

Contemporary Worship

May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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 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.

GATHERING MUSIC

In Christ Alone – Getty/Townend

*In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on the cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world, by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny!
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand!*

WELCOME

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

Assembly: **And also with you.**

SONG *

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

Lord, I lift Your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I'm so glad You're in my life;
I'm so glad You came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way;
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift Your name on high.

*"Lord, I Lift Your Name On High" words and music by Rick Founds
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HOLY GOSPEL *

John 14:1-14 (*The Message*)

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

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

Assembly: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Road

14¹⁻⁴ "Don't let this rattle (throw) you. You trust God, don't you? Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my Father's home. If that weren't so, would I have told you that I'm on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I'm on my way to get your room ready, I'll come back and get you so you can live where I live. And you already know the road I'm taking."

⁵ Thomas said, "Master, we have no idea where you're going. How do you expect us to know the road?"

⁶⁻⁷ Jesus said, "I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him. You've even seen him!"

⁸ Philip said, "Master, show us the Father; then we'll be content."

9-10 “You’ve been with me all this time, Philip, and you still don’t understand? To see me is to see the Father. So how can you ask, ‘Where is the Father?’ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you aren’t mere words. I don’t just make them up on my own. The Father who resides in me crafts each word into a divine act.

11-14 “Believe me: I am in my Father and my Father is in me. If you can’t believe that, believe what you see—these works. The person who trusts me will not only do what I’m doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I’ve been doing. You can count on it. From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I’ll do it. That’s how the Father will be seen for who he is in the Son. I mean it. Whatever you request in this way, I’ll do.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG & PRAYERS *

I Am the Way: Follow Me

*The Praise Team sings the refrain and then all join in singing the refrain.
The prayer petitions are offered and all join in singing the refrain as indicated.*

The image shows three staves of musical notation in a single system, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: 'I am the Way:' followed by 'fol - low me.' The second staff has two measures: 'I am the Truth:' followed by 'be - lieve in me.' The third staff has four measures: 'I am the Life:' followed by 'dwell in me, al - le - lu - ia.' The final note of the third staff is a double bar line.

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Risen Christ, you are the way, the truth, and the life.
Guide your church to trust you fully and to follow where you lead.
Build us into communities of courage, hope, and love...*Refrain*

You promise a place for us and call us beyond fear.
Be near to all whose hearts are troubled—
those who are anxious, grieving, or uncertain.
Give them your peace...*Refrain*

You reveal the Father's love to the world.
Strengthen leaders and all who serve the common good,
that their work may reflect truth, justice, and compassion...*Refrain*

You send us to do your works in the world.
Open our eyes to neighbors in need
and make us bold in acts of mercy and care...*Refrain*

You prepare a place for all your people.
Hold in your promise those who have died
and comfort those who mourn, trusting in your life that never ends...*Refrain*

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

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: **And also with you!**

*The assembly greets each other with
"peace be with you...and also with you."*

*You're invited to share God's peace with those around you.
If you're worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.*

OFFERING

The Way – Bashta/Smith/Barrett

As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates are available at each entrance to the sanctuary and the QR code below can be used to give our tithes and offering.



*Through every battle, through every heartbreak,
Through every circumstance, I believe that You are my fortress.
Oh, You are my portion. You are my hiding place.*

*Oh, I believe You are the Way, the Truth, the Life.
I believe You are the Way, the Truth, the Life.
I believe.*

*Through every blessing, through every promise.
Through every breath I take, I believe that You are provider.
You are protector. You are the One I love.*

CONFESSION *

Leader: Merciful God,
our hearts are often troubled.

Assembly: **We lose our way and forget your truth.
We struggle to trust your promises and to follow the life you give.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us back to you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

*Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available
in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.*

*You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets
at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of
the cups and packaging after the service.*

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

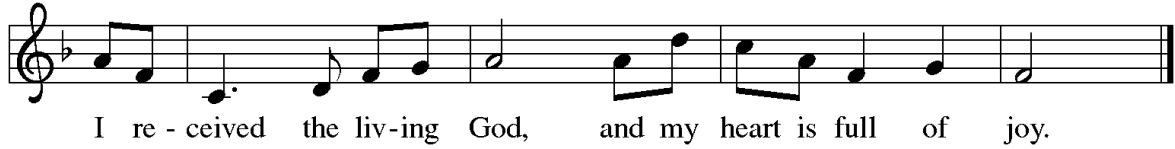
Pastor: Come to the table of new life.
 Receive the risen Lord.

As you are served communion:

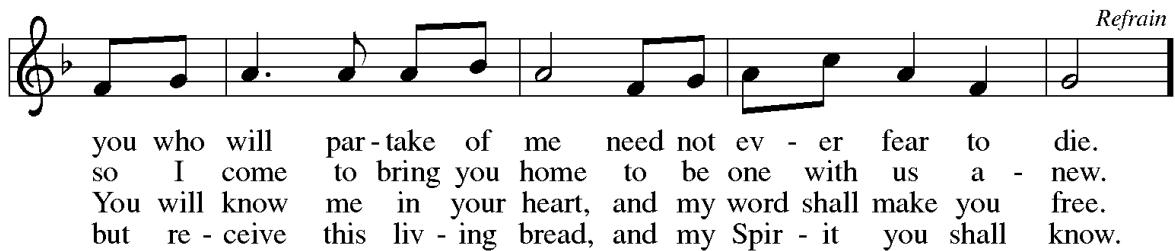
Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
 The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

I Received the Living God



- 1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
- 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
- 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
- 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



Text: Anonymous
Music: LIVING GOD, Anonymous

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Leader: The body and blood of the risen Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace,
now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: The God of all mercy,
who has brought us to new birth through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
✠ bless you and keep you in the way of Christ,
the truth that sets you free,
and the life that never ends.

Assembly: Amen.

SONG *

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Music: Traditional Caribbean

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DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.

Serve the Lord who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor

Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor

Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family

Lisa Parrott, Director of Sunday School

Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music - Praise Team

FLOWER DEDICATION:

*The altar flowers are given in honor of the baptism of Beckett Andrew Kovac
by David and Ashley and big brother Callum Kovac.*

*The organ flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles Louis Gall
by his mother, Ella Gall, and his sister and brother-in-law,
Lyn and Clarence Reed, and family.*

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