

The Truth, the Way, and the Life

May 3, 2026



Fifth Sunday
of Easter

Welcome, guests! We're delighted that you could join us. If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. This folder contains all the information about our services, and the congregational responses are indicated by indented and bolded letters. Please also take a moment to fill out the guest register at the church's entrance; this is used only by the pastor and elder. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. May the Lord bless this service as Christ comes to you!

THE THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS: I am the way, the truth, and the life. Christ's message is so exclusive that it rejects all others. There is only one way to the Father, and that way is a *person*. He does not say, 'I show you the way,' like a second Moses, but I am the way. Nor 'I have the truth,' like another Elijah, but I am the truth. Not only 'I lead unto life,' as one of his apostles, but I am the life. The exclusivity of salvation resting in the person of Jesus Christ is a rock against which the unbelieving world crushes itself, but upon which God builds His Church.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT— CW, p.26

The "Service of Word and Sacrament" is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church.



OPENING HYMN:

#143

HE'S RISEN, HE'S RISEN

Please Stand for The Last Verse



1 He's ris - en, he's ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;
2 The foe was tri - um - phant when on Cal - va - ry
3 But short was their tri - umph; the Sav - ior a - rose,
4 Oh, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
5 Then sing your ho - san - nas and raise your glad voice;



He o - pened death's pris - on, the in - car - nate Word.
The Lord of cre - a - tion was nailed to the tree.
And death, hell, and Sa - tan he van - quished, his foes.
Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den's door.
Pro - claim the blest tid - ings that all may re - joice.



Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song
In Sa - tan's do - main did the hosts shout and jeer,
The con - quer - ing Lord lifts his ban - ner on high;
For all our trans - gres - sions his blood does a - tone;
Laud, hon - or, and praise to the Lamb that was slain,



And earth, sea, and moun - tain the prais - es pro - long.
For Je - sus was slain, whom the e - vil ones fear.
He lives, yes, he lives, and will nev - er - more die.
Re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are his own.
Who now sits in glo - ry and ev - er shall reign.

Text: C. F. W. Walther, 1811–87, abr.; tr. Anna M. Meyer, 1867–1941, alt.

Tune: WALTHER (11 11 11 11) C. F. W. Walther, 1811–87.

The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also, with you.

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

CONFESSION OF SINS

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

KYRIE

For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

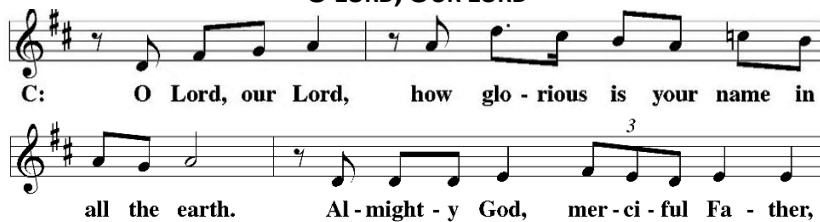


Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise. (*Psalms 145:3*)

O LORD, OUR LORD



you crown our life with your love. You take a-way our sin;
 you com-fort our spir-it; you make us pure and
 ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your on-ly Son,
 but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.
 O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word of the Fa-ther,
 you came to live with us; you made your Fa-ther known;
 you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
 King of glo-ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

FIRST LESSON:

ACTS 17:1 – 12

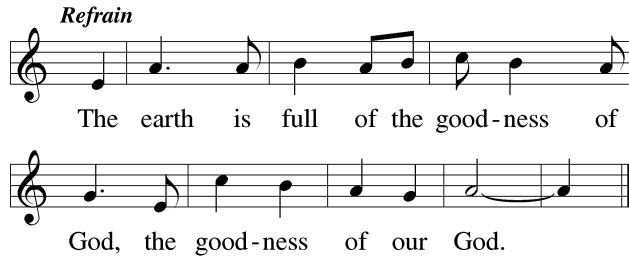
Paul said it was necessary for God to hide himself in suffering. All the popular conceptions of Messiah as earthly king were wrong. Not only did Messiah suffer and die, Messiah had to suffer and die!.

When Paul and Silas had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. As was his custom, Paul went to the Jews, and on three Sabbath days he led them in a discussion from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. He also said, "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ." Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great number of God-fearing Greeks and more than a few of the prominent women.

But the Jews became jealous and gathered from the marketplace some wicked men, who formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house and searched for Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the mob. When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, "These men, who have stirred up trouble all over the world, have come here too, and Jason has welcomed them as guests! They are all acting contrary to Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, Jesus!" The crowd and the city officials were stirred up when they heard these things. They took a security bond from Jason and the others and then let them go.

That same night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now the Bereans were more noble-minded than the Thessalonians. They received the word very eagerly and examined the Scriptures every day to see if these things were so. Many of them believed, along with more than a few prominent Greek women and men.

Refrain



The earth is full of the good-ness of
 God, the good-ness of our God.

Psalm tone



Refrain
 Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;^{*}
 it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
 For the Word of the LORD is right and true;^{*}
 he is faithful in all he does.
 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made,^{*}
 their starry host by the breath of his mouth.
 For he spoke, and it came to be;^{*}
 he commanded, and it stood firm.

Refrain
 The LORD foils the plans of the nations;^{*}
 he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.
 But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,^{*}
 the purposes of his heart through all generations.
 The LORD loves righteousness and justice;^{*}
 the earth is full of his unfailing love.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son^{*}
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,^{*}
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 PETER 2:4 – 10

The world looks at God hidden in Christ and sees either a loser or a joke (1 Corinthians 1). The Jews rejected him because of his humility. The world today rejects him because of his claims of being the one way, the one truth, the one life. This rejected stone, however, will ultimately be their downfall. For believers, though, this rejected stone is what saves and builds.

As you come to him, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious, you also, like living stones, are being built as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order

to bring spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it says in Scripture: See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who believes in him will certainly not be put to shame. Therefore, for you who believe, this is an honor. But for those who do not believe: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and, a stone over which they stumble and a rock over which they fall. Because they continue to disobey the word, they stumble over it. And that is the consequence appointed for them. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time, you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia. (John 14:6)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

****Please Stand****

GOSPEL

JOHN 14:1 – 12

Jesus bids farewell to his disciples on the night he was betrayed. He tries to set their hearts at rest and tells them to trust God and him regarding this departure. But the disciples' faith is clouded by doubt and false hopes. We are tempted to think there must be more than this humble man from Galilee. Look closer and see the hidden God.

“Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. You know where I am going, and you know the way.”

“Lord, we don’t know where you are going,” Thomas replied, “so how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me. If you know me, you would also know my Father. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

“Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that is enough for us.”

“Have I been with you so long,” Jesus answered, “and you still do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I am telling you I am not speaking on my own, but the Father who remains in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. Or else believe because of the works themselves.

“Amen, Amen, I tell you: The one who believes in me will do the works that I am doing. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.



HYMN OF THE DAY:

#528

CHRIST IS OUR CORNERSTONE



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone; On him a - lone we
 2 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall
 3 Here, gra - cious God, do now And ev - er - more draw
 4 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im -



build. With his true saints a - lone The courts of
 ring! Our voic - es we will raise The Three in
 near; Ac - cept each faith - ful vow And all your
 plore, And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us



heav'n are filled. On his great love Our hopes we
 One to sing And thus pro - claim In joy - ful
 chil - dren hear, And more and more On those who
 ev - er - more Un - til that day When all the

Let us lift our eyes heavenward to see Him who lives to intercede for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of His power. Keep before us the vision of Your redeemed people standing before Your throne and singing the song of victory:

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

Make us instruments of your peace as we share the good news of hope and new life with those around us. Guide us in utilizing all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

Risen Lord, live in us so that we may live for you.

Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick and strengthen the faith of those who are suffering and the dying. Assure them of Your abiding presence and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special Prayers and Intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

THE 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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#391

GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO THAT HE GAVE



1 God loved the world so that he gave His on - ly
2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die— His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives the
5 When you are sick, when death draws near, This truth your



Son the lost to save That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in
sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the
sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus saves my



him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 Word does teach How we the bless - ed goal may reach.
 Je - sus' blood; Bap - tized, you are a child of God.
 soul from death— This is the an - chor of my faith!

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 To you, O blessed Trinity,
 Be praise now and eternally!

Text: *Heiliges Lippen . . . Gesangbuch*, Stettin, c. 1778; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
 Tune: ST. CRISPIN (LM) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

****Please Stand****

THE SACRAMENT



C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

Lift up your hearts.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past, he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

SANCTUS



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -
 va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
 The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

C: A - men.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

AGNUS DEI

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; grant us your peace. A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul’s guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: “For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord’s body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” Therefore, if you are not a

member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.

****Please Stand****

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news 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!

CLOSING PRAYER

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

CLOSING HYMN:

#332

Go, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING



1 Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing,
 2 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en,
 3 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished,
 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you



Nev - er a - lone. Wak - ing, sleep - ing,
 At peace and pure. Here you learned how
 Clos - er to me; Grow in love and
 And give you peace; I the Lord will



I am with you; You are my own.
 much I love you, What I can cure.
 love by serv - ing, Joy - ful and free.
 smile up - on you And give you peace;



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; Here you
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here his
 I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior,



made you mine for - ev - er. Go, my chil - dren,
 touched him, saw his glo - ry. Go, my chil - dren,
 ten - der com - fort stilled you. Go, my chil - dren,
 Com - fort - er, and Broth - er. Go, my chil - dren;



with my bless - ing— You are my own.
 sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
 fed and nour - ished, Joy - ful and free.
 I will keep you And give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008. © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: AR HYD Y NOS (84 84 88 84) Welsh melody, 18th century.

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God, the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, assuming His human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work, receive the benefit of it. Those who reject God's love remain condemned in their sins for eternity.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return, all believers will be with Him in heaven, all unbelievers will be condemned to eternal torment, and this present world will be destroyed.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

May Calendars: The new monthly calendars are available in the entryway.

Annual Voters Meeting: The voters' meeting will be held today immediately following the services. Please contact the council members if you have any concerns.

Bible Information Class: We will begin a new class on Thursday, May 7, at 6 pm. Gene will be hosting this at his home. All are welcome to attend; you can also tune in on Zoom at the link posted for the midweek Bible Study.

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Please consider our Sunday morning adult Bible Study as we consider Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus.

Midweek Bible Study: Our Tuesday Evening Bible Study will resume on May 5 at 6 pm at Pastor Emmons' home, located at 4927 SW Yew Pl, or you can join us on Zoom. We will finish our study of the book of Daniel. Then we will be turning our focus on Isaiah.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057

Password: GraceOT

Vicar Call Day: The Bethany Lutheran College Chapel will stream the live feed for the candidate, and vicar calls will be at 2 pm (PDT) on May 6. The link to the website is: <https://chapel.blc.edu>

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