

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

10:30 am

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Growing a Christian community where each is valued, accepted, and loved.

106 Maple St., Reading, OH 45215 • 513-821-0987 • stpaulreading.org

Fifth Sunday of Easter: May 3, 2026

Prelude

Gathering

Please stand as you are able.

Easter Acclamation

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Please kneel or sit as you are able. Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: His mercy endures forever.

Entrance Hymn #747 (blue hymnal)

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

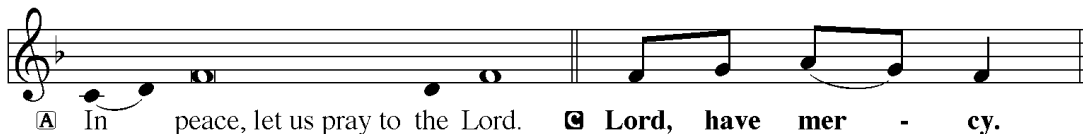
Greeting

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

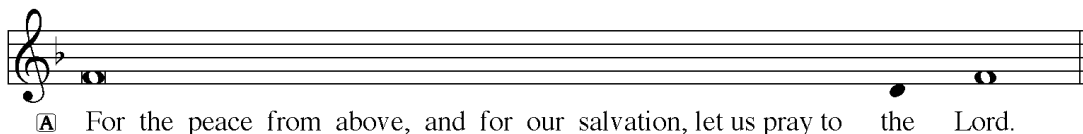
C: And also with you.

Kyrie


LBW Setting One



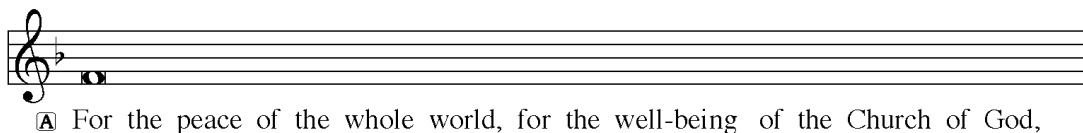
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



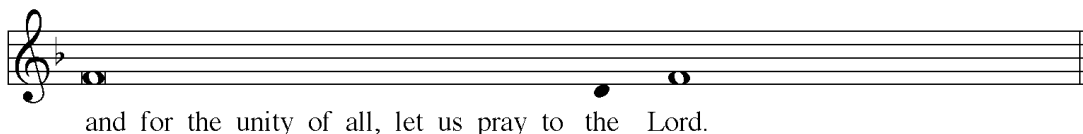
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



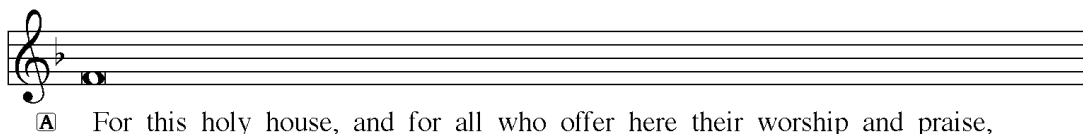
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **☐** Lord, have mer - cy.

☐ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **☐** A - men

Hymn of Praise

LBW Setting One

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **☐** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was

slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **☐** Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

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

☐ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

☐ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ For the Lamb who was

slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

☐ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Prayer of the Day



♩ The Lord be with you.

♩ And al - so with you.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

The Word

Blessing of the Lector

P: Christ is risen!

The word of God is living and active, sharper than a two-edged sword. Marie, as you read to us the scriptures, may they pierce our souls and judge the thoughts and the intentions of our hearts.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

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.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Special Music

“I Trust in God” (Ps. 31)

Stephen J. Pearson

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.

The word of the Lord.

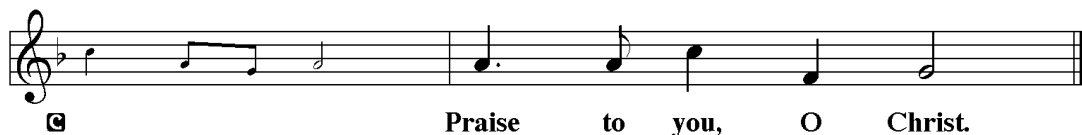
C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation: Hymn #671 (blue hymnal) vv. 3-4

“Alleluia, Alleluia”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Silence for reflection and meditation.

Hymn of the Day #464 (green hymnal)

“You Are the Way”

Please stand as you are able.

The Nicene Creed

A: Let us confess our common faith with all Christians throughout time and place, using the words of the 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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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 Intercession

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

After the last petition:

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Peace

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

C: And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Invitation to Offering

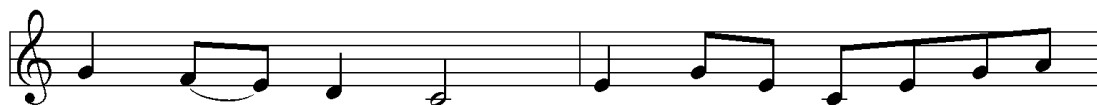
A: Now, “like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” by giving our offering. (*1 Peter 2:5*).

Offering

LBW Setting One



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our



cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the



seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the



prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: 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.


The Meal

Dialogue


LBW Setting One



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

LBW Setting One



♩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P: You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy

Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

© Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the
Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours, al -
might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

The Lord's Prayer

P: 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.

Invitation to Communion

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

Please be seated.

Agnus Dei

LBW Setting One

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.

Communion

P: The Body of Christ, broken for you.
The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

Those who wish to commune at the altar rail may either bring forward their individual Communion kit, or receive the wafer and wine/grape juice by intinction (dipping) from the Communion Ministers, when they are directed forward by the usher. Those who wish to commune in their seat with their individual Communion kit may remain seated. Children may come forward with their family for a blessing.

Communion Hymn: “Praise, Praise! You Are My Rock” vv. 1-5



- 1 Praise, praise! You are my rock. The wind, the waves are high. You hold me
- 2 Praise, praise! You are my rock. My des - ert sand is dry. You break the
- 3 Praise, praise! You are my rock. You calm the fear and pain. One word of
- 4 Praise, praise! You are my rock. You host the ta - ble set. We break the



when the waves are strong. You hold me lest I die, I die.
rock, a riv - er flows. You hear me when I cry, I cry.
faith and I am well, I rise to praise and walk a - gain.
bread, we drink the cup; we know whom we have met, have met.



Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.

- 5 Praise, praise! You are my rock.
The Easter grave is sealed;
you roll the stone—you, God, alone—
then sin and death are healed, are healed.
Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.
- 6 Praise, praise! You are my rock.
You stood high on a hill.
A holy cloud: you are on high.
Be still, my heart, be still, be still.
Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.

Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle

LBW Setting One



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



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice 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.

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

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.

Sending

Announcements for God's Mission in the World

Please stand as you are able.

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.

Closing Hymn #363 (green hymnal)

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

Easter Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in the peace of the risen Christ. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor

Kris Keith, Music Director

Kate Wollenburg, Organist

Chet Laine, Assisting Minister

Marie Calhoun, Reader

Carroll Mayhugh, Livestreamer

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 3: 5 Easter

9 am Adult Christian Education

10:30 am Worship Service

After worship: Evangelism Committee

Tuesday, May 5

11 am Bible Study: Travel the Bible

Sunday, May 10: 5 Easter

9 am Adult Christian Education

10 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

Tuesday, May 12

11 am Bible Study: Travel the Bible

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