**Agapé Meal \***

for Several Persons

The Second Sunday of Easter and Holy Days through Pentecost

When the Church Cannot Gather in Person

*Appropriate foods for festal Agapé meals are celebratory, according to the tradition or culture of participants, but simplicity is to be favored over complexity. Offerings might include bread, fresh fruit, wine and juices, olives, simple fish or meats (esp. lamb), eggs, and fresh vegetables.*

**+ The Opening Rite +**

*At the time appointed, all gather around the table, standing as able.*

*The leader (a member of the household) briefly welcomes all, and then:*

Leader: We gather today in the name of our crucified and risen Lord.

*People: We gather today, thankful that no trial or trouble can separate us from God’s love.*

*All say the Psalm:*

Psalm 27: 1, 5-13

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;

whom then shall I fear?

 The Lord is the strength of my life;

 of whom then shall I be afraid?

5 One thing I have asked of the Lord;

 one thing I seek;

 that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord,

 to seek God in the temple.

7 For in the day of trouble the Lord shall shelter me in safety;

 the Lord shall hide me in the secrecy of the holy place

 and set me high upon a rock.

8 Even now the Lord lifts up my head

 above my enemies round about me.

9 Therefore I will offer in the holy place an oblation

 with sounds of great gladness;

 I will sing and make music to the Lord.

10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call;

 have mercy on me and answer me.

11 You speak in my heart and say, “Seek my face.”

 Your face, Lord, will I seek.

12 Hide not your face from me,

 nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

13 You have been my helper;

 cast me not away;

do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

The Leader now offers the following blessings.

**Over Wine**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of Jesus Christ, crucified yet risen. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. Glory to you for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**Over Bread**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; you have fed us with the bread of life in the Body of your Son. Feed us now with your presence among us and your presence in your Word. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**Over the Other Foods**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us, even as we long to gather around one table and one Lord, as we await our risen Lord’s return. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**+ The Meal +**

*Dine together, enjoy, be open to gratitude.*

**+ Reflection +**

*Near the end of the meal, the Presider could invite all present to reflect and share, using these or similar words:*

“In the week past, what has been difficult, what have you mourned?”

“And what grace or gift have you known or received?”

*A family with younger children might ask instead:*

“When have you felt sad this week?”

“When have you felt loved?”

**+ Scripture +**

*Someone now reads the Scripture for the day.*

*The Scriptures appointed can be found by clicking on the calendar at*

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Worship/Lectionary/YearA#Easter>

*Silence or a reflection on the readings may follow.*

*Free intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered.*

*A simple hymn or song of praise can be sung.*

**+ The Closing Rite +**

All stand as able, and the Leader now says *the Prayer of the Day:*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: Prayer of the Day [found below]

*People: Amen.*

*Still standing, the Leader now says:*

Leader: We have gathered this day, both mourning and rejoicing.

*People: We have gathered this day in faith that God will hear our prayer.*

Leader: Surrounded by illness, we mourn our dead;

*People: yet still we say, Alleluia!*

Leader: We know loneliness and discomfort;

*People: yet still we say, Alleluia!*

Leader: We cannot see the way that lies ahead;

*People: yet still we say, Alleluia!*

Leader: All we go down to the dust;

*People: yet even at the grave we make our song, Alleluia!*

Leader: Alleluia Christ is risen!

*People: The Lord is risen indeed!*

Leader: Alleluia! Abide in the peace of God.

*People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!*

The Prayers

Second Sunday of Easter (April 19)

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Saint Mark the Evangelist (April 25)

Almighty God, you have enriched your church with Mark's proclamation of the gospel. Give us grace

to believe firmly in the good news of salvation and to walk daily in accord with it, through Jesus Christ,

our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Third Sunday of Easter (April 26)

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Saint Philip and St James (May 1)

Almighty God, you gave to your apostles Philip and James grace and strength to bear witness to your

Son. Grant that we, remembering their victory of faith, may glorify in life and death the name of our

Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns and you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Easter (May 3)

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Fifth Sunday of Easter (May 10)

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sixth Sunday of Easter (May 17)

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Ascension Day (May 21)

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Seventh Sunday of Easter (May 24)

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Day of Pentecost (May 31)

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

\*Ritual created by the Rev. Dr. James Farwell adapted and created from contents of the *Book of Occasional Service* 2018, *The Book of Common Prayer* 1979, and from original material, and adapted by Rev. Lauren Eanes with contents of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Permission to adapt and amend is given to all.