

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3 & 6, 2026

As We Gather

Today we hear God's call to unity. The Church faces division, distraction, and discouragement, yet Jesus prays His people may be one. Rooted in Christ, built together as living stones, and sent on one mission, the Church bears witness to the world. This message invites us to examine our unity, our mission, and our witness, and to rejoice in the One who binds us together in grace.

✠ WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP ✠

Hymn The Church's One Foundation (LSB 644) *sts. 1–2, 5*

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences *Psalm 27:1; 147:11; 104:24a, 31a; Isaiah 2:5b*

P The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
C **The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

P The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,
C **in those who hope in His steadfast love.**

P O LORD, how manifold are Your works!
C **In wisdom have You made them all.**

P May the glory of the LORD endure forever.
C **Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.**

Confession and Absolution

P As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

P Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

C **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

P God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.
C **Amen.**

P As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

WORD

Introit *Psalm 30:1–5; antiphon: Psalm 149:1*

P Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,
His praise in the assembly of the godly!

C **I will extol You, O LORD, for You have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.**

P O LORD my God, I cried to You for help,
and You have healed me.

C **O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol;**
You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

P Sing praises to the LORD, O you His saints,
and give thanks to His holy name.

C **For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.**
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,
His praise in the assembly of the godly!

Kyrie

LSB 204

C **Lord, have mercy;**
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.
O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

And Stephen said:

"Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Peter 2:2–10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture:

> “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
> a cornerstone chosen and precious,
> and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

> “The stone that the builders rejected
> has become the cornerstone,”

and

> “A stone of stumbling,
> and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel *John 14:1–14*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn

"Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake (LSB 688) *sts. 1, 3*

Series: Faith that Honors God

Sermon: A Unified Church *John 14:1–14*

Nicene Creed (found on the back cover of the hymnal)

C **I believe in one God,**
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven…

Prayer of the Church (Hear our prayer)

P … Lord in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

A greeting of peace may be exchanged.

Offering

Take My Life and Let It Be (LSB 783) *sts. 1, 3, 6*

1 Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

3 Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

✠ THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

We follow the liturgy on Pages 208-212 in the hymnal.

Preface *LSB 208*

Proper Preface

Sanctus *LSB 208*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei *LSB 210*

Distribution Hymns

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (LSB 686)
Crown Him with Many Crowns (LSB 525)
Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling (LSB 827)
Built on the Rock (LSB 645)

Sit

Lord's Supper Dismissal

P Now may this eating and drinking, of our Savior's precious body and blood, Strengthen you, preserve you, and keep you in the one true Christian faith that leads you to eternal life. Know in peace, and joy, that your sins are T forgiven you.

C **Amen.**

Stand

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 211*

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Benediction

Closing Hymn Go, My Children, with My Blessing (LSB 922)

sts. 1, 4

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.
Copyright © 2026 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Acknowledgments
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.