

Traditional 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

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Voluntary in C Major – Henry Heron

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL *

As the bell is rung the assembly stands for the Opening Hymn.

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

OPENING HYMN #389 – Verses 1-3 *

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who comforts troubled hearts,
who prepares a place for us,
and whose mercy endures forever.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Merciful God,
you invite us to trust in you
and not let our hearts be troubled.

**Assembly: Yet we confess that we live in fear and uncertainty.
We doubt your promises and look for other ways apart from Christ.
We fail to trust that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.
We do not always reflect your love or do the works you call us to do.
Forgive us, O God.
Strengthen our faith, draw us back to Christ,
and lead us to follow in his way,
that we may know your truth and share your life with the world;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

Leader: Hear the good news:
Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled."
He is the way, the truth, and the life,
and he brings us to the Father.
In ☩ Christ, our sins are forgiven,
and we are given a place in God's dwelling forever.

Assembly: Amen.

OPENING HYMN #389 – Verses 4-5 *

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

HOLY BAPTISM (11:10)

Beckett Andrew Kovac

Parents: David & Ashley Kovac

Sponsors: Andrew Burger & Gabriella Marino

Pastor: Today we receive Beckett Andrew Kovac into God's family through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

David and Ashley, our scriptures tell us that after his birth, Mary and Joseph went to the temple to present to God their dearest treasure, Jesus.

Today you offer your son, Beckett, to God and ask that he be received into this family of Christ to inherit the great blessings and promises of abundant life.

On this day we gather to make promises to one another in God's presence. God will first be known to Beckett by the Christ seen in your home.

And so, I ask you as sponsors, Andrew and Gabriella, and you as his parents, David and Ashley, will you teach Beckett by word and deed the way of Christ and the word of God?

Will you share with him the Church's life, worship, instruction in the Christian faith, and Holy Communion so that he may grow to be a faithful child of God?

If so, answer, "we promise."

Parents & Sponsors: We promise.

Pastor: Let us join our hearts in prayer:

O God the giver of all new life,
look with kindness upon the family of Beckett.
Let them ever rejoice in the gifts you have given them.
Enable them to keep the promises they have made this day,
and strengthen them in their own baptisms
so that they may share in the gift of life you have given to him.
Creator God, bless all our children that they may grow in faith
and may shine with the light of your love.

Assembly: Amen.

Pastor: We live in a world that is broken in sin,
even as we hope for the world that is to come.
The powers of evil are no strangers to us here.
We renounce them and turn our faces to the light.
Now I ask you, family and sponsors,
do you renounce the forces of evil?
If so, please answer, "we renounce them."

Parents & Sponsors: We renounce them.

Pastor: Will you open Beckett's eyes
that he may understand the difference between hate,
division, destruction, and the light of God's love,
unity, and peace?
If so, answer, "we will."

Parents & Sponsors: We will.

Pastor: God is love and in God there is no darkness at all.
We have been made God's people through our baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope,
we confess our faith as a congregation
using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**Assembly: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Water is placed on the head of those being baptized.

Pastor: Beckett Andrew Kovac, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
in the name of the Son, and in the name of the Holy Spirit.

The sign of the cross is made on the forehead of the newly baptized.

Pastor: Beckett, you are a child of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit
and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

A baptismal candle is lighted from the Paschal Candle

Deacon: Beckett, let your light so shine before others
that they may see the blessings you have in life
and give glory to God.

Pastor: Through baptism God has made Beckett a member of the priesthood
we all share in Christ Jesus,
that we may proclaim the wonders of God
and bring a creative and redeeming word to all the World.
Let us join together in welcoming Beckett.

**Assembly: We welcome you into the Lord's family,
we receive you as a member of the body of Christ,
child of the same heavenly Father,
and worker with us in the Kingdom of God.**

BAPTISMAL HYMN #595 – Verse 1

Jesus Loves Me!

Verse 1: Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Acts 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

I Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #758 *

You Are the Way

NICENE CREED (8:00) *

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in “Merciful God,”

Assembly: receive our prayer.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with “Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.”

Assembly: Amen.

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.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

In Christ’s body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

OFFERING

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 will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.

Gifts can also be given electronically using this QR Code.



8:00 – *In Bright Mansions Above* – arr. K. Lee Scott

In bright mansions above...Lord, I want to live up yonder in bright mansions above.

My mother’s gone to Glory; I want to go there, too.

My father’s gone to Glory...

11:10 – *The Call* – Z. Randall Stroope

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife: Such a Life, as killeth death.*

*Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length: Such a Strength, as makes his guest.*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part: Such a Heart, as joys in love.*

*Come, my joy, my Love, my Heart:
Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life.*

*Come, come my Joy. Come, come my Love.
Come, come my Way, my truth, my Life.*

- George Herbert, 1593-1633

OFFERTORY *

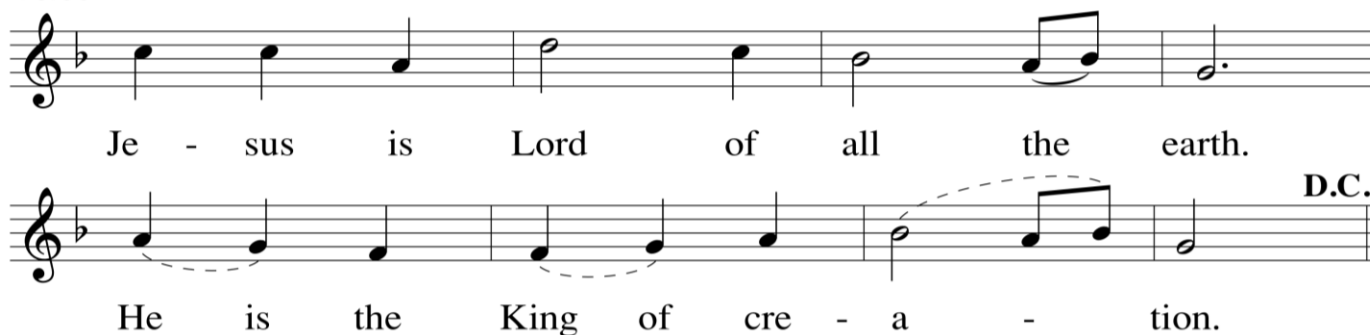
Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord

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.

Verse



Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of cre - a - tion. **D.C.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING *

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

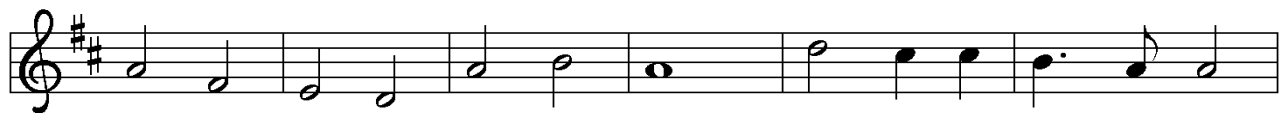
Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
who comforts our troubled hearts
and leads us into the place he prepares for us.
He is the way, the truth, and the life, who brings us to you
and reveals your presence among us.
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:



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



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

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.

Music at Distribution:

8:00 – Organ – *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life* – R. V. Williams – arr. W. Pelz
Based on Hymn #816

11:10 – Solo – *In Bright Mansions Above* – arr. K. Lee Scott
See 8:00 offering for text.

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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

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.**

SENDING HYMN #449 *

We Know That Christ Is Raised

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.
Serve the Lord who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *

We Know That Christ Is Raised – arr. Robert Powell

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Brian Timm, Lector & Communion Assistant 8:00
Karl Petzinger, Lector & Communion Assistant 11:10
Pris Petzinger, Communion Assistant 11:10
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Samuel Owens, Cantor
Jane McFadden, Chancel Choir Accompanist

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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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