

HOLY COMMUNION
MAY 7, 2023
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Psalm 122:1)

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

*During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship: read the introduction, peruse the bulletin, find the scripture readings in the pew Bible, and focus your thoughts on the Lord. You may pray: **Merciful God, we come to Your table trusting not in our own righteousness, but in Your abundant mercy. Grant us so to eat and drink the body and blood of Your dear Son, that we may live in Him and He in us, now and forever. Amen.***

CHILDREN

We welcome children of all ages. The Children's Library is available if a child needs a break during the service.

INTRODUCTION

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 1st 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.

WELCOME AND MEDITATION

(Please rise.)

GATHERING SONG "You Are the Way" (ELW # 758)

1 You are the way; through you a - lone can we the Fa - ther find;
 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,
 in you, O Christ, has God re - vealed his heart, his will, his mind!
 you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
 and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
 that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt. Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*; Edinburgh, 1615

INVOCATION *(= All may make the sign of the cross.)*

P: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whose Spirit we have been reborn to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

C: AMEN.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come before God Who calls us to repentance.

(Please kneel. Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: God of life, **C: in raising Jesus from the tomb, You make everything new. We confess our failure to live the good news of the resurrection. Our hearts are slow to believe Your promises. We shut our doors in fear. We resist the Holy Spirit. Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear the new life You have given us in Jesus Christ. AMEN.**

P: People of God: Christ is alive. Sin and death have lost their power. Through the waters of baptism you have been born anew by the living word of God. Know that your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you both now and forever.

C: AMEN.

GREETING *(Please rise.)*

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.

WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME

With one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
"Let all the peoples praise him." (Romans 15:6,11)

HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the Feast" (ELW p140)

Refrain



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



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



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

☐ *Refrain*




☐ Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and



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

☐ *Refrain*



☐ I 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.

☐ *Refrain*



☐ For the Lamb who was



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

Final refrain



☐ 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

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray together: **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.**

RESPONSIVE READINGPsalm 31:1-5, 15-16

(congregation reads indented)

In You, O LORD, I have taken refuge;

let me never be put to shame;

deliver me in Your righteousness.

Turn Your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue;

be my rock of refuge,

a strong fortress to save me.

Since You are my rock and my fortress,

for the sake of Your name lead and guide me.

Free me from the trap that is set for me,

for You are my refuge.

Into Your hands I commit my spirit;

redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.

My times are in Your hands; deliver me from my enemies

and from those who pursue me.

Let Your face shine on Your servant;

save me in Your unfailing love.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

For everything was written to teach us, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

(Please sit.)

FIRST READINGActs 7:51-8:4.....Pg. 1704

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

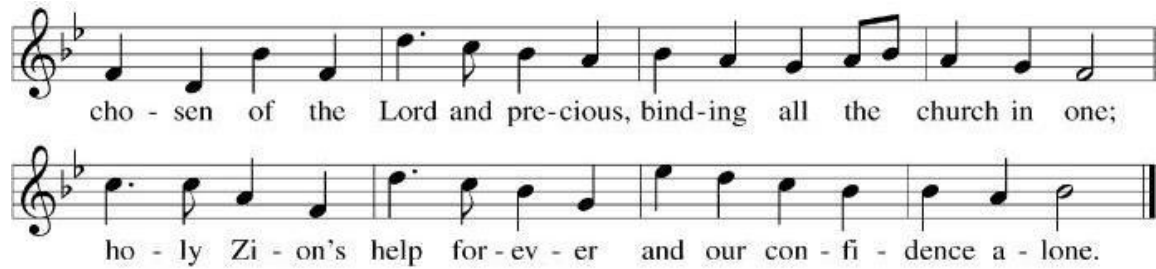
SECOND READING....1 Peter 2:1-12.....Pg. 1888

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Please rise.)*

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” (SBH # 242 verse 1)





cho - sen of the Lord and pre-cious, bind-ing all the church in one;
ho - ly Zi - on's help for-ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th Chapter.
C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

GOSPELJohn 14:1-14.....Pg. 1675

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

SERMON *(Please sit. See outline in Announcements insert.)*

“Life As A Sheep Among Wolves”

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.
(Romans 15:13)*

HYMN OF THE DAY *(Please rise.)* *“The Son of God Goes Forth”*
(SBH # 562 - Text: Reginald Heber; Tune: Henry B. Cutler)



1. The son of God goes forth to war, A king-ly crown to gain; His blood-red ban-ner
2. That mar-tyr first, whose ea-gle eye Could pierce beyond the grave; Who saw his Mas-ter
3. A glo-rious band, the chos-en few, On whom the Spir-it came, Twelve valiant saints their
4. A no - ble ar-my, men and boys, The ma-tron and the maid, A-round the throne of
streams a-far: Who fol - lows in His train? Who best can drink his cup of woe, Tri -
in the sky, And called on Him to save; Like Him, with pardon on His tongue, In
hope they knew And mocked the torch of flame; They met the tyrant's brandished steel, The
God re - joice, In robes of light ar-rayed. They climb'd the steep ascent of heav'n Thro'
umphant o - ver pain, Who pa-tient bears his cross be-low, He fol-lows in His train.
midst of mor-tal pain, He pray'd for them that did the wrong: Who fol-lows in His train?
li - on's go - ry mane, They bow'd their necks the death to feel: Who fol-lows in their train?
per - il, toil, and pain; O God, to us may grace be giv'n To fol-low in their train.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father 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 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, Who with the Father and the Son is worshipped 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Please kneel.)*

(Response: L: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.)

OFFERING

We no longer pass the plate, but your offerings are needed more than ever. The plate is located at the back of the center aisle. Please place your offering and your Communication Card there as you come in or go out. Thank You!

WE COMMUNE WITH CHRIST

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Please rise.)*

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 our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living 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: “Alleluia” (Michael W. Smith)

Al - le - lu - ia. — Ho - ly, ho - ly
 are You, Lord God — Al - might y. Wor thy is the Lamb, wor thy is the Lamb.
 You are ho - ly, ho - ly are You, Lord God — Al - might - y.
 Wor thy is the Lamb, wor thy is the Lamb. A - men.

PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: We give thanks to You, Lord of heaven and earth, for the salvation we have through Jesus Christ. In mercy for our fallen world You gave Your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

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 in 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 and resurrection until He comes.

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

P: Send now Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, and into these gifts of bread and wine, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy supper.

C: AMEN. Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

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. AMEN.

COMMUNION *(Please be seated)*

P: The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread. Come to the table of the risen Christ.

All who are baptized and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior may partake. Please fill out a communication card and put it in the offering plate. We have returned to kneeling for communion by "tables." People who want to minimize contact and maintain greater physical distance can take a pre-filled glass and stand a foot back from the altar rail. For a gluten-free rice wafer (blue-green) say "Rice." Grape juice (white) is in pre-filled glasses. Those not ready to receive communion may come for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD *(WOV p 25)*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS *(sung while others are receiving.)*

1. "Let the Vineyards be Fruitful" (WOV p 35)

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 dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

2. "I Received The Living God" (ELW # 477 - anonymous)

Refrain
I re - ceived the liv-ing God, and my heart is full of joy.
I re - ceived the liv-ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

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; if you fol - low close to me,
4 Je-sus said: I am the life far from whom no thing can grow,

Refrain
you who will par-take of me need not ev - er fear to die.
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
you will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isaiah 2:5)

CANTICLE *(Please rise when all have returned to their seats.)*

"Victory in Jesus" (Maj # 430 verses 1,3 - favorite - Eugene M. Bartlett)

1 I heard an old, old sto - ry, how a Sav - ior came from glo - ry,
3 I heard a - bout a man - sion he has built for me in glo - ry,
how he gave his life on Cal - va - ry to save a wretch like me;
and I heard a - bout the streets of gold be - yond the crys - tal sea;
I heard a - bout his groan - ing, of his pre - cious blood's a - ton - ing,
a - bout the an - gels sing - ing and the old re - demp - tion sto - ry,
how Je - sus saved me from my sins and won the vic - to - ry.
and some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of vic - to - ry.

Refrain
Oh, vic - to - ry in Je - sus, my Sav - ior, for - ev - er!
He sought me and bought me with his re - deem - ing blood;
he loved me ere I knew him, and all my love is due him—
he plunged me to vic - to - ry be - neath the cleans - ing flood.

(Communion visitors comes forward during last verse.)

SENDING OF COMMUNION (10:45)

L: Let us pray together: **C: Eternal God, Whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share Your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are sick or homebound. In Your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of Your Son, that we may all feast upon Your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

BLESSING

P: The God of all grace, Who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, restore, support, strengthen, and bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit now and forever.

C: AMEN.

SENDING HYMN “When We All Get To Heaven”

(Maj # 698 - favorite - Text: Eliza E. Hewitt; Tune: Emily D. Wilson)



1 Sing the won-drous love of Je - sus, sing his mer - cy and his grace;
2 While we walk the pil - grim path-way, clouds will o - ver - spread the sky;
3 Let us then be true and faith - ful, trust - ing, serv - ing ev - 'ry day;
4 On - ward to the prize be - fore us! Soon his beau - ty we'll be - hold;



in the man - sions bright and bless - ed, he'll pre - pare for us a place.
but when trav - 'ling days are o - ver, not a shad - ow, not a sigh.
just one glimpse of him in glo - ry will the toils of life re - pay.
soon the pearl - y gates will o - pen; we shall tread the streets of gold.



Refrain
When we all get to heav - en, what a day of re-joic-ing that will be!



When we all see Je - sus, we'll sing and shout the vic - to - ry.

PASSING THE PEACE

L: As we leave to serve the Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit, let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we have received. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

POSTLUDE

FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS

Everyone is invited to remain for fellowship and refreshments. Snacks, coffee and hot water are available in the Gathering Place. You can brew your own coffee/tea using the Keurig® in the Parlor.

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE SPONSORED BY:

*Holy Cross
to the glory of God*

MAY 7, 2023
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SERVANTS OF THE LORD THIS WEEK

GREETER: 8:30-Skylre Hahn / 10:45-Sharon Branigan

SOUND: 8:30-Chris Chmela / 10:45-Jim Steiner

LIVESTREAM: 8:30-Jan Stryker

SONG LEADER: 8:30-Nancy Cook / 10:45-Nancy Cook

LITURGIST: 8:30-Patty Stein / 10:45-Lyn Stryker

LECTOR: 8:30-Don Frankenfield / 10:45-Jan Stryker

USHER: 8:30-Jan Stryker / 10:45-Sharon Branigan

COMMUNION: 8:30-Patty Stein, Seth Miller, Josh Miller
/ 10:45-Lyn Stryker

COMMUNION VISITORS: Pastor David, Sharon Branigan

ALTAR GUILD: Sharon Branigan, Irene Graham

PHONETREE: Jonathan Mosebach

COUNTERS: Karen Brown, Jan Stryker

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Mike Zyskowski

PRAYER CARE: call Sharon Branigan (610) 691-8809

BULLETINS ARE SPONSORED BY:

Irene & Gary Graham

*In Honor of their Daughter Jenn & Son-in-law Jim's
25th Wedding Anniversary*

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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*

Nancy Cook, *Music Director* † Jonathan Mosebach, *Office Secretary*

Jim Steiner, *Sexton* † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*

Lisa Wechsler, *Treasurer* † Glade Schroeter, *Webmaster*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship - 8:30 & 10:45 AM † Sunday School - 9:45 AM

(Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts)

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