

***WELCOME TO WORSHIP
AT
WHITNALL PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
MAY 3RD, 2026***

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Pastor Michael Fazio is presiding.

We have come together today as members and guests to worship God and celebrate new life in Jesus Christ. We hope our worship will be uplifting and provide a source of hope and strength for the week ahead.

If you believe that the Lord is truly present for us in the Sacrament in body and blood for the forgiveness of sin, you are welcome to join us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

As the prelude is a time of preparation, please consider meditating on these words of the Psalm during this time of reflection.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

CALL TO WORSHIP *362 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing Vs 4*

Praise we Christ, whose love divine gives his sacred blood for wine, gives his body for the feast—Christ the victim, Christ the priest.

Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as minister begins.

P: Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God has given to all nations the repentance that leads to life. Let us come with repentant hearts to the God who makes all things new.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: We confess to you all the ways in which we dismiss the resurrection news. We are slow of heart to believe. We turn from others and retreat in fear. Come into our locked rooms and breathe into us your forgiving Spirit. Reawaken our trust and strengthen our hope, that we may be witnesses to your saving power. Amen.

P: Peace be with you, sisters and brothers. In baptism you have received a spirit of adoption; you are God's beloved children. In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Rejoice, and welcome the freedom of this gift.

C: Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN *558 Lord God, We Praise You*

1 Lord God, we praise you, now the night is over, active and watchful, standing here before you; singing, we offer prayer and meditation; thus we adore you.

- 2 Monarch of all things, fit us for your mansions; banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending; bring us to heaven, where your saints united joy without ending.
- 3 All-holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit, Trinity blessed, send us your salvation; yours is the glory, gleaming and resounding through all creation.

GREETING

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 *WOV Setting 5 Pg 28*

Cantor: Kyrie eleison:

All: Lord, Have mercy.

Cantor: Christe eleison:

All: Christ, Have mercy.

Cantor: Kyrie eleison:

All: Lord, Have mercy.

HYMN OF PRAISE *WOV Setting 5 Pg 30*

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God and peace to God's people on earth.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father, Amen.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God and peace to God's people on earth,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen

FIRST READING ~ a reading from 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.

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, stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 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. This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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 deliver 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 tower of strength.**

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, 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 Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

SECOND READING *a reading from 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.*

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. This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *ALLELUIA, LORD TO WHOM SHALL WE GO WOV PG 31 SETTING 5*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia. You have the words of Eternal Life.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel *according to John 14:1-14*

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[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."

This is the Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 367 *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

- 1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds in praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here: *"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"*
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 Eternal is the gift he brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings:
Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Now still he comes to give us life
and by his presence stills all strife. *"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"*
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; set heart and will on things above that we conquer through your triumph; grant grace sufficient for life's day that by our lives we truly say: *"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Adoring praises now we bring and with the heav'nly blessed sing: "Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!" Be to the Father, and our Lord, to Spirit blest, most holy God, all the glory, never ending! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

APOSTLE'S 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 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

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.

A: 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.

A: 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.

A: God of mercy, you guide governments 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.

A: 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.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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 Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. 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 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.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERATORY HYMN *WOV 35 Setting 5 Let The Vineyards Be Fruitful*

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed
with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we
offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord, and give us a
foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray . . .

**C: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you
shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ,
give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond
to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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 our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name,
and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *WOV Setting 5 Pg 36*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able;

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all the honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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

THE BODY OF CHRIST, GIVEN FOR YOU. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, SHED FOR YOU.

As we accept the Lord's gift of His body and blood, we will receive Him in our pre-filled cups containing the wafer and juice or by at the rail in the fullness of faith that God's love and grace have been poured into these holy elements.

We receive the Lord in our seats and share in this holy meal at the same time; One Body, One Mind, One Lord Jesus Christ. This is God's precious gift for you.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God WOV Pg 39 Setting 5*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

COMMUNION HYMNS *484 You Satisfy The Hungry Heart*
 502 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *WOV Pg 40 Setting 5 Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*

**Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell everyone what God has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and bear Christ's Holy Name.**

**Send us with your promises, O God, and lead us forth in joy with
shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray . . . Mighty and compassionate God, you have brought us
over from death to life through your Son, our risen Savior, and you have fed
us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now
into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve
you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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.

SENDING HYMN 389 *Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

- 1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
- 2 Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev'ry place and time.
- 3 In ev'ry insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide, Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.
- 4 Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call, and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
- 5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the Good News! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

