

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stpeterlutheranchurch.net

13221 W. Todd School Rd.

Glasford, Illinois 61533

309-389-5342

Pastor Raymond Barclay



Sunday, May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion

PRELUDE: ORGAN / CLAVINOVA
[*] REQUESTS YOUR RISING IF COMFORTABLE
GREETINGS



***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The Invitation:

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

The Confession:

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(A period of silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.)

P Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The Declaration of Forgiveness:

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C **Amen.**

*ENTRANCE HYMN *Borning Cry* (WOV 770)

Borning Cry



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
- 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



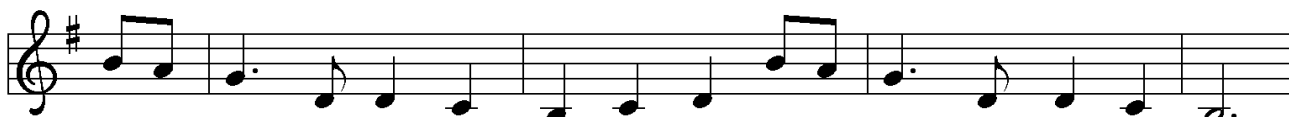
I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker.

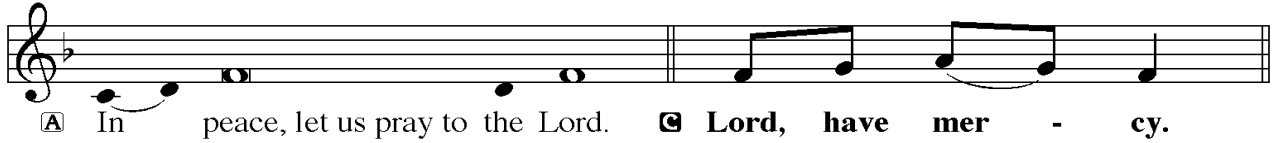
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***GREETING (LBW p. 57)**

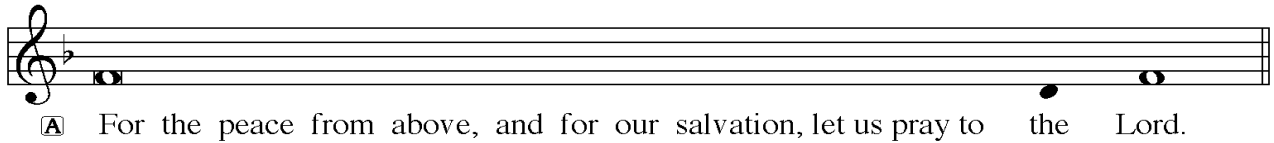
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

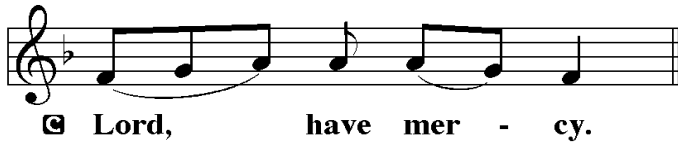
***KYRIE (LBW p. 57)**



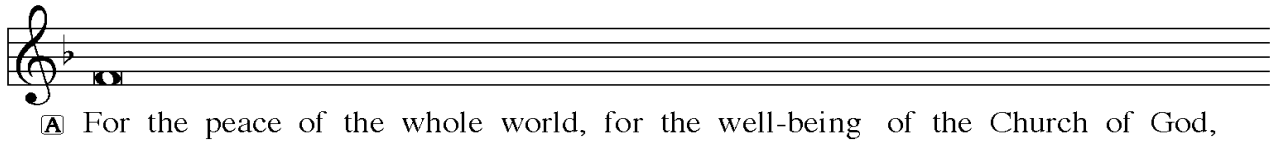
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



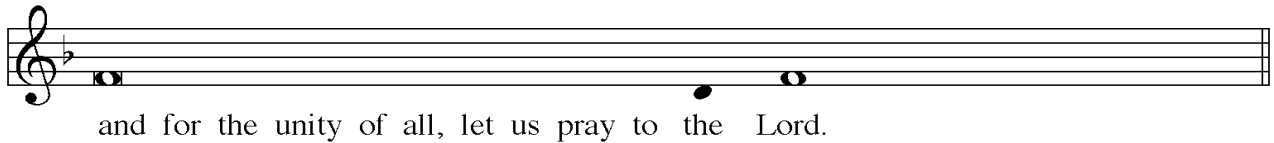
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



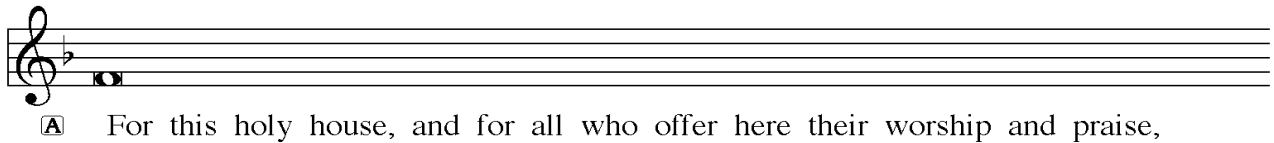
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



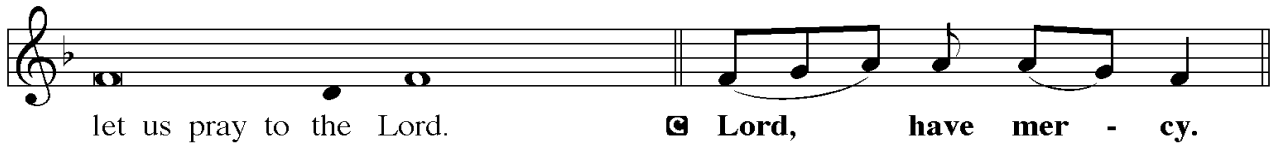
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



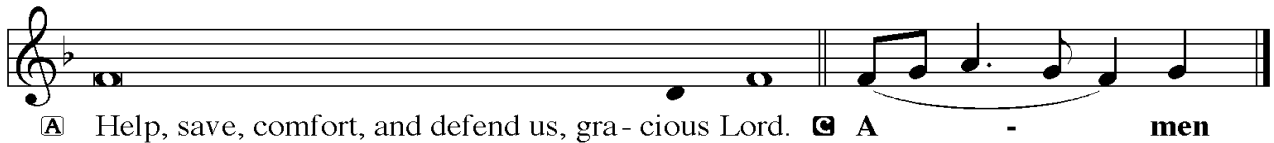
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

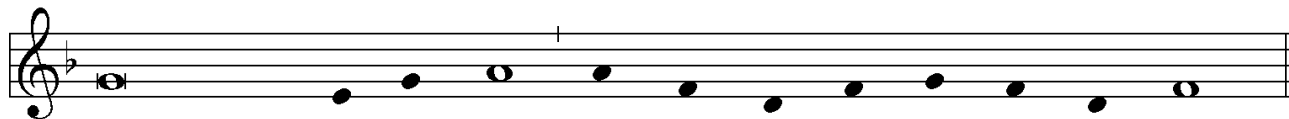


let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

***HYMN OF PRAISE (LBW p. 58)**



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (LBW p. 62)**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. . . .

P O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

LECTOR: ROSEMARY HAYNES

LECTIONARY YEAR A

FIRST LESSON: Acts 7:55-60

The First Lesson is from the 7th chapter of Acts.

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.

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ 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. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ 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.

Here ends the reading.

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (*Ps. 31:5*)

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

² **Incline your | ear to me;
make haste to de- | liver me.**

³ 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.

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

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

¹⁵ **My times are | in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.**

¹⁶ Make your face to shine up- | on your servant,
and in your loving- | kindness save me.



SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 2:2-10

The Second Lesson is from the 2nd chapter of 1 Peter.

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.

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.”

⁷ 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,”

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

Here ends the reading.

*VERSE (LBW p. 62)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² 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? ³ 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. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ 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’? ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY: "THE TRUTH TALKER"

HYMN OF THE DAY *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* (LBW 143)

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds in praise of love that
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, there - fore our heart with
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt-less love; set heart and will on
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring and with the heav'n-ly



still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
things a - bove that we con - quer through your tri - umph;
bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!"



Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song
Now still he comes to give us life and by his pres -
grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's day that by our lives
Be to the Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest,



of glo - ry here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
ence stills all strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
we tru - ly say: Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
most ho - ly God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

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***CREED**

**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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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**

*THE PRAYERS

- P Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.
- P 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,
- C receive our prayer.**
- P 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,
- C receive our prayer.**
- P 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,
- C receive our prayer.**
- P God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick (*especially*). Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.**
- P 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,
- C receive our prayer.**
- P 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,
- C 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.
- C Amen.**



A TIME SET ASIDE FOR SILENT PRAYER

***PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**
P Let us share God's peace with one another.

***OFFERING (LBW p. 66)**

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

P Blessed are you,

C O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***DIALOGUE (LBW p. 68)**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

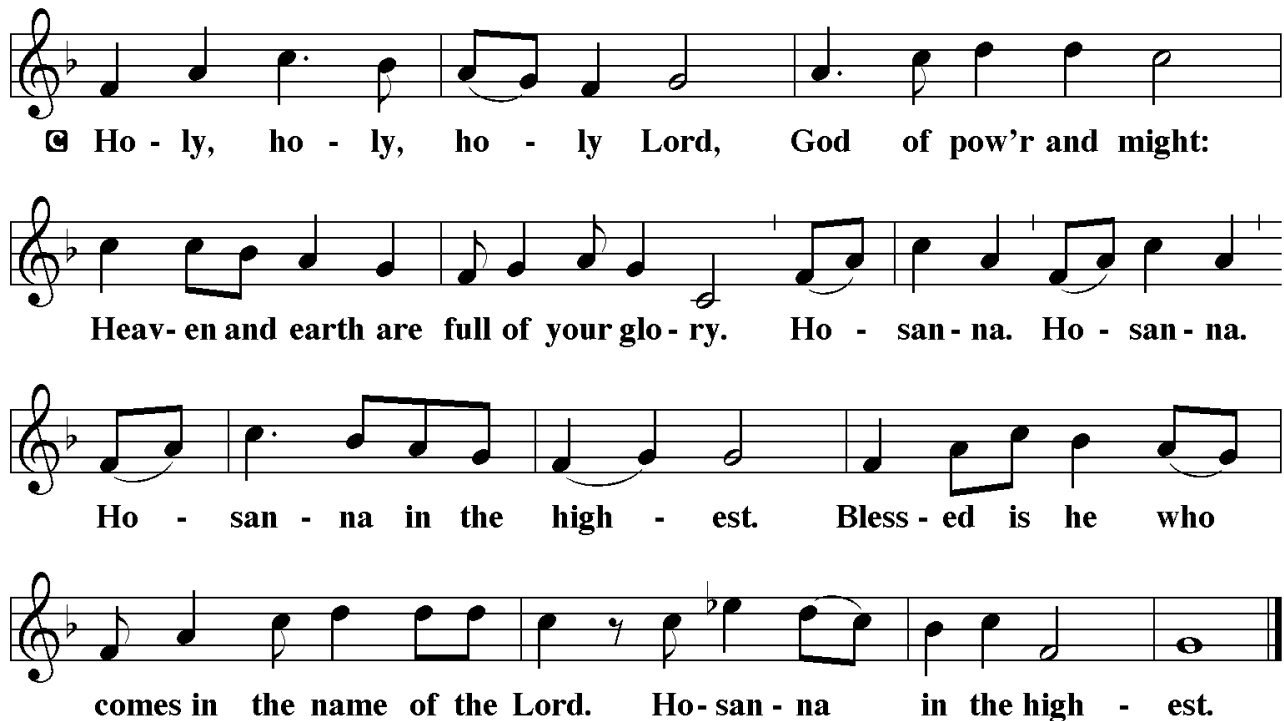
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

***PREFACE (LBW p. 68)**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his 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:

***SANCTUS (LBW p. 69)**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
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.

***THANKSGIVING (LBW p. 69)**


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.


*LORD'S PRAYER





Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN


☞ 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.

COMMUNION

- P The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
- C Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN *On Eagle's Wings* (WOV 779)

****PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 779 IN THE BLUE HYMNAL****

COMMUNION HYMN *Now the Feast and Celebration* (WOV 789)

Now the Feast and Celebration



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen



G Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

P We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

***BENEDICTION**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C **Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen

REFLECTIONS

1. What is your biggest 'influencer?'
2. What were some of Jesus' "marvelous works?" And, which one of these influenced you the most?
3. Believers are given God's mercy in order to see His "marvelous works." What do you do daily that helps you see what God has done and is doing now?
4. Bonus Question: 😊 What does it mean to you personally to live in His "marvelous light?" Does it have anything to do with seeing the truth today?

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for coming!



~ Strength & Healing Concerns~

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Pam Rabe	Judy Livingston	Pat Janssen	Bill Juraco
Phyllis Fischer	Mary Lou Nannen	Judy Wyss	Virginia Mahan
Richard Sathoff	Carl Satterlee	Dave Kroepel	Linda Meyer
Grant Blaza	Doug Rabe	Alice Lopez	Marsha Shafer
Bobby Creamer	Becky Pfahl	Brenda Hyneman	Rita Scott
Karen Randle	Mason Deppermann	Julie Scott	

And All Soldiers Serving Our Country

~ THANK YOU ~

Music: Linda Garmon
Reader: Rosemary Haynes
Greeter: Council
Com. Assts: Ed Shafer
Loren Benson
Mike Rabe

The Ladie's Night will be Tuesday, May 19th @ 5:30 at Gil's. Please let Caryn know if you will be coming.

~ ST. PETER HAPPENINGS ~

May 3rd – Communion Sunday
Rachel's Day
May 4th – 4H Basement Reserved
May 7th – National Day of Prayer
May 10th – Non-Communion Sunday
Happy Mother's Day!!
May 13th – 9am Sewing
6pm Council Meeting
May 16th – 8am Men's Breakfast @ Glasford Baptist
May 17th – Communion Sunday
May 24th – Non-Communion Sunday
May 25th – Memorial Day
May 31st – Communion Sunday



What is Rachel's Day?

In 1994, one woman urged her congregation, Bethel Lutheran Church on the west side of Chicago, to support children facing violence. They began by clearing a vacant lot and turning it into a garden— Rachel's Garden. It became a place where folks—mostly mothers—could come to mourn children killed by gun violence in the past year. They also planted a white cross and flowers in remembrance of these young ones. Two years later, the Metro Chicago Synodical Women's Organization brought a memorial to the Third Triennial Convention (1996) of Women of the ELCA to broaden awareness of the violence children face and actions to address it. The convention passed the memorial, resolving "That ELCA women encourage their congregations to recognize the first Sunday in May each year as Rachel's Day, based on Jeremiah 31:15-17 wherein Rachel grieved for her children, to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of evil and fear that plague our nation."

AI-generated content

SHARE OUR SPIRIT LUNCHEON

A big thank you goes out to Michele Voss for being our speaker at our annual SOS Luncheon this year. This was our 34th speaker to share her life and faith story with us.

Michele's story was so open and honest, keeping us all smiling and laughing as she shared her faith journey. We left the luncheon inspired and feeling blessed to have been a part of the day. The luncheon was well attended, and the Upper Room was transformed into such a beautiful space for the occasion. A big "Thank You" goes out to all who made this happen.

WELCA HAPPENINGS

Fabric Kits

Sewing is a valuable skill, one that leads to a reliable income for many women and men. Fabric Kits supply vocational training programs with fabric for teaching sewing, and for newly trained tailors to launch their sewing business.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN EACH FABRIC KIT:

Two pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester); fabric should have no stains or holes and be cut into pieces measuring:

- - 2 ¼ yards of 60" wide fabric, or
 - 3 yards of 44" wide fabric, or
 - 4 yards of 36" wide fabric
- Two spools of matching or neutral-colored general-purpose thread, 250-300 yards each

Cash donations are okay.. please contact Renee Diver @ 309-264-1460 for any questions.

January thru May:

Non-Perishable food items for St. John's Food Pantry and Personal Care Kit Items:

- Light weight bath towels (dark color) (20"x40")
- Bars of Bath Soap
- Sturdy Combs
- Adult Toothbrushes
- Nail Clippers

If you would like, Sharon Benson will do the shopping for you if you would rather. Just let her know! Thanks!

There is a container in the Narthex to leave your items.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 3, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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.

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