

5th Sunday of Easter - Praise  
May 3, 2026 – 8:15 & 10:45 am

Accompanists

Praise Band

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*ELW= the red hymn book underneath your seat. Hymns are located in the back of the book.*

*† indicates stand as able*

***Prelude***

***Welcome***

***† Call to Worship: We Are Called***

We are called, we are claimed,  
we are loved, by the holy name.

We are healed, we are whole,  
the Savior ransomed our souls. We're singing,  
Glory Glory Glory Hallelujah Glory Gloria Oh  
Glory Glory Glory Hallelujah Glory Gloria!

We are here to proclaim,  
God is here, calls us each by name.

We are here to give praise,  
the Love of God will not change. We're singing,  
Glory Glory Glory Hallelujah Glory Gloria Oh  
Glory Glory Glory Hallelujah Glory Gloria!

***† Confession and Forgiveness***

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Merciful God, **Give us the willingness to be honest with ourselves, with one another, and with you about the ways in which we have caused harm in this world. Give us the openness**

to see where our actions or failures to act have led to pain in those closest to us and in those far away. Do not let us sink further into selfharm through self-blame and hatred, but give us the courage to set right our wrongs, and to return to you again and again for forgiveness.

The risen God has raised you to newness of life in Jesus' name. You are in Christ a new creation, and God forgives you every wrong. **Amen.**

**† *Song of Mercy***

Mercy, oh mercy, ever loving kindness  
that sees beyond our blindness.

Mercy, oh mercy,  
we're calling on you Lord  
for us to be restored.

Oh mercy.

**† *Gathering Song: One Love / Immortal, Invisible***

**ELW 834**

One love, one heart

Let's get together and feel alright

One love, one heart

Give thanks and praise to the Lord And I will feel alright

Let's get together and feel alright

Immortal, invisible, God only wise

In light inaccessible hid from our eyes

Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days

Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise

One love, one heart

Let's get together and feel alright

One love, one heart

Give thanks and praise to the Lord And I will feel alright

Let's get together and feel alright

Thou reignest in glory, Thou dwellest in light  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight  
All laud we would render, oh help us to see  
Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee

One love, one heart  
Let's get together and feel alright  
One love, one heart  
Give thanks and praise to the Lord And I will feel alright  
Let's get together and feel alright

## **Liturgy of the Word**

### ***† 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.**

### ***† Prayer of the Day***

God of all, You are present in all places and in all peoples, and the gospel story is spoken in every language. Open our hearts and minds to traditions different than our own, that we might learn from them, grow toward you, and become one unified Body of Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### ***READING: Acts 17: 16-31***

<sup>16</sup>While Paul was waiting for Silas and Timothy in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup>So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup>Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babblers want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) <sup>19</sup>So they took him and

brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup>It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.”

<sup>21</sup>Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup>Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.

<sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please remain seated for the gospel verse and reading.*

***Gospel Verse: Halle, Halle, Hallelujah***

**ELW 172**

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

***Gospel: John 1: 16-18***

The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st chapter.

**Glory, to you, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

***Children's Sermon***

**Maggie Evans**

***Sermon***

**Pastor Beth Wartick**

***† Hymn of the Day: Blessed Assurance***

**ELW 638**

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God,

born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

***Refrain:***

This is my story, this is my song,

praising my Savior, all the day long:

this is my story, this is my song,

praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,

visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*

### ***† Apostles' 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***

With renewed confidence in God's power and love, we pray for  
the church, the world, and all in need.

God, your servant, Paul, is a model for approaching others and

sharing the gospel in a spirit of generosity and openness. May we follow his lead and respectfully accompany those whom we serve. God of new life, **Hear our prayer.**

You are present and alive to us in the natural world and all that is in it. Make us to care for creation as for our own selves, with love and tenderness, that all living things might thrive together. God of new life, **Hear our prayer.**

As the Greeks listened to Paul with open curiosity, make our leaders to listen to the ideas of those different from themselves, that all might benefit from new ways of addressing challenges. God of new life, **Hear our prayer.**

We hold in our hearts today all those in our community and beyond who are dealing with challenges to their physical, emotional, and or spiritual health. Bring hope and healing to all in need, especially Mary Ann and Judy. God of new life, **Hear our prayer.**

We are a motley and diverse group, your saints. Thank you for making us different from one another, yet united in your love and redeemed by your salvation. God of new life, **Hear our prayer.**

Hear all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, and gather them into your loving arms, for the sake of our risen savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*† Peace*

### **Liturgy of the Meal**

*Offering: RLC Ministry relies on your generosity. You can make a gift in support of our ministry by placing it in the offering plates as they are passed, or by scanning the QR to give securely online. Thank you!*



## ***Offering Prayer***

Gracious God, you created all things, and out of your fulness, you have showered us with all that we need. Accept now these gifts, returned to you in joy and gratitude. Bless and use them for your holy work, that all the world might know your boundless love. **Amen.**

## ***† 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.**

## ***† Words of Institution***

## ***† 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***

*If you are communing from home, receive the bread with these words "The Body of Christ given for you" and the cup with "The blood of Christ shed for you."*

## ***Lamb of God***

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Grant us your peace. Grant us your peace.

**Communion Hymn: *I Love to Tell the Story***

***ELW 661***

I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else would do.

*Refrain:*

I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story:  
how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
the message of salvation  
from God's own holy word. *Refrain*

I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best

seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story  
that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

## Sending

### *Announcements*

#### *† Blessing*

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit † bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

#### *† Sending Song: Go Now*

Filled with the Holy Spirit

Go now with God, go now with God

Into the world as a servant

Go now with God, go now with God

Go now, go now, go now with God (2x)

Offering an hand to a stranger

Go now with God, go now with God

Trusting in the risen savior

Go now with God, go now with God

Go now, go now, go now with God (2x)

#### *† Dismissal*

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

### *Postlude*