

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**MAY 3, 2026**

Then he fell on his knees and cried out,

"Lord, do not  
hold this sin  
against them."

When he had said this, he fell asleep.



ACTS 7:60

**Sharing the Good News of Christ With All People**

# The Divine Service

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

## AS WE GATHER

How far can you see? Several factors affect our vision but for an observer at sea level, the horizon is about three miles away. How clearly a person can see may be limited by atmospheric conditions such as fog, haze, dust, and water vapor. A clear vision makes a great difference in every situation! In "What God Ordains Is Always Good," German hymn writer Samuel Rodigast shared this Christian life insight about God's plan and providence: "Now I may know both joy and woe; someday I shall see clearly that He has loved me dearly" (LSB 760:4). Our worship helps us clarify our vision of God's graciousness!

## Prelude

## Bell Choir

## Invocation

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

## Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**



Processional Hymn

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

LSB 660 sts. 1, 4



1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross.  
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The strife will not be long;



Lift high His roy - al ban - ner; It must not suf - fer loss.  
This day the din of bat - tle, The next the vic - tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my He shall lead  
The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, Their crown of life shall see



Till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.  
And with the King of Glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

Greeting

**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



# Kyrie

**A** *In peace, in peace...*

## Refrain

*Assistant:* *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have  
mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

*to Verses*

Detailed description: The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The Assistant's part (measures 1-4) is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter). The Congregation's part (measures 5-8) is: D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), G5 (quarter). The lyrics are: "Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy." The word "to Verses" is written above the final measure.

**A** *For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the... Refrain*

**A** *For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the... Refrain*

*Assistant:*

Help, save and de - fend us, O

*Congregation:*

God. A - men.

Detailed description: The Assistant's part (measures 1-4) is: G4 (half), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter). The Congregation's part (measures 5-8) is: D5 (half), E5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), G5 (quarter). The lyrics are: "Help, save and de - fend us, O God. A - men." The word "Congregation:" is written above the first measure.

# Hymn of Praise

# "Now the Feast"

## Refrain

*Congregation:*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,  
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and  
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -  
er - more!

## Verse 1

*Congregation or Congregation 1:*

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once  
slain, whose blood has freed and u -  
nit-ed us to be one great peo - ple of  
God. *to Refrain*

## Verse 2

*Congregation or Congregation 2:*

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and  
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ  
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

## Verse 3

*Congregation:*

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to  
make us peo - ple of God; to make  
all things new. *to Refrain*

## Salutation

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

## Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray. Almighty God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, is the way, and the truth, and the life. We bless You for His saving work and for the comfort that He brings to troubled hearts. Help us to be faithful to Him to death and so to receive life eternal. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

**“This is a Joyous Happy Day”**

This is a Joyous Happy Day.

We celebrate Your gift of life.

Christ is with us. Joy surrounds us.

Christ takes our sin and sets us free;

He fills our lives with endless life.

Christ is with us. Christ unites us.

Praise our Maker, praise the Spirit, Praise Christ Jesus.



## The First Reading

*Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60*

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing 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), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. <sup>2</sup>And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. <sup>51</sup>You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>52</sup>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, <sup>53</sup>you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." <sup>54</sup>Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup>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. <sup>56</sup>And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." <sup>57</sup>But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup>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. <sup>59</sup>And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

## 1 Peter 2:2–10

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup>As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.” <sup>7</sup>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,” <sup>8</sup>and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Processional

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Optional Repeat*

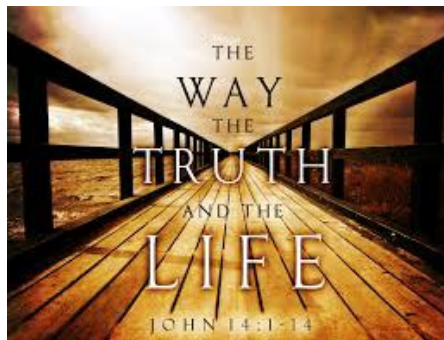
**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>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? <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." <sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." <sup>9</sup>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'? <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>"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. <sup>13</sup>Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>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.**





1 You are the way; through You a - lone Can  
 2 You are the truth; Your Word a - lone True  
 3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb Pro -  
 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant



we the Fa - ther find; In You, O Christ, has  
 wis - dom can im - part; You on - ly can in -  
 claims Your con - qu'ring arm, And those who put their  
 us that way to know, That truth to keep, that



God re - vealed His heart and will and mind.  
 form the mind And pu - ri - fy the heart.  
 trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.  
 life to win Whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Sermon

"Walk the Talk"

Pastor Scott Henze

Apostles' Creed

(11:00 a.m., only)

**☑ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

*Petitions end, "Lord, in your mercy..." Congregation responds, "Hear our prayer"*

**Offertory Prayer**

**P** God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Receive now these gifts you have first given and fill us with good things at your table, that we might joyfully and generously share all you have given us, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

**A word about Holy Communion** *We are about to receive the Lord's Supper. Before you receive, you might consider the following questions: Do you believe you are a sinner? Do you believe Jesus Christ died for you and shed his blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins? Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper he gives you his true body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins and strengthens your faith in him and your love for others? If you are a baptized Christian and share these Biblical truths, please come! Those who have not yet received instruction may come forward for a blessing, crossing their arms over their chest to indicate they are not receiving the elements.*

**Service of the Sacrament****Preface**

**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 Him thanks and praise.**

**Proper Preface**



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Words of Institution


### The Peace of the Lord

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

**C** **And also with you.**

*(The congregation and minister may greet each other with the peace of the Lord)*

## Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
you are the way of mer - cy and  
world:  
love. have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.





1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?  
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour-aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear—  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?  
 Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.



“Jesus Comes Today with Healing”

LSB 620



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my  
 2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and  
 3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the  
 4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.  
 wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,  
 Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,  
 me this hour In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His  
 Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the  
 Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter  
 On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His




in - vi - ta - tion: “Come and taste the bless - ed feast.”  
 pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.  
 death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.  
 grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

5 Let me praise God's  
 boundless favor,  
 Whose own feast of love I savor,  
 Bidden by His gracious call.  
 Wedding garments He provides me,  
 With a robe of white He hides me,  
 Fits me for the royal hall.

6 Now have I found consolation,  
 Comfort in my tribulation,  
 Balm to heal the troubled soul.  
 God, my shield from ev'ry terror,  
 Cleanses me from sin and error,  
 Makes my wounded spirit whole.

## Closing of the Table


### Post-communion canticle




Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:



Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the



weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for - ev - er!



Strong is your faith - ful - ness; strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



Praise to you O God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



Thanks be to you for ev - er. Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

## Post-Communion Prayer

**P** O heavenly Father, our gracious God who gives all good things, we thank You for the riches of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who became poor that we might be made rich in Your forgiveness and life. Through this sacred Meal of His body and blood, strengthen us to receive Your gift of wealth with thanksgiving and be cheerful givers to Your glory and for the benefit of our neighbor; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Announcements

## Benediction

## Recessional Hymn

## "Christ Be My Leader"

LSB 861

1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the  
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or  
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not  
dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my  
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though  
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor  
fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.  
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.  
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

## Prayer Support

*If you want to be lifted up in prayer, our prayer team is here to pray for you after the worship service. You can meet with them at the Communion Rail.*

## Dismissal

**P** Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as....

**C** Disciples making disciples.

**P** Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!



## **Celebrate Community with Small Groups at St. Paul!**

Whether you're looking to join a group, learn more about how they work, or explore hosting one yourself, we invite you to visit our Small Group Ministry page <https://stpaulweston.com/groups/> and take the next step in your faith journey.

### **ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

**Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor**

**Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry**

**Mrs. Kathy Henze, Preschool Director**

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**[www.stpaulweston.org](http://www.stpaulweston.org)**

**Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM**

**Sunday School for children and youth: 9:45 AM**

**Adult Bible Study: 10:00 AM**



Website and online giving