

Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

May 7, 2023 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life

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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 1 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

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.

In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,

for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope.
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.
Amen.



GATHERING SONG**Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray (ELW 743)**

1 Now to the Ho - ly Spir - it let us pray
2 O sweet - est Love, your grace on us be - stow;
3 Tran - scen - dent com - fort in our ev - 'ry need,
4 Shine in our hearts, O Spir - it, pre - cious light,

for true faith, most need - ed on our way:
set our hearts with sa - cred fire a - glow,
help us nei - ther scorn nor death to heed,
that we Je - sus Christ may know a - right,

Guide us and de - fend us when life is end - ing
that with hearts u - nit - ed we love each oth - er,
that we may not fal - ter, nor cour - age fail us
cling - ing to our Sav - ior, whose blood has bought us,

and our jour - ney home - ward is tend - ing. Lord, have mer - cy!
ev - 'ry strang - er, sis - ter, and broth - er. Lord, have mer - cy!
when the foe shall taunt and as - sail us. Lord, have mer - cy!
who to our true home - land has brought us. Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: Medieval German *Leise*, st. 1; Martin Luther, 1483–1546, sts. 2–4; tr. composite
Music: NUN BITTEN WIR, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
Text sts. 1, 4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Text sts. 2, 3 © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

A reading from Acts.

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

A reading from 1 Peter.

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸and

"A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall."

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

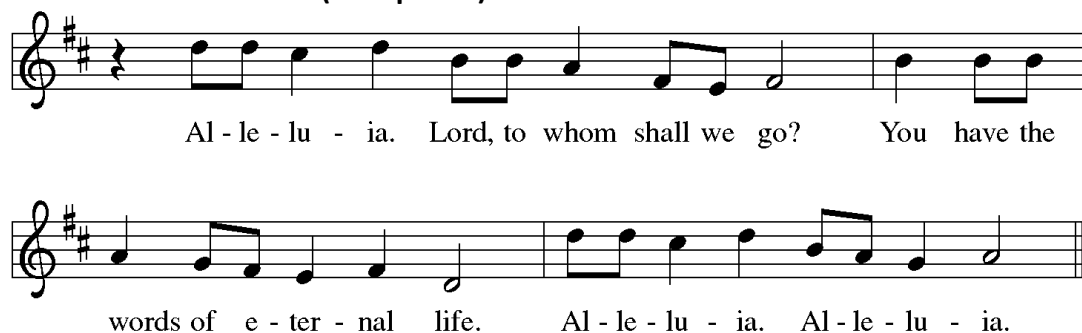
⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)



GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do 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; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Son of God, Eternal Savior* (ELW 655)



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

O Jesus our Cornerstone, we pray for the selflessness and courage to embody the words in 1st Peter and to be “like newborn infants”, to “long for the pure, spiritual milk,” to “grow into salvation,” and to “come to him, a living stone.” Guide our hearts and minds to forgive others, love and serve as You did, and boldly proclaim the Good News through our words and actions. Help us to love and respect all our brothers and sisters as we live our lives to be a reflection of You. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

O Creator God, we praise you for forming us from the dust and giving us life each day. As the Earth awakens this spring, may we be mindful of the ways we waste our resources and destroy

Your Creation. We marvel at the majesty, beauty, and complexity of everything you have made. Remind us that we do not own the land, air, water, plants, and animals, but are here to care for them. Inspire us to be faithful stewards, preserving the gifts of nature so they'll flourish for future generations. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

O Saving Lord, we pray your peace will spread throughout our broken world, so all people will put down their weapons and set aside their hatreds. Give wisdom to the world's leaders to seek compromise and reconciliation rather than torture, oppression, and war. Protect refugees, anyone living in violence, and our military service people. Comfort their families who deal with worry and stress. Send us out to work for justice and peace for all people. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

O Holy Spirit, we give thanks for our many blessings and talents, especially for Your love and grace living in us. May we be a blessing to others, use our gifts wisely, and share our bounty with those in need. Bless all pastors, bishops, and all lay church leaders. We also rejoice with those who are celebrating special milestones, anniversaries, birthdays, and other happy occasions. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

O Healing God, we pray, "Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me." Remind us that you are constantly with us, carrying our burdens. Restore to wholeness all those who are ill in mind, body, or spirit. Guide and bless the work of all medical professionals, researchers, and caregivers. Wrap our elderly loved ones and shut-ins with your warmth, strength, and grace. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

O Merciful God, you answer all our needs. Listen now as we offer other prayers, either silently or aloud..... Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

O Comforter, we pray for the dying and remember those who have passed away. Console their family and friends who mourn, bringing them peace and hope in the days of grief ahead. Strengthen us all in the promise of eternal life. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

GENEROSITY MOMENT

OFFERING – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.

Giving is easy online through our website at <https://www.clcathens.org/give>

There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church app!

OFFERTORY

OFFERING SONG



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

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

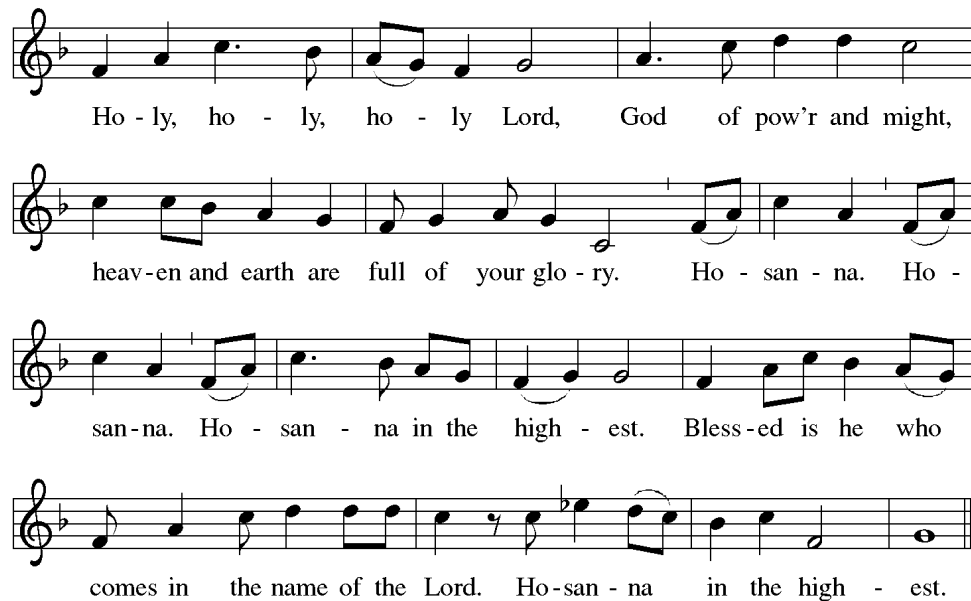
DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

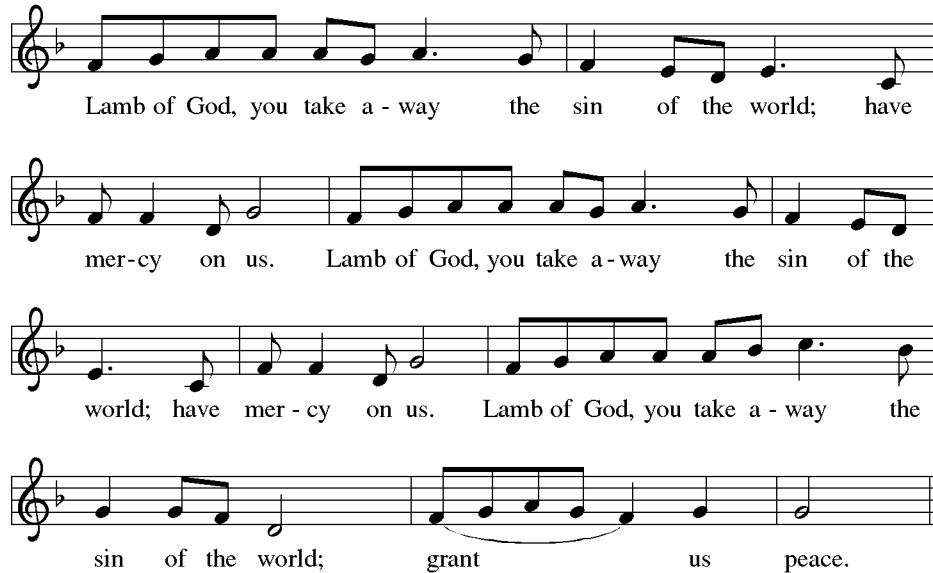
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and know Christ,
broken and poured out for you.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

AGNUS DEI



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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace,
you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love
and serve the world in Jesus' name.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The God of all,
who raised ☩ Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.
Amen.

SENDING SONG***Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (ELW 843)***

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

SERVING TODAY: *Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Asst/Lector: Matthew Crawford; Livestream: Marilyn Shealy; Greeter: Linda Sauer; Ushers: Rod Sauer, John Deno; Time with Children: Lucy Crawford; Acolyte: Lucy Mae; Children's Church: Lucy Crawford*