

# The Third Sunday of Easter

05-04-2025

Greg Fetzner, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen**

**P** Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**C** **We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.**

**P** Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as your children, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**C** **We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

**P** To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C** **Amen**

**GATHERING HYMN** [ELW#85 – “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing”](#)

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

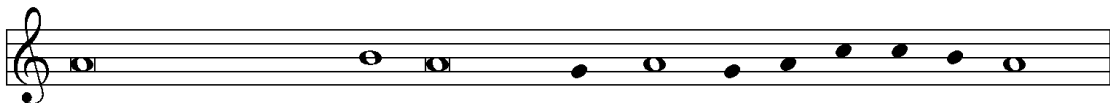
**C** **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**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.**



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



**A** For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



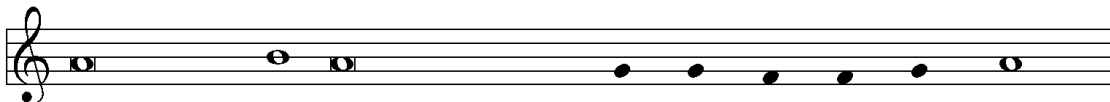
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty 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 wor-ship and praise,



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



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men



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



**C** Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and  
strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.  
Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the  
hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and  
might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain  
has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. O Lord of glory, we give you thanks for the example of Stephen the first martyr, who looked to heaven and prayed for his persecutors. Grant that we also may pray for our enemies and seek forgiveness for those who hurt us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen

### **PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16**

- L <sup>1</sup>In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.
- C <sup>2</sup>**Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**
- L <sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;  
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.
- C <sup>4</sup>**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,  
for you are my tower of strength.**
- L <sup>5</sup>Into your hands I commend my spirit,
- C **for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.**
- L <sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.
- C <sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."**

### **ACTS 6:8-15; 7:1-2a, 51-60**

- L A reading from Acts: <sup>6:8</sup>Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup>Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. <sup>10</sup>But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. <sup>11</sup>Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." <sup>12</sup>They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. <sup>13</sup>They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law, <sup>14</sup>for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." <sup>15</sup>And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

<sup>7:1</sup>Then the high priest asked him, "Are these things so?" <sup>2</sup>And Stephen replied: <sup>51</sup>"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. <sup>52</sup>Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. <sup>53</sup>You are the ones who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it."

<sup>54</sup>When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen.  
<sup>55</sup>But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>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.  
<sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>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.

**L** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** [ELW#733 – "Great is Thy Faithfulness"](#)

**SERMON:** [\(Sermon Audio Link\)](#)

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C** **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**

**L** God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

**L** Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and rivers, lakes and estuaries so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make us wise stewards of our local watersheds. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**L** Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of grassroots organizers, especially among communities on the frontlines of justice work. Amplify the voices of those most in need, that their leadership guides the way forward. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**L** Your compassion surrounds all who are in need. We pray for all people experiencing poverty and food insecurity, and for all struggling with debt and economic uncertainty. Reassure all who experience hopelessness or need your tender care. We pray for Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, Michelle Drayson, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Mark Hughes, the family and friends of Kaitlyn Leedy, Charlotte Leer, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Claudia Schober, D. J. Singer, the Spiegler family, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**L** For whom else shall we pray?

**L** We praise you for Stephen and all the saints who served you in life and now praise you in life eternal. Encourage us by their witness to live each day not with shame or fear but for your glory. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**L** We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**C Amen**

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

**C And also with you.**

**OFFERING\*:** ([On-Line giving Link](#))

*The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.*

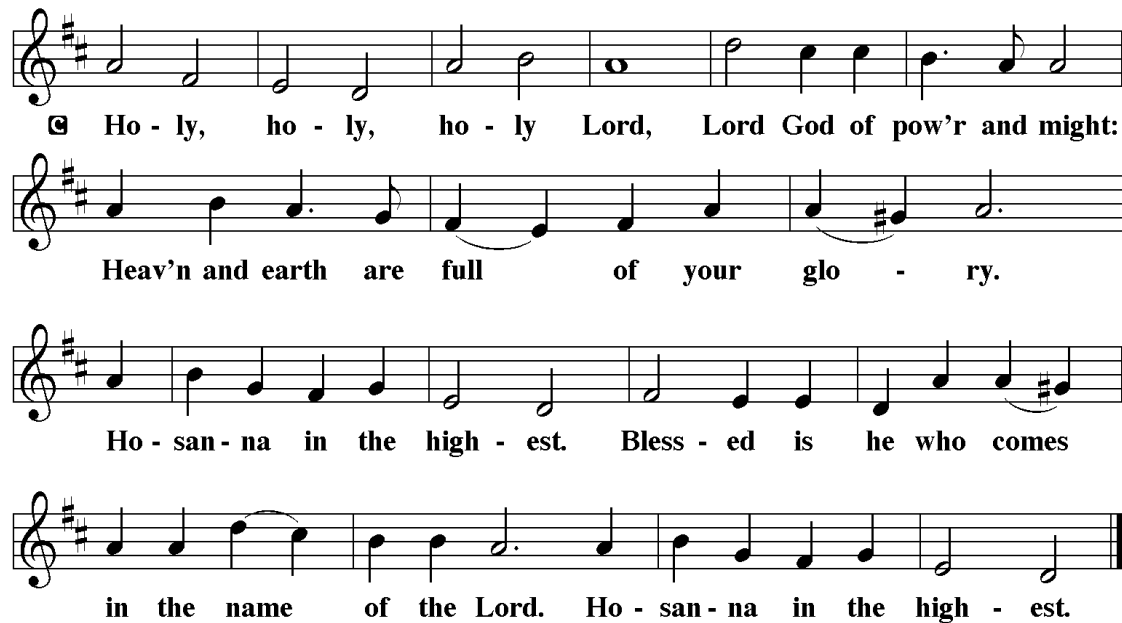
**C** Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -  
 it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
 not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the  
 joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

**P** Let us pray. Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen

**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 our thanks and praise.

*The thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds:*



**P** Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**C** **Amen**

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C** **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
 thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

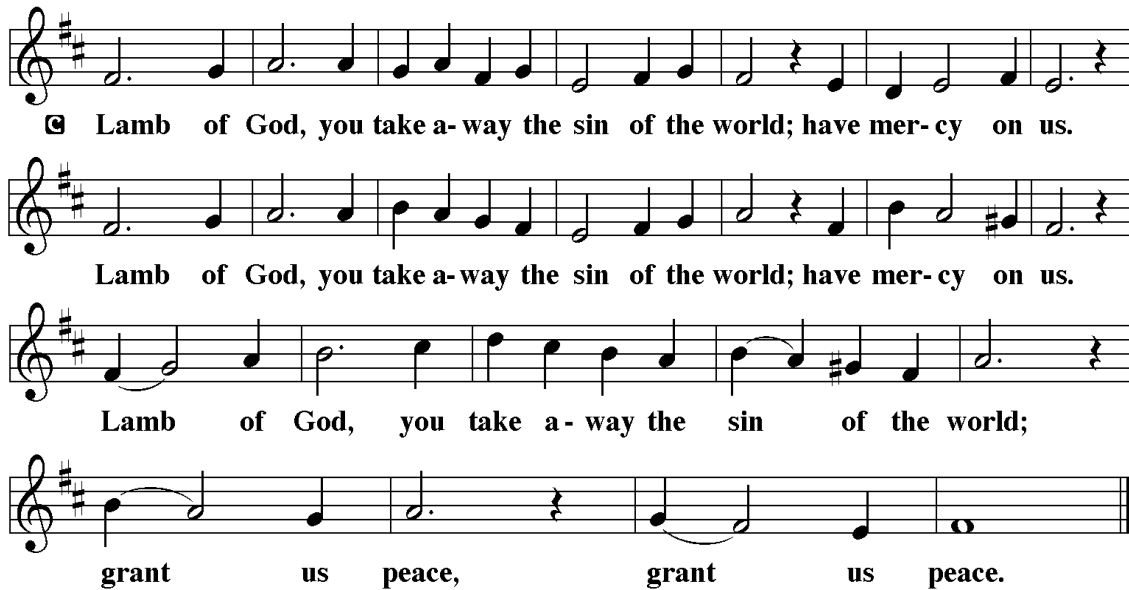
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;**



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

- P** The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for the table is now ready.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

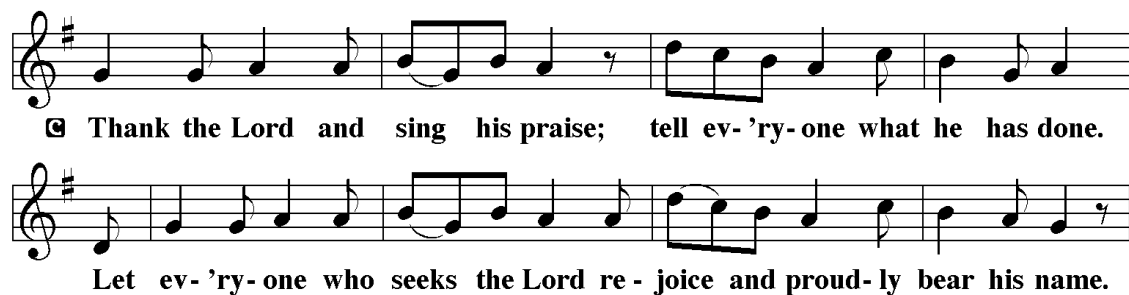
*After all have communed, the following is sung:*



**☐** 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, grant us peace.

*Please stand, as you are able.*

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**C** Amen



**☐** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.  
Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C Amen**

**SENDING HYMN:** [ELW#373 – “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!”](#)

**P** Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

\*Offering to be sent to  
Robert Brackbill  
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church  
9122 Sybert Drive  
Columbia Hills  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: [https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291)

### Upcoming Worship Reminders

Date	Liturgical Day	Preaching Texts	Worship Leader
<b>May 4</b>	Easter 3	Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51-60	Heidi and Bob
<b>May 11</b>	Easter 4	Acts 8:26-39	Julie and Dave
<b>May 18</b>	Easter 5	Acts 15:1-18	Ron
<b>May 25</b>	Easter 6	Galatians 1:11-24; 2:15-21	Monica
<b>June 1</b>	Easter 7	Galatians 3:23-29	Heidi and Bob
<b>June 8</b>	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21, Galatians 4:4-7	Julie and Dave

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