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✠ FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ✠  
ORDER OF WORSHIP • MAY 3, 2026 • 9:00 AM  
✠ *Indicates the congregation should stand as able.*

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CALL TO WORSHIP  
BY THE PARISH CHOIR

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE  
BY ALLEN POTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

✠ GATHERING HYMN

THINE IS THE GLORY  
LBW #145

✠ INVOCATION

WL: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

WL: Christ is risen!

All: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

✠ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: When we keep our fears and faults locked up inside us, it is hard to be healed and receive new life. So let us open ourselves to God in confession, trusting the Lord's desire to give us peace.

All: **God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts, we have sometimes been afraid to speak and act with faith in the world. Forgive us and help us to boldly proclaim. We have sometimes been afraid to love our enemies. Turn us and give us the power to forgive. We have sometimes been afraid to stand up to misguided authority. Join us with the weak to make us all strong. We have sometimes been confined by our hurts. Touch us with Your wounded hands and set us free. We are often locked behind our doubts and fears. Pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and give us peace. Amen.**

WL: Children of God, you are forgiven. Christ comes with healing light into our locked places and shadowy hurts, resurrecting our spirits and breathing into us new life. As God's own beloved children, go forth to bring peace, forgiveness, and new life to the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

WL: Christ is risen!

All: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## ✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL: Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to follow his way 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.

All: Amen.

## FIRST LESSON

ACTS 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

R: The First lesson for this Fifth Sunday of Easter is from the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> chapters of Acts.

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen.

Stephen replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him—you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it."

When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 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.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON

1 PETER 2:2-10

R: The Second lesson is from the second chapter of First Peter.

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"

"A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!**

**Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!**

## ✠ HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 14:1-14

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord!**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ!**

## TODAY’S MESSAGE

✠ MESSAGE HYMN

CHRIST THE ETERNAL LORD  
LSB #829, STANZAS 1, 3, 4

**Christ the eternal Lord, whose promise here we claim,  
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured on all who name Your name;  
With thankfulness and praise we stand before Your throne,  
Intent to serve You all our days and make Your glory known.**

**Christ the redeeming Son, who shares our human birth,  
And by His death salvation won for ev'ry child of earth;  
Inspire our hearts, we pray, to tell Your love abroad,  
That all may honor Christ today and follow Him as Lord.**

**Christ the unfading Light of everlasting day,  
Our Morning Star in splendor bright, the Life, the Truth, the Way;  
That light of truth You give to servants as to friends,  
Your way to walk, Your life to live, till earth's brief journey ends.**

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

ADAM GLENN YOUTZ

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

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SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

✠ PREFACE

**WL:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

**WL:** Lift up your hearts.

**All:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**WL:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

## ✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: As Jesus taught His disciples to pray, so we pray together:

All: **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.**

## ✠ PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### COMMUNION HYMN

TAKE AND EAT

*REFRAIN:* **Take and eat, take and eat,  
this is my body given up for you;  
Take and drink, take and drink,  
this is my blood, given up for you.**

*The verses are sung by the Parish Choir*

## ✠ THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

All: **Amen.**

## ✠ BLESSING

WL: May the grace of Christ, which daily renews us, and the love of God, which enables us to love all, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, which unites us in one body, make us eager to obey the will of God until we meet again, through + Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

## ✠ SENDING HYMN

FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT'S POWER

LBW #160

ALTERNATE TUNE: NATIONAL HYMN

## ✠ SENDING

**WL:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All:** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**WL:** Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.

**All:** **Thanks be to God!**

# CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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**Liturgy from Lutheran Service Book.**

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### BE NOT AFRAID

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

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### CHRIST, THE ETERNAL LORD

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith

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