

May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Senior Citizen Sunday

THEME: Stories That Matter – You Know the Way

10:15 AM Worship

+ GATHERING +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE Amazing Grace - arr. Brickman

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Easter people, in the midst of our questions and doubts, Jesus answers:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of our worry and distress, Jesus assures us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of misinformation, confusion, and distrust, Jesus reminds us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of dead ends and impossible challenges, Jesus shows us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

At the beginning of life, when we are idealistic and as life comes to an end and our bodies and minds betray us, Jesus tells us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In all places, times and stages of life, God promises us presence in the person of Jesus.

Come, let us worship as we learn to follow Christ, our way, our truth, and our life.

Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN ELW 758 You Are the Way

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Even as we proclaim that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, we know there are times when we lose our way, when we make bad choices, when we do not do what God would have us do – let us come before a merciful God who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love as we confess.

Merciful God, we claim that you sent Jesus to us to take away the sin of the world and to say that we are part of that sin. Maybe our small errors add up; or maybe there is no degree to sin, that one is as hurtful as another. Help us not to dwell on vocabulary. Help us not to focus on what sin means but to acknowledge that we do things that hurt other people, and the creation, and ourselves, and you. Come into our hearts, then, and give us strength and courage to be less hurtful and more loving. These things we pray in the name of Jesus, who showed us how this is done. Amen.

Friends, hear the good news: Jesus came not to condemn us, but to love us and save us and show us the way. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAISE ELW 362 At the Lamb's High Feast



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!

3 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, your name we praise.
Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Ever-gracious, Way-Making God, we celebrate the gifts of your Spirit. You have not fed us a diet of shame or shrinking, but with the milk of your truth, you have made us strong and faithful servants of Christ. You call us to take up the mantle of justice and to follow wherever faith leads us. You fill us with strength and hope, and you invite us to share in the cost and joys of discipleship. You promise us splendor and beauty in this life and in the world to come. Meet us here, we pray, that your word will be fulfilled in our hearing and that your Spirit will fill us with courage. **Amen.**

+ WORD +

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING: I Peter 2:2-10

At the conclusion of the reading:
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious



from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!



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

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

At the beginning of the reading:
The holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the reading:
This is the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 816 Come, my way, my truth, my life

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 THE PEOPLE

Each prayer petition will end with the phrase:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

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.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING Old Time Religion in My Heart - arr. Lamb
Handbell Choir

OFFERTORY ELW 478 Father, We Thank You



1 Fa - ther, we thank you that you plant - ed your ho - ly name with -
in our hearts. Knowl - edge and faith and life im - mor - tal Je - sus your
Son to us im - parts. Lord, you have made all for your plea - sure,
and giv' n us food for all our days, giv - ing in Christ the
bread e - ter - nal; yours is the pow' r, yours be the praise.

OFFERING PRAYER

Way-Making God, your offer to us is not just to believe in heaven, but to live the kingdom life here and now. Through Jesus, you show us the way, the truth, and the life—calling us to deeper trust, wider welcome, and greater works of grace. As we bring our gifts, we step into that life, choosing generosity over fear and hope over judgment. Use these offerings, and use us, to make your dwelling places visible in our community, in our compassion, in our courage. We give, because we've heard your voice. In the name of Christ, we pray **Amen.**

THE 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 God thanks and praise.

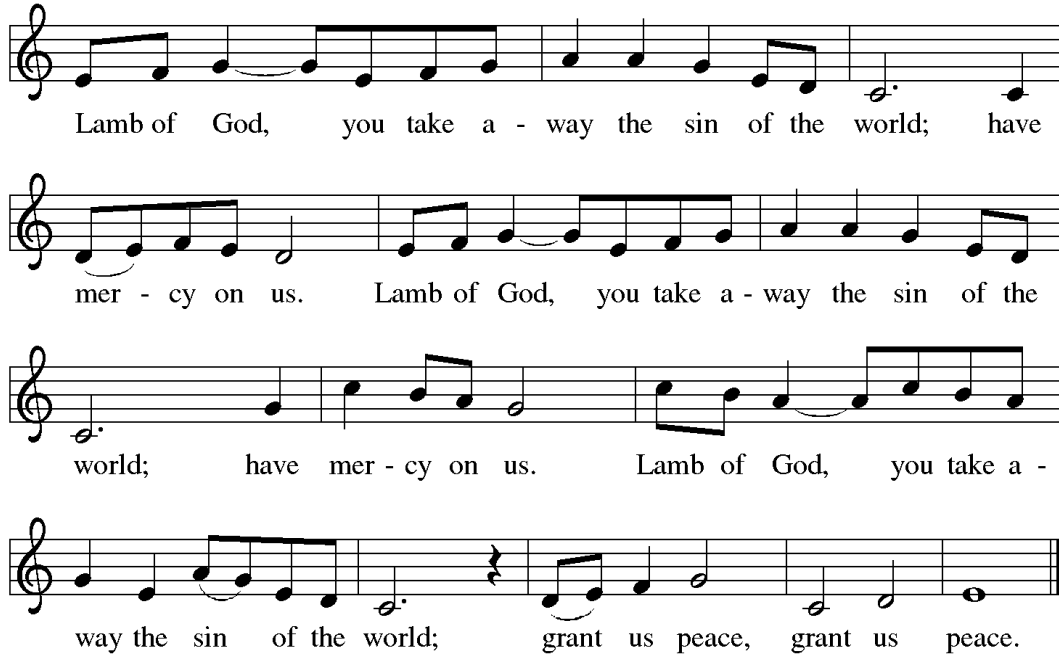
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF COMMUNION

Communion will be shared continuously. Please come forward down the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle. You will receive the bread from the pastor and then be invited to take a pre-filled cup from the tray held by the communion assistant. Wine is in the clear cups and grape juice is in the purple cups. Empty cups can be placed in the bowls at the end of the first pew as you return to your seat. All are welcome!

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION ELW 492 Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

+ SENDING +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

May God bless you
as you leave this place

to follow the Way,
to seek after the Truth,
and to rejoice in the Life of the Triune God
who draws us together
and sends us out to be agents of Resurrection life
in a hurting world.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 774 What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Praise! - Martin

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