

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026

WELCOME

*A warm welcome to visitors who join us today to worship our Risen Lord!
We invite you to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave worship today.
Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.*

Children are always welcome at worship.

*If desired, there is an unstaffed nursery available for parents and their children
on the second floor in the education wing. Take the first left down the hallway, and
the nursery is the first door on your right.*

*Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices
for today's worship are available.
Please feel free to ask an usher if interested.*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST May 3 – May 10

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday	6:00 p.m.	Worship and Music
	7:00 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Property Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilters
Thursday	6:15 p.m.	Rose Ringers
	7:15 p.m.	Choir
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Please stand as you are able.

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

Amen.

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.

Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

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

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

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,

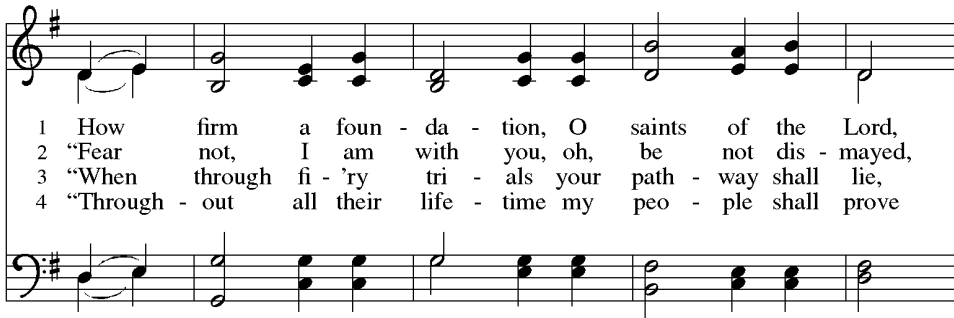
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,

now and forever. **Amen.**

How Firm a Foundation

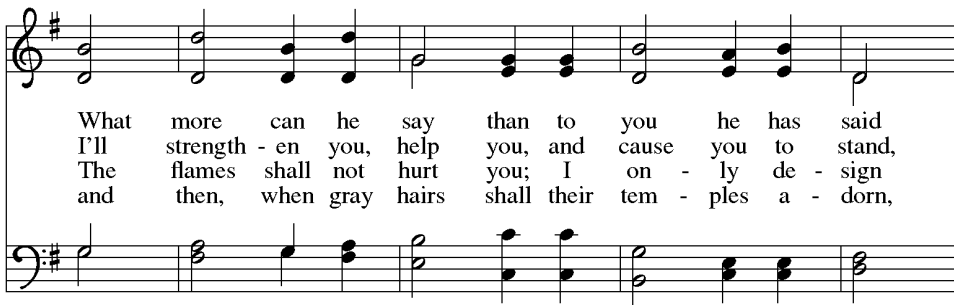
Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns* Music: FOUNDATION, Early American



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,




who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand?"
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE


Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and join in the hymn of



all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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. Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Acts 7:55-60

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

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

1 Peter 2:2-10

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.

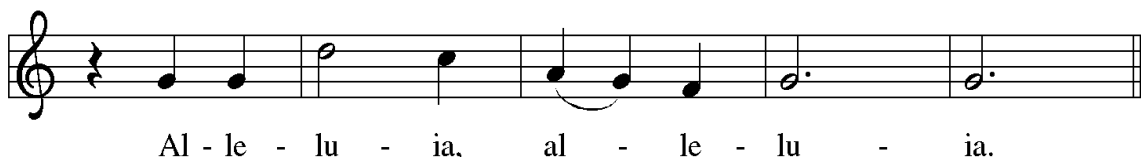
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

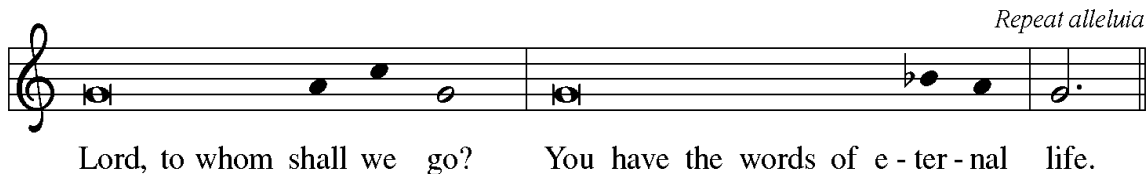


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia



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

GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 14th chapter. **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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

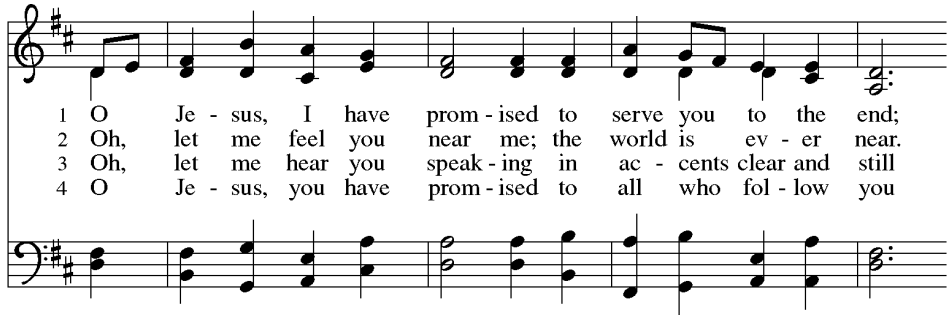
SERMON

Silence is kept to reflect upon God’s message to us.

Please stand as you are able.

O Jesus, I Have Promised

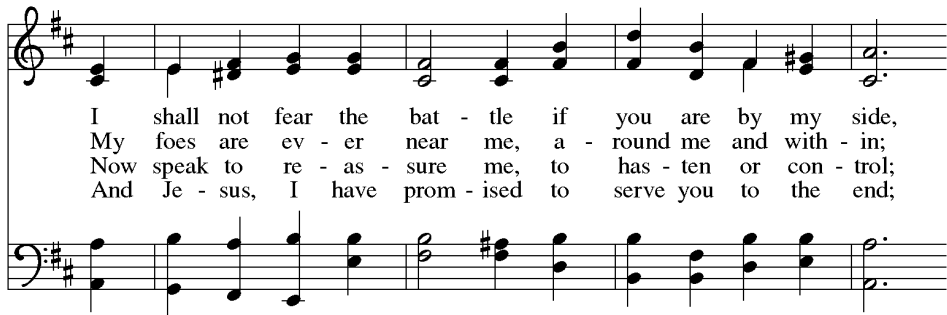
Text: John E. Bode Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen



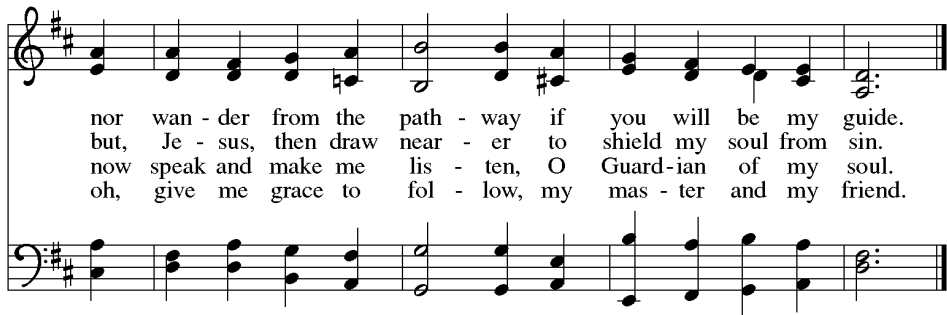
1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

NICENE 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

*We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and say, "Peace be with you."
The assembly is seated.*

MEAL

GATHERING OF GIFTS

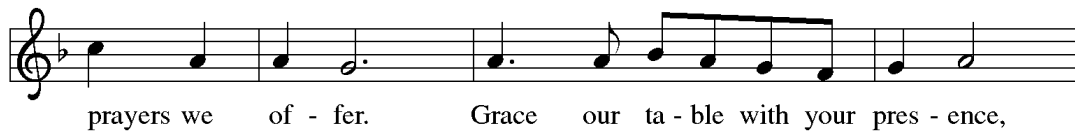
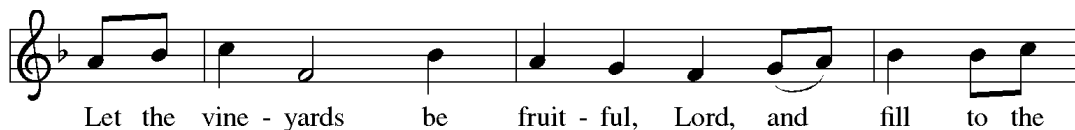
An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Online giving is available at felcc.org or by scanning this QR code.



ANTHEM

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

DIALOG

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.

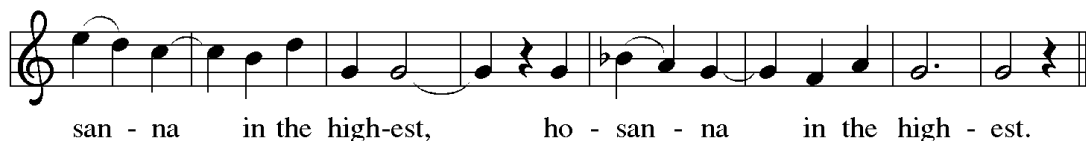
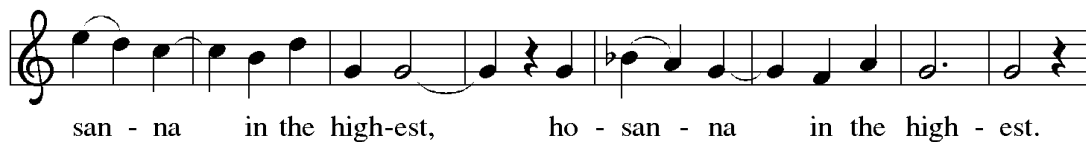
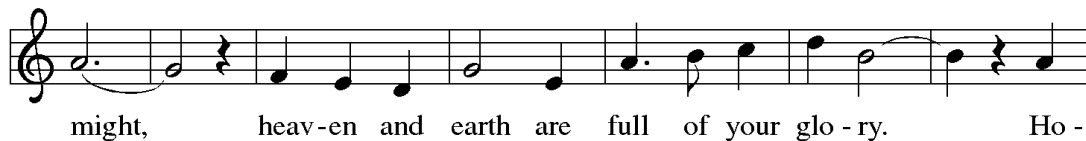
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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 earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy, living, and loving God,
we praise 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 your Son to be our Redeemer.

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.

Remembering therefore,
his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,
we await your promised life for all this dying world,

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 the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all honor and glory is yours,
almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All Christians who believe that Jesus is truly present in the bread (body of Christ) and in the wine (blood of Christ) are welcome at the Lord's Table.

To receive Holy Communion, please come down the center aisle, take a glass (the prefilled glasses contain grape juice), and gather at the altar.

Non-communing children and adults may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



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, grant us peace.

When We All Get to Heaven

Text: Eliza E. Hewitt Music: HEAVEN, Emily D. Wilson

1 Sing the won - drous love of Je - sus, sing his mer - cy
2 While we walk the pil - grim path - way, clouds will o - ver -
3 Let us then be true and faith - ful, trust - ing, serv - ing
4 On - ward to the prize be - fore us! Soon his beau - ty

and his grace: in the man - sions bright and bless - ed,
spread the sky; but when trav - 'ling days are o - ver,
ev - 'ry day; just one glimpse of him in glo - ry
we'll be - hold; soon the pearl - y gates will o - pen;

he'll pre - pare for us a place.
not a shad - ow, not a sigh. When we all get to
will the toils of life re - pay. When we all
we shall tread the streets of gold.
(1) for us a place.

Refrain

heav - en, what a day of re - joic - ing that will be! When we
what a day of re - joic - ing that will be!

all see Je - sus, we'll sing and shout the vic - to - ry.
When we all and shout the vic - to - ry.

Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep us in his grace! **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.

SENDING

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Gracious God, in this season of Easter, as we celebrate the resurrection of your Son, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick or homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament. Give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Text: Paul Z. Strodach Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesnge*, Kohn



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
set heart and will on things a - bove that we
and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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Thank you to Pastor Alan Wilson for officiating at our worship this morning.
We are thankful to have you with us.



The Altar Flowers are placed in memory of William A. and Nelle D. Nelling by the family.

Please remember in your prayers ...

Healing: Ed Grove (5/27), Bob Hockensmith (5/21), **Kimberly Long** (5/8), **Connie Wilkins** (5/13)

Continuing Prayers: Madeline Artman, **Joanne Caskey**, **June Diehl**, **Harold Forrester**, **Charles Kampmeyer**, **Dalton Paul**, **Julie Paul**

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold, **Hunter Boock**

ATTENDANCE April 26 57 in person 5 online

PASTORAL CARE: Pastor Nicholson will be returning to the office on Thursday, May 7. If you have any pastoral care needs while she is away, please contact Pastor Wilson at 717-658-2897.

UNDY SUNDAYS to support the Back to School Event begin in May. Please donate underwear for elementary age children. Size small, medium and large are needed for boys and girls. Boys underwear are briefs (no extended legs) and girls are regular, no low cut. Also, camisoles for girls are needed. Please put the items in the box outside the main office. Donations by cash or check can also be made using the envelopes provided or use your own. Please make checks out to First Lutheran with “Back to School” in the memo line. Thank you!!!



PENTECOST FLOWERS On Pentecost Sunday we will be decorating the worship space with red geraniums to celebrate this special day. We hope to fill the chancel with geraniums. Geraniums are \$7.00 each. Order forms are on the table outside the sanctuary by the elevator entrance. Order forms are due by Sunday, May 10.

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY Come and be a part of this small group as we study the Holy Scriptures together. We will read stories in Matthew and discuss them, intertwining God’s word and our daily life. Join us on Monday afternoons from June 1 through June 29 at 1 p.m. in Meeting Room #1. If you are only available to attend one or two sessions, that is fine. Join us for those. Sign-up sheet is by the main office door. Led by Pastor Nicholson.



BIRTHDAY BAGS for Little Daisy’s Closet are needed. The needs are: large birthday bags, plates, napkins, candles, balloons, small gifts, snack items, cakes, icings, and cake pans. Thank you for your contributions to make up the bags.

ST. SERAPHIM Soup Kitchen needs your help. Since they provide soup, hotdogs, sandwiches, crackers, drinks and a sweet bite for folks who need a meal on Thursdays and Saturdays, the Orthodox Church is asking for donations of canned soups. No tomato please. There is a bin in Memorial Hall for donations.



SCAN (Student Clothing Assistance Network) Working with the social workers of the school district, SCAN volunteers fill emergency requests for clothing and school supplies. When a request is received, it is assigned to volunteers to acquire the necessary items, either through purchase or donation. When requests are received the need is urgent. The children involved are in crisis situations—domestic upheaval, homelessness, unexpected relocations. Please contact Tim or Mary: 717-264-4759, 717-491-0611, tim@gotwald.org, mary@gotwald.org
Thank you for considering.



	<u>May 3</u>	<u>May 10</u>	<u>May 17</u>
Lector:	Ralph Burdick	Sally Herritt	Joyce Ray
Communion Assistants:	Donna Ross Mike Ross Karen Sloan		Donna Ross Mike Ross Karen Sloan
Greeters:	Joe Hunt Marsha Hunt	Joe Hunt Marsha Hunt	Joe Hunt Marsha Hunt
Altar Guild:	Barb Evans	Barb Evans	Barb Evans
Ushers:	Jim Brown Bill McCoy Carol McCoy Rick Gates	Jim Brown Bill McCoy Carol McCoy Rick Gates	Jim Brown Bill McCoy Carol McCoy Rick Gates