

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

05-03-2026

Greg Fetzner, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

PRELUDE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you are able.

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#359 – “Where Charity and Love Prevail”](#)

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



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



G Lord, have mer - cy.



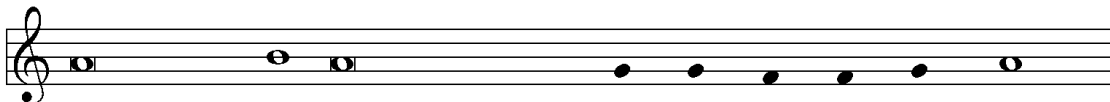
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



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



G 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. God of grace,

C you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise.

Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Please be seated.

PSALM 96

- L ¹Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- C ²**Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
- L ³Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.
- C ⁴**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**
- L ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.
- C ⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
- L ⁷Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- C ⁸**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**
- L ⁹Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.
- C ¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with
equity."**
- L ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- C ¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord,
for you come to judge the earth.**
- L ¹³You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

ACTS 17:16-31

- L A reading from Acts: ¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this pretentious babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" ²⁰It sounds rather strange to

us, so we would like to know what it means." ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.'

²⁹"Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: [ELW#737 – “He Comes to Us as One Unknown”](#)

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 Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

- L God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

- L God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

- L God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

- L God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick. We pray for Barbara Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Bob Hardy, Mark Hughes, Charlotte Leer, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Claudia Schober, Nick Schuldes, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

- L God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

- L For whom or what else shall we pray?

- For peace and reconciliation among the nations, especially in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, Mali, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela...
- For all immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers...
- For those exposed to gun violence at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner, and for an end to political violence...
- For stabbing victims in north London, and for an end to antisemitism...
- For flotilla personnel detained by Israeli forces...
- For communities in Oklahoma and Texas in the wake of tornado damage...
- For all who live with mental illness, and for all those who support them...
- For those who work or live in our prisons, jails, and courts, and for an end to capital punishment...
- For synods of the ELCA as they gather in their assemblies, that the Spirit would enliven and guide them...

L God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through 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.

Create 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.

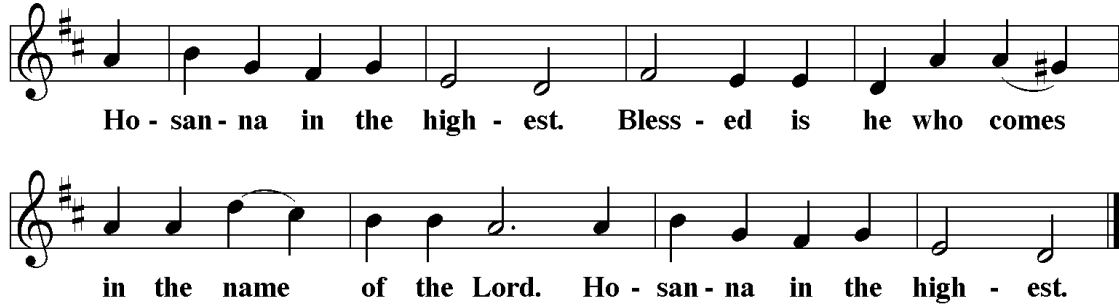
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds:

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

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



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:



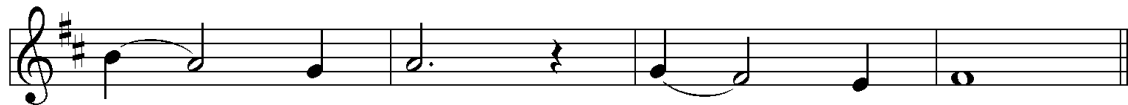
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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



C 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.



He re-calls 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.

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#380 – “Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!”](#)

P Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Announcements

- Celebration of Life Service for Ann Spiegler, Saturday, May 16, 1 pm
- Sunday, May 24, Pentecost and New Member Sunday
- Friday, June 4, 6 pm, Family Game Night with Channing Memorial Church

*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

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Date	Day	Theme	Text	Leader(s)
May 3	Easter 5	Paul's Sermon at Athens	Acts 17:16-31	Heidi and Bob
May 10	Easter 6	Partnership in the Gospel	Phil 1:1-18a	Julie and Dave
May 17	Easter 7	The Christ Hymn	Phil 2:1-13	Ron
May 24	Pentecost	Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21	Monica

		Rejoice in the Lord	Phil 4:4-7	
--	--	---------------------	------------	--

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB173567. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U