

Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 3, 2026
10 a.m. *Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church*

Welcome Friends and Guests: As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

Serving this Sunday:

Worship – Pastor Lisa Rygiel, Beck McNeil & Jody Alford
Musicians – Connie Pallone & Mark Nelson
Ushers – T.M. Garner & Terri Watson
Communion – John & Lisa Rygiel



ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

Worship & Music: In boundless diversity, we all are made in God's image! If you are visiting or new to our faith family, please sign our guest book and feel free to learn more about us. *Come back and worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.*

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. We use both the cranberry Lutheran Book of Worship and the purple *All Creation Sings* hymnals as indicated in the bulletin.

Communion: We celebrate open communion. This is Christ's table, all are welcome. You may come forward for the sacraments or cross your arms across your chest for a blessing. Our bread is gluten free and both wine and white grape juice (center of communion tray) are available.

Other: Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall; our ushers can direct you.

Fellowship: Please join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation. All are welcome!

Zion's Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community.

~Gathering~

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

Gathering of Prayers & 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.

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.

Gathering Hymn: #422 (cranberry hymnal) For All the Saints vs 1,2, 6,7

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.**

Kyrie

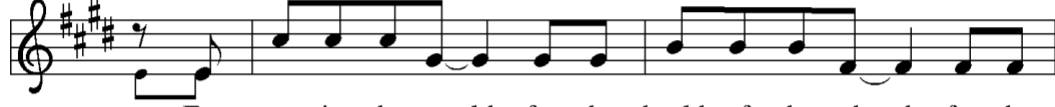
Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Canticle of Praise

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-ty is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



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

Refrain



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

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And, also with you.**

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.**

~Word~

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

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.**

Responsive Reading: 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. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 14:1-14

The holy gospel according to John chapter 14. **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. 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 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.”

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

Sermon: Pastor Lisa Rygiel

Hymn of the Day: #758 (cranberry hymnal) You Are the Way

The 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 the People

Inspire lay leaders, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Grow your Spirit's fruits within us and within our congregation's ministries especially as a Reconciling in Christ Community. 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 fire, 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 advocates for those who seek refuge, comfort, and assistance. 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 today we lift...Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. 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.**

Peace

The spirit-filled peace of Christ be with you always! **And also with you!**

We invite you to exchange signs of peace using these traditional words that have been spoken by Easter people throughout the centuries: *Christ is risen!*

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

~Meal~

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

An offering is gathered for missions of the church. You can give using check or cash (mail to 510 Pine Street), or online at:

https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741

Offertory: #367 (cranberry hymnal) Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds, vs. 2

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Great Prayer of 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 indeed right, our duty and our joy... join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, O God of the universe...as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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

God's love is wide. God's table is big. No one is excluded.

Taste and see that the Lord is Good.

Our bread is gluten free & both wine and white grape juice are available.

God comes to us in worship and song. God also comes to us in silence and stillness.

Please use the time before and after you commune for silent contemplation.

Communion Song: 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, Lamb of God.

Communion Hymn: #1085 (purple hymnal) Hope of the World

Communion Song: Thank the Lord & Sing His Praise (next page)

☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.

He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy

with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Communion Prayer

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

~Sending~

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

Announcements & Special Blessings

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.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: #389 (cranberry hymnal) Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

~Announcements~

- ✦ **Baptism:** God, who is rich in mercy and love gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of holy baptism, today we celebrate the baptism of Sophie Memory LaLonde Cole.
- ✦ **Fellowship:** Join us after worship Sunday for our First Sunday potluck. All are welcome.
- ✦ **Wednesday Book Club:** The Wednesday Book Club is focusing upon *What if Jesus was Serious – A Visual Guide to the Teachings of Jesus We Love to Ignore*. It meets at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. You can join at any time, so if you haven't been able to attend before now, why not consider doing so.
- ✦ **Children's Choir:** Choir practice is at 3 p.m. today in the Fellowship Hall.
- ✦ **5-Loaves Volunteers Needed:** Thank you to everyone who helped with 5-Loaves delivery this month. Our next deliveries will be Saturday, May 30.
- ✦ **God's Work Our Hands:** Terri Watson, our GWOH coordinator, is continuing to match people who can support members of Zion's who need of assistance – rides, errands, etc. Talk to Terri for details. Sign-up sheets also are in the Fellowship Hall.
- ✦ **Time of Prayer and Coffee:** We are invited to join our siblings in Christ from the Methodist church for a time of prayer and coffee at 10:30 a.m. each Thursday at Kangaroo Coffee -in the Marketplace on Commercial Street.
- ✦ **We're Here for You:** For pastoral care, call Zion's at 719-846-7785 or send an email: zionsluth@gmail.com
- ✦ **Zion's Camp Out:** Mark your calendars! We have reserved the group camping area at Trinidad Lake State Park May 31 (Sunday) through Wednesday June 3. Let Pr. Lisa know if you can help lead activities or help coordinate this adventure.

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Call to Worship and Benediction: by Dr. Lisa Hancock, *Discipleship Ministries, October 202 at 5* <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/stories-that-matter/week-4-fifth-sunday-of-easter-year-a/week-4-fifth-sunday-of-easter-year-a-liturgical-resources>. Used with permission.