness.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you, and also with you.

First 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, saving. "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."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psa1m 148

Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights!
Praise God, all God's angels; praise God, all God's host!

Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars! Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for God commanded and they were created. God established them forever and ever and fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, nobles and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD.

For God's name alone is exalted;

God's glory is above earth and heaven.

God has raised up a horn for God's people, praise for all the faithful,

for the people of Israel who are close to God.

Praise the LORD!

Alleluia



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The Gospel John 13:31-35

The Gospel according to John, chapter 13.

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia

Sermon Andy Willis



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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 again 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, in your mercy, *hear our prayer*.

Passing of the Peace

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Gathering of Gifts

Ubi caritas et amor Music by Joseph Gentry Stephens

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. Exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur. Timeamus et amemus De um vivum. Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

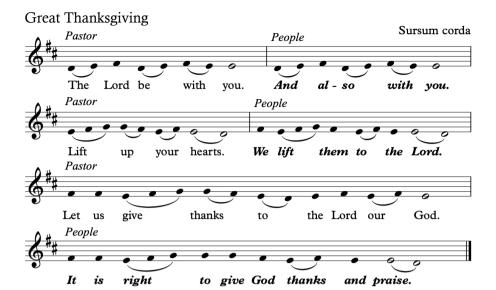
Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.

Your gifts are essential to our congregation's ministry. You can give in several ways: by placing money in the offering bag, by bank transfer (details on the back of the bulletin), or by TWINT.





English, Donald Wetherick



Preface

With each new ray of the sunrise

love,

with each buzz of the bee's wing,

love,

with a mother's sigh hoping the best for her children,

love,

with the touch of each father offering support and grace,

love

with the rainbow of forgiveness,

love,

with freedom's song danced on the shores of new beginnings, *love*.

with the words of prophets ringing truth, even when they warn, *love*.

with Mary's simple "Let it be",

love,

with the gift of Jesus Messiah so that all might see your great *love*,

we join the choir of those embraced by your love for all time, sing praise to your name, and giving you glory.



First time unison. Second time women start at the beginning while the men start at Part 2. Swedish, English and Music © Per Harling, Sweden

Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution

Remembering

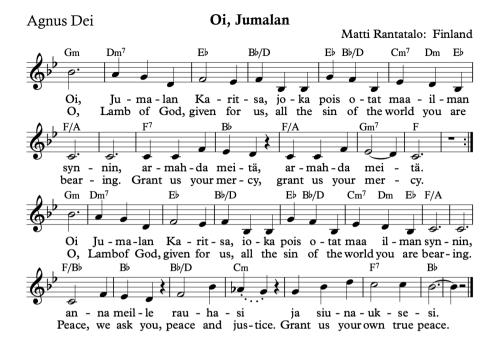
At this table we remember Jesus Christ. He is the bread of life and the wine of salvation. We proclaim the mystery of our faith. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Lord's Prayer

in our many languages

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.



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Invitation to Communion

All are welcome for communion.

Come and take any empty space around the altar. You will receive the bread.

Then choose a cup: a dark cup for wine, a lighter cup for grape juice.

Place the used cup on the next tray before returning to your seat.

Songs during Communion

Margam, Satyam, Jivam Nive



Transcription Terry MacArthur. English paraphrase © Andrew Donaldson, from a literal translation by Peniuel Jesudason Rufus Rajkumar.

Ubi caritas et amor



Where charity and love are found, God is there.





U-bi ca-ri-tas et a-mor. U-bi ca-ri-tas De-us i - bi est. Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France.

Where charity and love are, God is there.

Draw the circle wide



Now thank we all our God

While we sing, you are invited to place gifts for the Harvest Festival on the altar.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Benediction

Introduction of Visitors and Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord *Thanks be to God*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Assembly - Next Sunday, 25 May

On Sunday 25 May, our congregation will hold its annual spring assembly following worship. This will be a time to celebrate the past year of ministry, elect new members to our Congregation Council, and look ahead to the year to come. We will also be voting on whether or not to renew Andy Willis's contract for a new three-year term.

Packets of assembly reports have been sent to all members by email. If you wish for a paper copy of the reports packet, please contact the church office, and we will be happy to provide one.

A simple lunch will be shared during the assembly so we can move promptly after worship into this important business of our community. Please bring 'finger food' to share with others:

- those with family names beginning with the letters A-L, please bring sandwiches to share;
- those with family names from M-Z, please bring fruit or something sweet to share.

A film will be shown for kids in the gemeinderaum during the assembly.

Members, please plan to attend!

Children's Choir - 7, 21 and 22 June

On two Saturdays 7 and 21 June, Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg will be offering a children's choir rehearsal at the church from 10h to 12h. The children will learn a song that they will then sing during the worship service on 22 June. Kids of all ages are welcome! Contact Katharina with any questions: katharina@genevalutheran.ch

Harvest Festival – Today!

All are welcome to this year's Harvest Festival, taking place after today's worship service. We'll begin by sharing a potluck meal and will quickly move into a raffle (tombola), using the many gifts provided by the community.

Raffle Tickets:

If you have purchased tickets online, you can pick them up from the ticket booth. If you'd like to buy additional tickets, you can buy them today by cash, TWINT, or a commitment to pay by bank transfer.



This year's projects:

All proceeds from the Harvest Festival will support two wonderful projects:

Earthquake relief in Myanmar: On 28 March 2025, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck central Myanmar, followed by a 6.4 magnitude aftershock. The disaster caused widespread devastation, resulting in many deaths, thousands of injuries, missing people, and collapse infrastructure, leaving many homeless. The Lutheran World Federation has organized an emergency appeal to offer assistance. This project aims to contribute to the earthquake response to save lives, alleviate suffering and provide immediate relief and early recovery support to communities affected by the earthquake, including addressing critical needs like food, non-food items (i.e. mosquito nets, tarpaulins/shelter kits, sleeping mats etc.), livelihood and other basic services.

Fighting hunger in Sudan

Since violence erupted in Sudan in 2023, nearly 13 million people have been displaced within the country. Among the many challenges facing the population today is hunger. Approximately 24.6 million people are experiencing acute food insecurity, with 638,000 facing catastrophic hunger. World Vision is working to address the situation through its Sudan Response Plan. Our congregation's funds will go toward food assistance, clean water, and emergency health services, including children at risk of acute malnutrition.

Join in the fun, and help support this year's projects!

Picnic on Ascension Day - Thursday 29 May

On Ascension Day, Thursday 29 May, our congregation will hold a picnic at 'Parc de la Grange' in Eaux Vives, starting at 11h30. Bring food and drink, maybe something to put on the ground, or a folding chair. Terry will bring the church's parachute. After eating we will take a moment to hear the Ascention story and sing a couple of Alleluias. The park is easy to reach by public transportation, or parking is available in the garage under the Gare des Eaux Vives. We will try to be on the upper end of the park, not too far from the children's sand box area. We might do a procession in praise of plants to give thanks for the rose garden and trees in the park. If it is pouring rain, we'll plan to cancel.

God Only Knows What We Would Be Without ... MUSIC!

Saturday, June 14, 20:00h at the church – ELCG Quiz Night: NAME THAT TUNE! Bach or Bacharach? Genesis or The End?

Mercedes Sosa or The Cars?

- nail-biting team rivalry
- ruthless jury
- special appearance DJs Breanna & Geoffrey
- live connection with Japanese hip-hop star
- sips and snacks

Sign up NOW and stay TUNED! Your ELCG Music Quiz Team



Serving Weekly Coffee Hour

Our congregation holds a simple coffee hour after worship each Sunday. Preparation for coffee hour is by neighborhood groups:

25 May – Group C 8 June – Group E

1 June – Group D 15 June – Group A

If you can help on a week when your group is assigned, please let your group's coordinator know

Cover Image: Photo by Carmen Meurer on Unsplash

This Week's Schedule:

Tue, 20 May	19h00	Writers' group	
Thurs, 22 May	19h30	Choir practice	
Sun, 25 May	11h00	Worship and church school	
Sun, 25 May	12h30	Congregational assembly	
Office hours: Tuesday 9h30-17h30, Thursday 9h30-17h30, Friday 9h30-13h30			

Our church is entirely self-supporting. Our ministry is entirely funded by the contributions of members and friends of the congregation. There are three ways you can donate today:

By bank transfer: Using the banking app on your phone, scan one of the QR codes below:



Banque Cantonale de Genève CH26 0078 8000 0510 7337 8



Post Finance CH13 0900 0000 1200 9677 6

By cash: Place your contribution in the offering bags during worship.

By U.S. dollar check: Make the check payable to "Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," and on the memo portion, write "GMG 0858".

Thank you for your support of our ministry together!

If you are a guest in our congregation today, please fill out the connection card below—you can place it in the offering bag or hand it to the pastor or one of the ushers. We'd love to be in touch and answer any questions you might have about the church.

	ELCG Connection Card	
Name		
Phone		
Email		
Commer	nts	_
New to 0	Geneva? Y/N	Date