

Sunday Worship Service – May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book – Holy Communion Setting 7

Words of Welcome by Pastor

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement

Introduction to the Theme of the Bible Readings

Today's Bible readings remind us that as Christians, we have a home, a refuge, and a fortress in God. From that firm foundation, we become the living stones with which God builds a spiritual home for all God's people. Jesus promises to show us the way to God's house, where there is room for all – room to spare!

Thanksgiving for Baptism¹

Blessed be the + holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water,
 the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
 we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us
 in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden.

In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched,
 and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,
 you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side,
 and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.

Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

**To you be given honour and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

¹ From *All Creation Sings*, © 2020 Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN.

#866 Gathering Hymn *"Marching in the Light of God"*

1. We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God. *(repeat)*
We are marching, marching, we are marching oo.
We are marching in the light of God. *(repeat)*
2. We are praying...
3. We are singing...

p.175 **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.**

p.175 **Kyrie**

Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy on us; O Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy on us; O Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
O Lord, have mercy.

p.176 **Canticle of Praise "Gloria"**

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!
Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!
And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.
And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.

Prayer of the Day

Creator God, build us together into your household of love, that we may be your people and a strong community of faith. Establish us upon the foundation of Christ, who is our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

In today's reading from the book of Acts, we hear about Stephen, who was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word. Stephen does more than distribute

food, however. For his preaching of God's word, Stephen becomes the first martyr of the faith.

A reading from the Acts of the apostles', chapter 7:

But Stephen, enabled by the Holy Spirit, stared into heaven and saw God's majesty and Jesus standing at God's right side. Stephen exclaimed, "Look! I can see heaven on display and the Human One standing at God's right side!" At this, they shrieked and covered their ears. Together, they charged at him, threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses placed their coats in the care of a young man named Saul. As they battered him with stones, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, accept my life!" Falling to his knees, he shouted, "Lord, don't hold this sin against them!" Then he died. (CEB)

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

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 1st Peter, chapter 2:

Instead, like a newborn baby, desire the pure milk of the word. Nourished by it, you will grow into salvation, since you have tasted that God is good. Now you are coming to God as to a living stone. Even though this stone was rejected by humans, from God's perspective it is chosen, valuable. You yourselves are being built like living stones into a spiritual temple. You are being made into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Thus it is written in scripture, Look! I am laying a cornerstone in Zion, chosen, valuable. The person who believes in Jesus Christ will never be shamed. So God honors you who believe. For those who refuse to believe, though, the stone the builders tossed aside has become the capstone. This is a stone that makes people stumble and a rock that makes them fall. Because they refuse to believe in the word, they stumble. Indeed, this is the end to which they were appointed. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,

a people who are God's own possession. You have become this people so that you may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of darkness into God's amazing light. Once you weren't a people, but now you are God's people. Once you hadn't received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

p.179 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: John 14:1-14

In the gospel reading from John, we hear that 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, the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

"Don't be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. In God's house has room to spare. If that weren't the case, would I have told you that I'm going to prepare a place for you? When I go to prepare a place for you, I will return and take you to be with me so that where I am you will be too. You know the way to the place I'm going."

Thomas asked, "We don't know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to God except through me. If you have really known me, you will also know God. From now on you know him and have seen him."

Philip said, "Show us God; that will be enough for us."

Jesus replied, "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been with you all this time? Whoever has seen me has seen God. How can you say, 'Show us God'? Don't you believe that I am in God and God is in me? The words I have spoken to you I don't speak on my own. God who dwells in me does his works. Trust me when I say that I am in God and God is in me, or at least believe on account of the works themselves. I assure you that whoever believes in me will do the works that I do. They will do even greater works than these because I am going to God. I will do whatever

you ask for in my name, so that God can be glorified in me. When you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.

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

Sermon

#816 Hymn of the Day *“Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life”*

1. **Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife; such a life as killeth death.**
2. **Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length; such a strength as makes his guest.**
3. **Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a joy as none can move;
such a love as none can part; such a heart as joys in love.**

Affirmation of Faith²

**As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—
which some seek to control, and others view with despair—
we declare with joy and trust: our world belongs to God!
From the beginning, through all the crises of our times,
until God’s kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever.
Our world belongs to God! Let the earth be glad!
The Spirit is at work, renewing creation.
We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness,
and dedicate ourselves to holy living and loving.
As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience,
and set free for joyful praise,
we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in God’s world.
And we are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness
will fill the earth. Our world belongs to God.**

Prayers of Intercession³

² Adapted from *“Our World Belongs to God,”* articles 1, 2, 6. Posted on the [Calvin Institute for Christian Worship](http://www.calvin.edu/ChristianWorship/) website.

³ <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts>

Rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, O God; through Jesus Christ. Prayer petitions will end with "Merciful God" and the congregation responds by praying "receive our prayer."

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. We give you thanks for the tireless efforts of the Regina Lutheran Refugee Ministry in their settlement of the Fardous Ginawi family who will be arriving in Regina on May 7. 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.**

Creator God, as we prepare our hearts for Red Dress Day, the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People commemorated on May 5, we come to you with humility, courage, respect, and honesty as we seek to right the wrongs done to Indigenous women and girls, and to members of the 2-Spirit-plus community, the First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. Bring about a change in our collective hearts that transforms fear into hope, apathy into genuine concern, tragedy into a transformed society.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always! **And also with you!**

Offering and Offering Prayer

Holy Giver of all that is good, **receive these offerings from our hands.**
Use us as living stones, building your house in the hearts of your people.
Amen.

p.180 **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 a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,
 to give thanks to you for the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ,
 who in dying 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 your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

p.181 **Holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.**
Holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer E: The Season of Easter⁴

Holy, living, and loving God, we raise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending Jesus.

Holy are you, and holy is your son, Jesus Christ,

⁴ *With One Voice: Leaders Edition*, Eucharistic Prayer E – The Season of Easter, p.69 (adapted for inclusive language). © 1995 Augsburg Fortress Minneapolis.

who taught his disciples to listen for his voice and to follow him, even when all hope seemed lost.

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, Jesus took the cup,
 Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the covenant in my blood,
 Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in Christ.

Through him all honour is yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Communion Distribution

p.182 ***Lamb of God***

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

have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
 O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
 Grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

#483 Communion Hymn "Here is Bread"

1. Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.
 Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.

Refrain: In the bread there is healing, in this cup is life forever.
 In this moment by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.

2. Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
 Know His grace, find his peace, feast on Jesus here. *(Refrain)*
3. Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.
 We'll proclaim till he comes Jesus crucified. *(Refrain)*

Communion Blessing

Prayer after communion⁵

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.

#535 Sending Hymn "Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises"

Refrain:

Hallelujah! We sing your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness.
 Hallelujah! We sing your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness.

(repeat)

1. Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
 I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hunger. *(repeat)*

Refrain

2. Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,
 strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joyful gospel. *(repeat)*

Refrain

Announcements

⁵ <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts>

Blessing

As we have been strengthened,

We go forth to strengthen others.

As we have been blessed, we go forth to bless the world.

As we have been loved, we go forth to love with compassion and grace.

In the name of + God the Creator, Jesus our Healer,

and the Holy Spirit, our comforter. Amen.

Sending

Go in peace, filled with the joy of the risen Christ

to love and serve God through word and deed. **Thanks be to God!**