

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026 - 9:30 a.m.



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.

Pastor Christian McMullan
Daniel S. Bower, Music Director
Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

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WELCOME

Please stand

GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN

Come Now is the Time to Worship

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come

One day every tongue will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
who gladly choose You now

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives
Willingly our knees will bow
With all our heart, soul, mind and strength
We gladly choose you now.

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come

BAPTISM OF COLE EDWARDS BOWES (See Insert)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: 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

FIRST READING

Acts 7:55-60

A: A reading from the Book of Acts, the seventh chapter.

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.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SECOND READING

Psalm 31:1-5,15-16

A: A reading from Psalm 31.

A: ¹In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

C: ²**Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

A: ³Be 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.

C: ⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

A: ⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

C: ¹⁵**My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

A: ¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”


A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris-en Lord;



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his name.



Spread the good news o'er all the earth:



Je - sus has died and has ris - en.

GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

C: **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. 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN

Take My Life, That I May Be ELW 685



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

THE PRAYERS

P: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

P: ...Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please be seated

THE OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

In gratitude to God we give out of the abundance that God has given us.

Please stand

OFFERING PRAYER

P: 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,
C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving Noah and all creatures from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea to a land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for his death and resurrection that reconciled all things to you. Praise to you for your Holy Spirit poured out on all nations, inspiring us to love, live, and serve.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we
proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit, feed us with your life, fire us with your
love, confront us with your justice, and make us one in the body of Christ.

C: Amen.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

Please be seated

COMMUNION

This is God's table so all are welcome to join the feast.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

P: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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,

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

P: 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.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Holy is the Lord

We stand and lift up our hands. For the joy of the Lord is our strength
We bow down and worship Him now. How great how awesome is He

And together we sing. Ev'ryone sing

Holy is the Lord God Almighty. The earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord God Almighty. The earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory

It is rising up all around. It's the anthem of the Lord's renown
It's rising up all around. It's the anthem of the Lord's renown

And together we sing. Ev'ryone sing

Holy is the Lord God Almighty. The earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord God Almighty. The earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

St. Matthew's Staff

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