

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion towards all who call this place home.

COMMUNITY LIFE

ELCIC Day of Action – events and t-shirts

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.

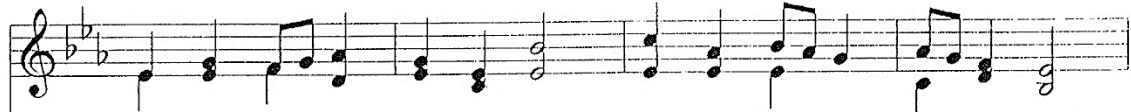
Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

GATHERING SONG "Praise the Living God Who Sings" binder - v 1 & 2



1 Praise the liv - ing God who sings, pul - ing through cre - a - ted things,
2 Christ was born and an - gels sang till the realms of hea - ven rang!



har - mon - iz - ing na - ture's arts, voic - ing hope in hu - man hearts!
Je - sus, God's own song on earth, sang of par - don, love, re - birth...



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! God's e - ter - nal an - them rings!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ who rose gives life new wings!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Tell the na - tions God still sings!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Eas - ter peo - ple, God still sings!



GATHERING LITANY (based on Psalm 31 and 1 Peter 2)

Come, people of God!
Take refuge in the Lord,
who listens when we cry out,
who rescues us when we call,
and who leads and guides us according to his unfailing love.

**You are our God;
into your hands we place our lives.**

We gather to worship God,
our Rock and our Redeemer,
the one in whom we find refuge.

**You are our rock and our fortress, O God;
into your hands we place our lives.**

Let us sing the praises of the One who has called us
out of darkness into his marvelous light!

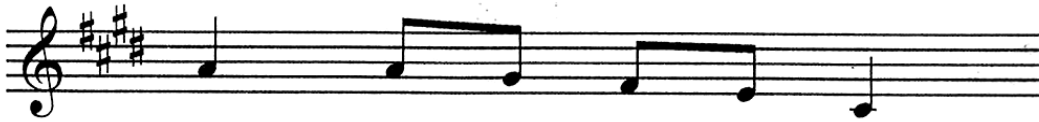
**For once we were not a people at all,
but now we are God's people!**

Let us worship God together.

"Here I am to Worship" (binder)



1. Light of the world, You stepped
2. King of all days Oh so



down in - to dark - ness
high - ly ex - al - ted,



o - pened my eyes, let me see
Glor - ious in hea - ven a - bove.



beau - ty that made this heart a - dore You,
Hum - bly You came to the earth You cre - a - ted,



hope of a life spent with You.
all for love's sake be - came poor.

Chorus:



So here I am to wor - ship, Here I am to



bow down, Here I am to say that You're my God.



You're al - to - ge - ther love - ly, al - to - geth - er

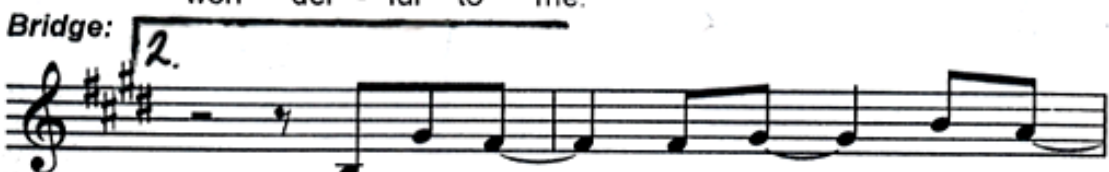


wor - thy, al - to - ge - ther



won - der - ful to me.

Bridge:



And I'll ne - ver know how much



it cost to see my sin u - pon



that cross. And I'll ne -



ver know how much it cost to see



my sin u - pon that cross.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

It is our delight to 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

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

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

A reading from First Peter.

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

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like 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. For 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."

This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,
"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"
and

"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.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The song leader invites the congregation to stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Alleluia, Alleluia" NTF

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*

Today's gospel reading and sermon are prepared and shared by Pastor Jane Gingrich, Spiritual Health Practitioner with Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops, BC Synod.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In 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? And 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. And you know the way to the place 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 know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus 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'? 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, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very 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. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If 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 "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" (binder)

Unison F Gm/F F Dm B^b

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

F Gm/F F Dm

end - less store: na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
 grace con - ferred; ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

B^b F C/E

cross, grave's shat - tered door; gift - ed by you, we turn
 joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
 spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

Dm Am F B^b C

to you, of - fering up our - selves in praise; thank - ful
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone; born with
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing,

Dm B^b F Gm7 Am Gm7 F

songs shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

APOSTLES' CREED

We join God's people throughout the world in affirming our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING PRAYER

God of life, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. With grateful hearts, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

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. Keep your church faithful to the gospel. God of life, **pour out your love.**

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. Give farmers and gardeners favourable planting weather. God of life, **pour out your love.**

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. Open our hearts to those who need it most. God of life, **pour out your love.**

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick Alice, Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Karen, Janet C, Victor and Judy, Janet D, Dave, Tiffany, Corrie, Alice, Patrick, Joel and Ellen, Linda H, Carol, Murray, Shirley J., Derek, Isobel, Shirley K., Hugh and Ally, Jim N., Donna, Helga, Clayton and Margaret, Nancy, Sheila, Cindy, Ray, Doreen, Alan T, and those we name silently now Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. God of life, **pour out your love.**

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. We ask your blessing on Pastor Erin and those involved in Ecumenical Campus Ministry. Hold in your care Joyce Odland and Wendell and Fran Opheim, as well as Pastor Joel, Vanessa and Hans. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. God of life, **pour out your love.**

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. Console those who are grieving, especially today we pray for Afra and Brad and Nicholas Gom as they mourn the passing of Afra's father. Be their comfort and source of strength now and in the days ahead. We give you thanks for all the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. God of life, **pour out your love.**

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.

Amen.

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.**

BLESSING

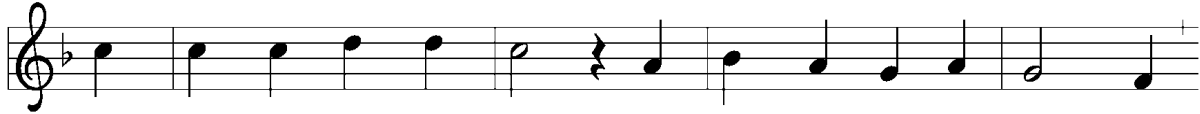
You are a chosen race,
a royal priesthood,
a holy nation,
God's own people,
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him
who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

May you be rooted and grounded in + Christ's love,
strengthened by the Spirit,
and filled with all the fullness of God. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG "Now Thank We All Our God" ELW 840



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever - more.

SENDING

Go in peace. Share the Good News:

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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