Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry
Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 3, 2026

Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life

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INTRODUCTION

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 TODAY: *Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman**;** Choir Director: Christian Yoder; Accompanist: Donnalee Yoder; Asst/Lector: John Molinaro; Livestream: Doug Debrick; Greeter: JoAnn Ball; Ushers: Wanda Weinberg, Tim Prange; Time with Children: Jana Hovland; Acolyte: Eliza; Tray Server: Chad Kopenski*

WELCOME ***(PLEASE POWER OFF OR AIRPLANE MODE YOUR DEVICES)***

Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell and Fort Ancient cultures.

PRELUDE ***"Psalm 150" by Christian Yoder, CLC Choir***

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM
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.

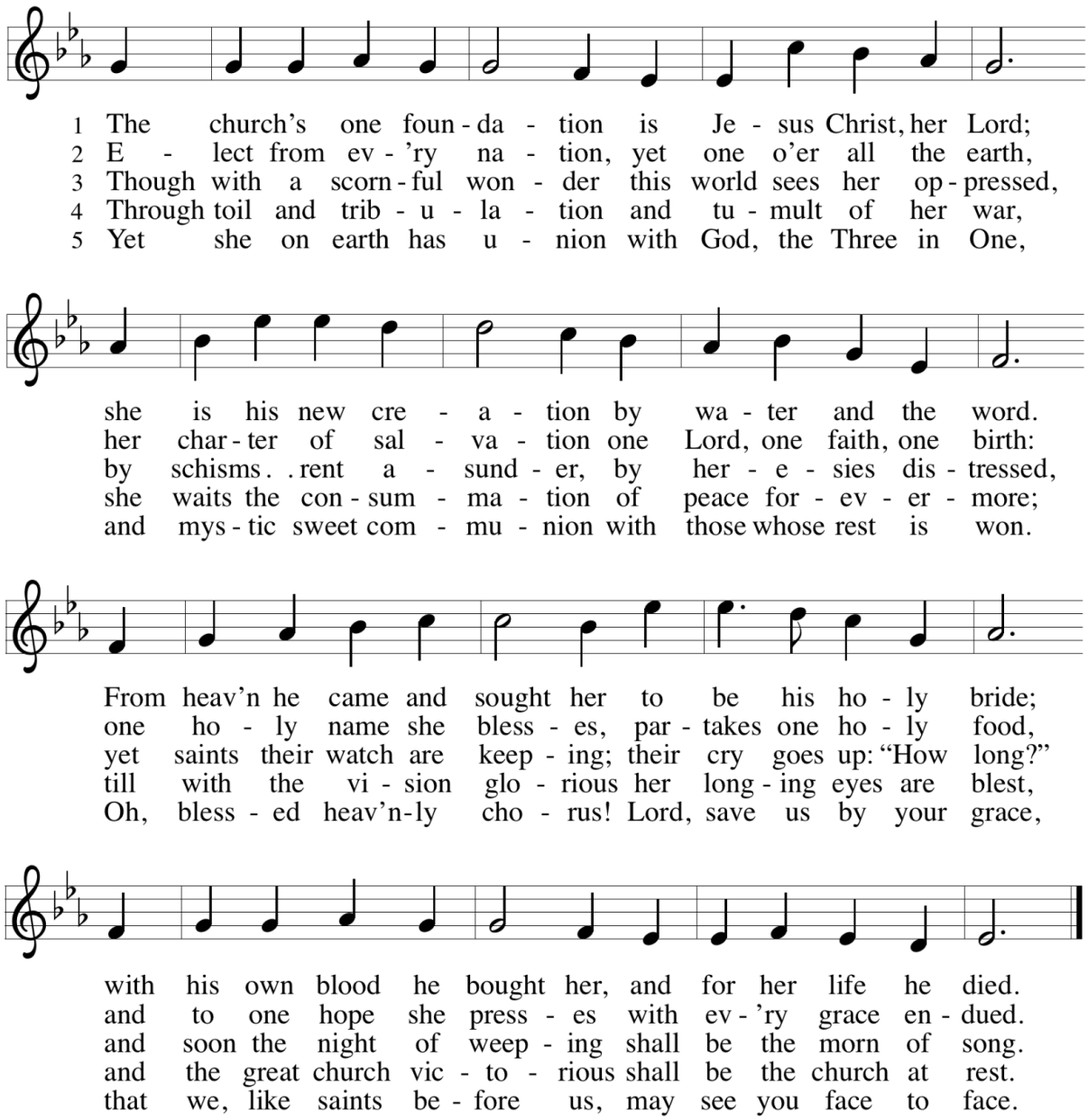
Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.
We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.
We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*).
Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of 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.

GATHERING SONG ***The Church's One Foundation*** **(ELW 654)**



Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

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 **All Glory Be To God On High (ELW 410)**

Text: Nikolaus Decius, 1485–1550; tr. composite
Music: ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH, plainsong; adapt. Nikolaus Decius
Text st. 1 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress; sts. 2–4 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

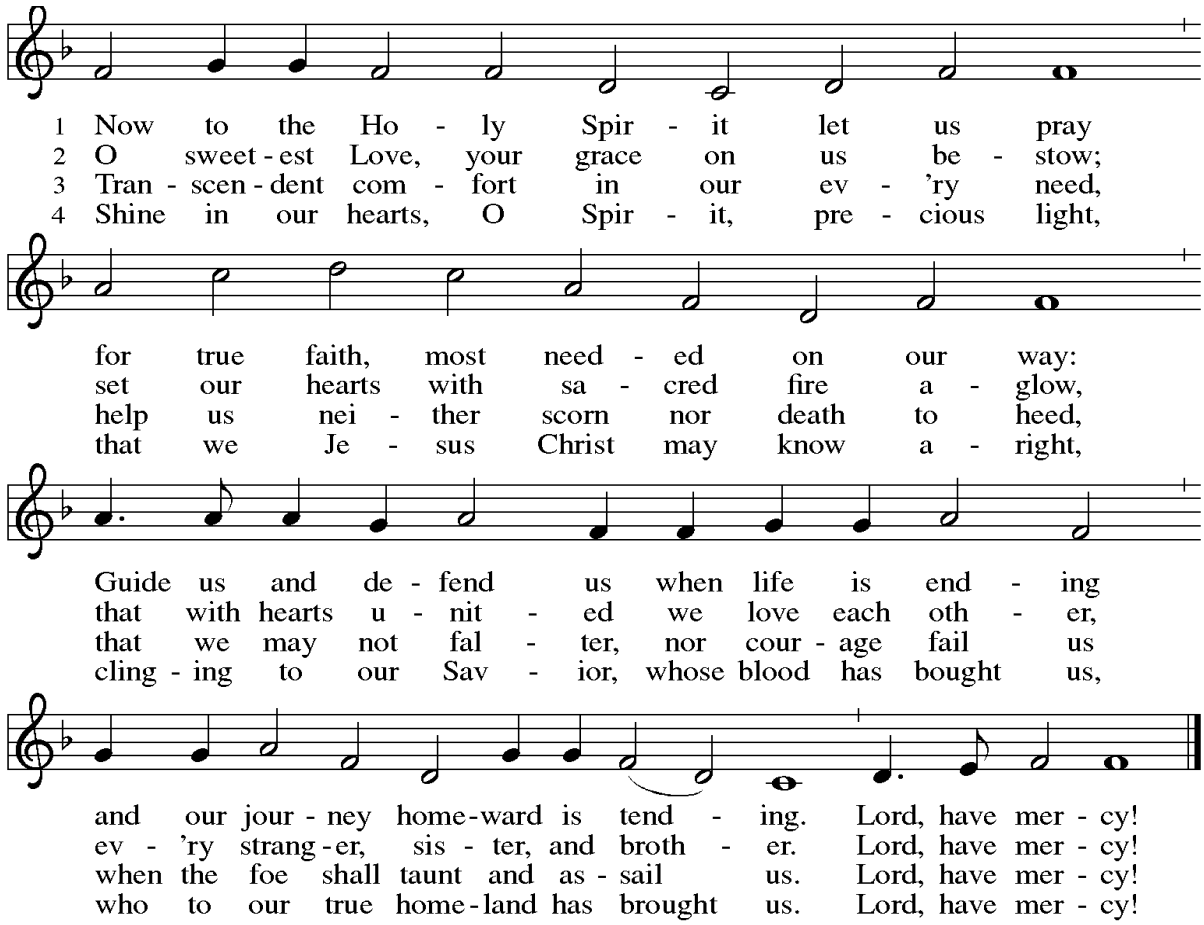
FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60
A reading from Acts.
55 Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus
standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of
Man standing at the right hand of God!" 57 But they covered their 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.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10
A reading from 1 Peter.
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.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

ACCLAMATION Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray (ELW 743)



Text: Medieval German *Leise*, st. 1; Martin Luther, 1483–1546, sts. 2–4; tr. composite
Music: NUN BITTEN WIR, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
Text sts. 1, 4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Text sts. 2, 3 © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

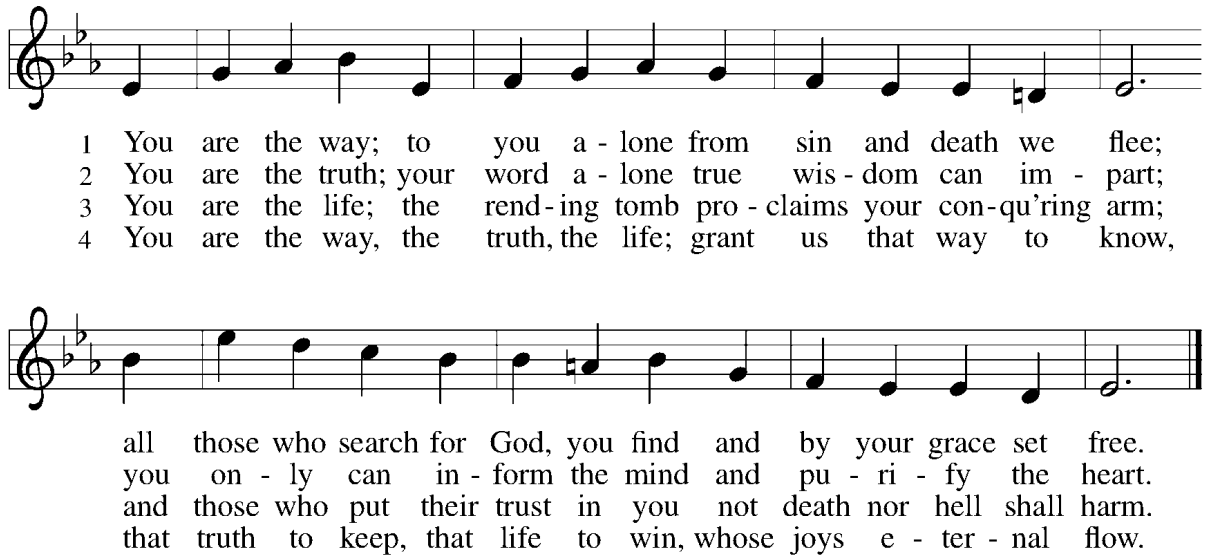
GOSPEL: John 14:1-14
The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.
[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. [2] In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare 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.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ***You Are the Way*** **(ELW 758)**



Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.
Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

Jesus our Cornerstone, we pray for the faith and courage to embody the words in 1st Peter: to be "like newborn infants, to long for the pure, spiritual milk, to grow into salvation, and to come to him, a living stone." Guide our hearts and minds to forgive others, love and serve as You did,

and boldly proclaim the Good News through our words and actions. Help us to love and respect all of humanity as we live our lives to be a reflection of You. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we praise you for forming us from the dust and giving us life each day. As the Earth awakens this spring, may we be mindful of the ways we waste our resources and destroy Your Creation. We marvel at the majesty, beauty, and complexity of everything you have made. Remind us that we do not own creation, but are here to care for it. Inspire us to be faithful stewards, preserving the gifts of nature so they'll flourish for future generations. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

Saving Lord, we pray your peace will spread throughout our broken world, so all people will put down their weapons and set aside their hatreds. Give wisdom to the world's leaders to seek compromise and reconciliation rather than torture, oppression, and war. Protect refugees, anyone living in violence, and military service people. Comfort their families who deal with worry and stress. Send us out to work for justice and peace for all people. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, we give thanks for our many blessings and talents, especially for Your love and grace living in us. May we be a blessing to others, use our gifts wisely, and share our bounty with those in need. Bless all pastors, bishops, and lay church leaders. We pray for those who are graduating that they may find meaningful work, successful futures, and have safe travels. We also rejoice with those who are celebrating special milestones, anniversaries, birthdays, and other happy occasions. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we pray, "Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me." Remind us that you are constantly with us, carrying our burdens. Restore to wholeness all those who are ill in mind, body, or spirit. Guide and bless the work of all medical professionals, researchers, and caregivers. Wrap our elderly loved ones and shut-ins with your warmth, strength, and grace. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

O Merciful God, you answer all our needs. Listen now as we offer other prayers, either silently or aloud……. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**
O Comforter, we pray for the dying and give thanks for the lives of those who have passed away. Console their family and friends who mourn, bringing them peace and hope in the days of grief ahead. Strengthen us all in the promise of eternal life. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

OFFERING – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.
Giving is easy online through our website at https://www.clcathens.org/give
There you will also find instructions on how to text to give or download our church app!

ANTHEM ***"This Church is Your Church" by Christian Yoder CLC Choir***

(Tune: "This and Is Your Land")

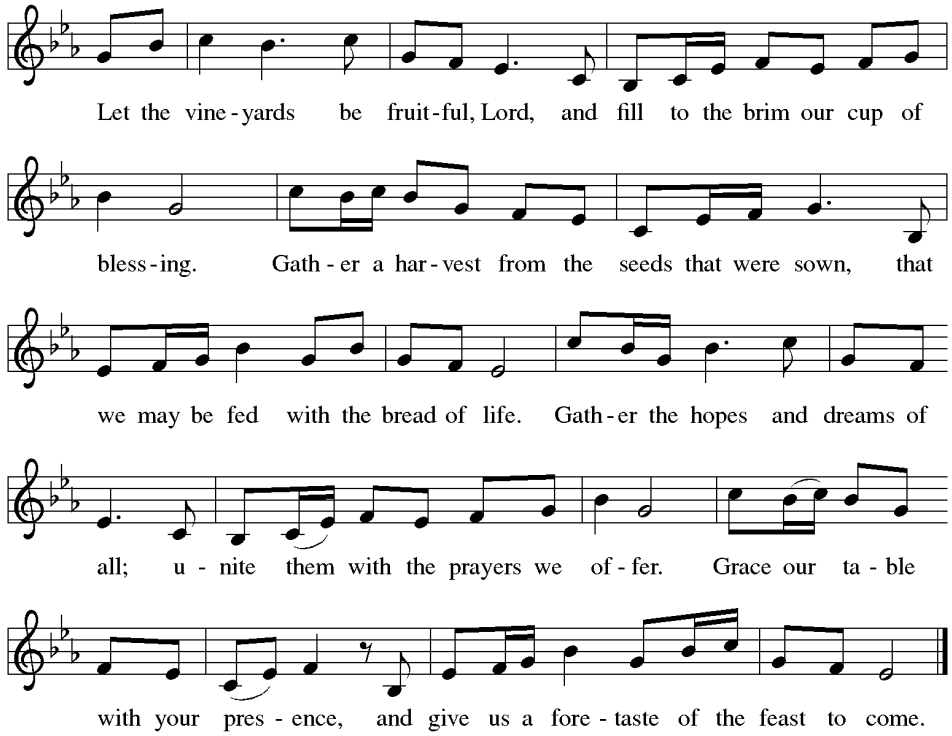
This Church is your Church, This Church is my Church, We come to worship with love immortal; We enter into a heavenly portal, When we commune with Bread and Wine.

We hail from Norway, Sweden and P. A., Ohio, Kansas, and Minnesota; We join a worthy and noble journey, To serve and help each living soul.

We care for orphans, we feed the hungry, We honor blessings sent down from heaven; We give to Missions and a Food Pantry, We hold the Hand of endless Love.

This Church is your Church, This Church is my Church, We come to worship with love immortal; We enter in to a heavenly portal, When we commune with Bread and Wine.

OFFERTORY ***Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful***



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

DIALOGUE
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
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.
Amen

LORD'S PRAYER
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
Come to the table of new life.
Receive the risen Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
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.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

SENDING SONG ***Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!*** **(ELW 377)**

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!