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May 3, 2026 at 9:30am

**Fifth Sunday of Easter.** *As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.*



## GATHERING

**Prelude** Awake, My Heart, with Gladness Wilbur Held

### Welcome

*Stand*

### Thanksgiving for Baptism



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

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb! **Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. *Water is poured into the font.*

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn 368

## With High Delight Let Us Unite



1 With high de - light let us u - nite in  
2 True God, he first from death has burst forth  
3 Let prais - es ring; give thanks, and bring to



songs of great ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, all  
in - to life, all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my now  
Christ our Lord ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed by



bear your part, sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To  
van-quished see; his death has been death's un - do - ing. "And  
word and deed to ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So



set us free for - ev - er, he is ris'n and sends to  
yours shall be like vic - to - ry o'er death and grave," says  
shall his love give us a - bove, from mis - er - y and



all earth's ends good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.  
he, who gave his life for us, life re - new - ing.  
death set free, all joy and full con - so - la - tion.

## Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord 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*

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2. Sing with all the peo - ple of God and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn to be of all cre - a - tion:




Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his. *To Refrain*  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *To Final Refrain*

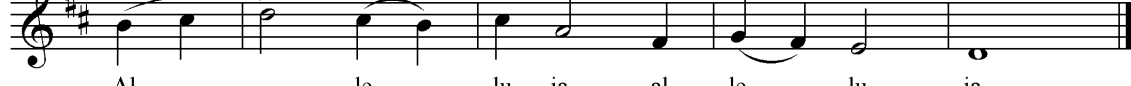
*Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God,



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.



Al - - - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.**

Sit

## WORD

### First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

A reading from Acts. <sup>55</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup> Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 choir/congregation



<sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;  
deliver me | in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup> **Incline your | ear to me;**  
**make haste to de- | liver me.**

<sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag | and my stronghold;  
for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup> **Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,**  
**for you are my tow- | er of strength.**

<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.

<sup>15</sup> **My times are <sup>l</sup> in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who <sup>l</sup> persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup> Let your face shine up- <sup>l</sup> on your servant;  
save me in your <sup>l</sup> steadfast love.”

<sup>5</sup> **Into your hands I com- <sup>l</sup> mend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, <sup>l</sup> God of truth.**

## **Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

A reading from First Peter. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” <sup>8</sup> and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Choir**

Setting by Robert A. Hobby

*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into light. Once you were no people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.* 1 Peter 2:9 RSV

## **Children's Message**

Stand

## Gospel Acclamation

All sing the Alleluias; Choir sings the Verse.



*I am the way, the truth, and the life.\**

*No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)*

## Gospel: John 14:1-14

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” <sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

## Sermon

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

Please stand when the hymn introduction begins.

## Hymn of the Day 758

## You Are the Way

1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;  
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;  
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;  
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,

all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.  
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.  
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.  
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.  
Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

**Nicene Creed** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under**

**Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit or kneel*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

A: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. *A brief silence.*

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

*Stand*

**Peace** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

*Sit*

### **Setting the Table + Presentation of Gifts**

**Choir**

The Chief Cornerstone

Bradley Ellingboe

*The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.*

*The guards outside the tomb could not contain his might.*

*Christ broke the seal of death and rose into the light.*

*The devil and his lies, the world, the flesh and sin,*

*cannot defeat Christ now nor hedge his victory in.*

*As he was raised from stone we also will be raised*

*to join the heavenly hosts before the throne of grace.*

*So sing, angelic choirs, O hosts of heaven sing!*

*Break forth, O earth, in song and praise your Lord and King!*

Text by Gracia Grindal

### **Offering Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

### **Great Thanksgiving**

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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

*Sit*

## **Invitation to Communion**

*Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask your server.  
Red wine and white grape juice are available in each tray.*



## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Hymn 378

## Awake, My Heart, with Gladness



- 1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, see what to - day is done;
- 2 Now hell, its prince, the dev - il, of all their pow'r are shorn;
- 3 This is a sight that glad - dens—what peace it does im - part!
- 4 Now I will cling for - ev - er to Christ, my Sav - ior true;
- 5 Christ brings me to the por - tal that leads to bliss un - told,



now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, comes forth the glo - rious sun.  
now I am safe from e - vil, and sin I laugh to scorn.  
Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens the joy with - in my heart.  
my Lord will leave me nev - er, what - e'er he pass - es through.  
where-on this rhyme im - mor - tal is found in script of gold:



My Sav - ior there was laid where our bed must be made  
For Christ a - gain is free; in glo - rious vic - to - ry  
No gloom shall ev - er shake, no foe shall ev - er take,  
He rends death's i - ron chain; he breaks through sin and pain;  
"Who there my cross has shared finds here a crown pre - pared;



when, as on wings in flight, we soar to realms of light.  
he who is strong to save has tri - umphed o'er the grave.  
the hope which God's own Son in love for me has won.  
he shat - ters hell's grim thrall; I fol - low him through all.  
who there with me has died shall here be glo - ri - fied."

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. John Kelly, 1833–1890, alt.  
Music: AUF, AUF, MEIN HERZ, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

## Table Blessing and Communion Prayer

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

A: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**



## SENDING

### Blessing

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

# Sending Hymn 380

# Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!



1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;  
 2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn-ful sigh?  
 3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;  
 4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran-somed of the earth.  
 5 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom-y halls of death Christ, the con-quer-or, has gone,  
 Christ who died our broth-er here lives our broth-er still on high,  
 joined to Christ, your liv - ing head, where he is, you shall be too;  
 Praise him in a no - bler song, cher - u - bim of heav'n-ly birth.  
 Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:



bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.  
 lives for - ev - er to be - stow bless-ings on his church be - low.  
 with the Lord, at God's right hand, as a vic - tor you shall stand.  
 Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o - bey.  
 Glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!



Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.  
 Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

Sit

## Announcements

### A New Birthday Song

Using the tune KREMSER, We Praise You, O God

**We celebrate with you the life that God gave you.  
We thank God for letting us share in your joy.  
God bless you and keep you and shine Christ's light upon you.  
With love we sing together: happy birthday to you.**

**Dismissal** Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God!**

**Voluntary** Christ lag in Todesbanden Heinrich Bach

*Everyone is invited to enjoy light refreshments and conversation  
in the fellowship hall following worship.*

The comic strip *Agnus Day* is a lectionary-based comic strip. Each week, Rick (the one with the dark nose) and Ted discuss one of the assigned readings from the Common Lectionary. Their conversation drives at a point and sometimes sparks a laugh. *Agnus Day* is the creation of Pastor James Wetzstein, a Lutheran pastor who serves as one of the campus pastors at Valparaiso University. *Agnus Day* appears with the permission of [www.agnusday.org](http://www.agnusday.org).



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## Commemorations this Week

**Monday, May 4** **Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387** Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

**Friday, May 8** **Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416** When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

**Friday, May 8** **Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303** Also known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan.

**Saturday, May 9** **Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760** When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

## Love, Love, Love

That's what it's all about! Jesus loves.

Jesus' love is a constant in scripture. From his humble birth to his teachings, parables, healing miracles, feeding of the multitudes, power over creation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus loves.

Some people wanted the Messiah to take a much different approach. They thought their savior would come as a strong military leader, but Jesus did not start a violent overthrow of the Roman Empire. He just could not and would not do anything in conflict with love. He gave himself up and loved until the very end. In his last breath on the cross, he forgave everyone involved in crucifying him. This is the depth of the amazing love of God shown to us in Christ Jesus.

Stephen, "a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5), strove to live as Jesus lived and to love as Jesus loved. As he was being stoned to death, Stephen shouted, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (7:60).

Following Jesus was not easy for Stephen and other early Christians. It is not easy today. But in today's gospel reading, Jesus assures his followers—then and now—of three things. First, the great doors to a place with God will be open to us, in a house with many rooms. Second, he is the way, truth, and life, and by knowing him, we come to know God the Father. Third, we can ask him for anything. These are promises of Jesus' continuing care for us, for people of every time and place, and for all creation. Jesus loves.

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)**