



Sunday, May 3, 2026

Welcome & Opening Declaration

We have gathered in the name of Jesus Christ.

We have set aside this time to worship God together.

We have come to confess that Jesus is Lord.

We are here to tend to God's presence in and among us.

We praise and adore the living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen

SCRIPTURE

John 14: 1-14

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going."

⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus 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'?" ¹⁰Do 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. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very 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. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

¹In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

²*Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.*

*Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.*

³You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
⁴*take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.*

⁵Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

...

¹⁵My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

¹⁶*Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.*

1 Peter 2:2-10

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²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like 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. ⁶For 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."*

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,
*"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"*

⁸and

"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.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Leader: The Word of the LORD

All: Thanks be to God

SING TOGETHER

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!

Blessing of the Children

SCRIPTURE

Acts 7:55-60

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, he 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!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then 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.

Leader: The Word of the LORD

All: Thanks be to God

HOMILY

TIME OF RESPONSE

APOSTLES' CREED

We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
We 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 to the dead. 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.
We 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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Gracious God, as the world crowds in and threatens to overwhelm us with its demands, you open heaven and show us we belong to you alone. When we are tempted to seek shelter in our own strength, or to put our trust in things that cannot save us, turn our eyes upward, and let your face shine upon us, so that we may find in you our rock, our refuge, and our rest. Through Jesus Christ, who stands at your right hand and intercedes for us, now and always. **Amen.**

Gracious Son, you are our chief cornerstone, precious, and sure, and you call us to belong to you and one another. Shape us, we pray, into living stones, not scattered and separate, but fitted together by your hand into something we could never build ourselves: a house where the lonely find belonging, the

outcast finds a home, and the stranger hears, at last, that there is *rest in you*. Where we have been the ones who reject, forgive us and make us builders with skillful capacity. Where we ourselves have felt bypassed, remind us that you choose what the world deems unworthy, and that in your sight we are indeed precious. Through Jesus Christ, the living stone and the door always open, now and always. **Amen.**

Gracious Spirit, you are the one that ever opens and expands us; open our eyes to see that heaven is not closed, that you are not distant, that your kingdom is near and breaking in — wherever the rejected are welcomed, wherever the outcast is told they belong, and whenever our tears are caught, held, and blessed. Give us hopeful and expectant hearts to see the magnificent surprise of your powerful provision. Through Jesus Christ, the cornerstone and the open door, now and always. **Amen..**

Officiant: Let us pray together as Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen

The Lord's Table

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 thanks and praise.

All honor and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

*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.*

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness. Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

In sharing this meal together, we share in the mystery of our faith...
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.
Therefore, let us keep the feast.

SING TOGETHER

BENEDICTION

THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE TABLE PHILADELPHIA
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