

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2-3, 2026
Holy Communion

The Prelude is a signal to *end our conversation* and prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND (u) PASSING OF PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP "SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT"

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spi - rit of_ the Lord.
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the pre - sence of_ the Lord.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P** Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!
- C** Amen.
- P** Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

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.

- C** You guide us to springs of the water of life.

- P** 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.
- C** You guide us to springs of the water of life.
- P** 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.
- C** You guide us to springs of the water of life.
- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!**
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath,
Come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!**

GREETING

- P** May peace be to this house and all who enter here. 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

**Ref. Kyrie eleison, on our world_ and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church,
for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (*Refrain*)**
- 4 For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives
in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (*Refrain*)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray together.**
- C 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.**

(d)

ANTHEM

LESSON OF THE DAY

Acts 7:55-60

The lesson begins:

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(u)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - leluia, al – lelu - ia, al - leluia, alle - luia.

GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the fourteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater

things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

P **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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

(d)

SERMON

(u)

SERMON RESPONSE "RESTORE IN US, O GOD"

**Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;
Renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.**

APOSTLES' CREED

P **Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.**

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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.**

(d)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.**

A brief silence.

- 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. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** Hear 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 Lord, in your mercy,
- C** Hear 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. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** Hear 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. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** Hear 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.

OFFERING

(u)

THE OFFERTORY "CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART"

Create in me a clean heart_, O God,
and renew a right spirit within_ me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir-it from_ me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

**and uphold me with your free_ Spir-it.
Create in me a clean heart_, O God,
and renew a right spirit within_ me.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

P 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 cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (SUNG)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might_,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.

Heaven and earth are full_, full_ of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes_ in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

P Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith

C Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

P Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P As a community, let us pray in the way our Lord Jesus has taught us: *(SPOKEN)*

C 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. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

(d)

THE COMMUNION is given and received.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P 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.

THE BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Ref. Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *(Refrain)*

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *(Refrain)*

DISMISSAL

A Let us go forth in the name of the Lord.

G To know Christ, and to make Christ known.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

IN CHRIST ALONE

1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my
2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of God in help - less
3. There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the world by dark - ness
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in

song; This Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id Ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and
babe! This gift of love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the ones He came to
slain; Then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious Day, up from the grave He rose a -
me; From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti -

storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
save. Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -
gain! And as He stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from His

cease. My Com - fort - er, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.
fied. For ev - 'ry sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.
me; For I am His and He is mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
hand; Till He re - turns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!