



Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:30 am - May 3, 2026

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit

Welcome to Messiah

We are a community of grace where we live out Jesus' commandment to love God with our whole heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We also seek to be a welcoming community for all people. This includes people of every race, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnic background, economic grouping, religious affiliation, and political persuasion. We do this simply because God created all people in God's own image and Christ Jesus came so all people might have abundant life. We may not always be perfect, but this is our intention--all are welcome!

GATHERING HYMN

#979 "Making Their Way"



1 Mak-ing their way down through the a-ges, sin-ners and saints have
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o-ver, Chris-tians as-sem-ble
3 Mak-ing our way sea-son by sea-son, pil-grims, we jour-ney



heard God's call: wealth-y and poor, pow-er-ful, low-ly,
on this day, hear-ing the Word, shar-ing the Ban-quet,
till life's end, trav-el-ing light, shar-ing the rich-es,



Je-sus' dis-ci-ples, one and all. Gath-ered for wor-ship, of-fer-ing thanks,
learn-ing to walk in Je-sus' way. Mem-bers of Christ, u-nit-ed in love,
car-ing for strang-er as for friend, till in the joy of long-ing ful-filled,



the great-est with the least have come to share this feast.
they seek our God to know, and so to-gether grow.
to-gether we will come to our e-ter-nal home.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

The presiding minister will read the sections in plain text. **You are invited to read the bold portions.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,
 you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
 You lead us beside still waters.
 We thank you for the waters of creation:
 morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.
 We thank you for the waters that nourish us.
 Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
 who accompanies us on our journeys.
 We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
 We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
 Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
 Break down barriers that divide us.
 Fill us with the breath of peace.
 Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
 and for making us a new creation.
 We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
 now and forever.

Amen.

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.**

KYRIE

Leader: In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

REFRAIN: ALL

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer -
 - cy up - on us.
 Chri - ste e - lei - son. Christ, have mer -



Leader: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

FIRST READING

Acts 7:55-60

Please
be
seated

⁵⁵ Filled 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!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ 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. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ 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

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

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.”

⁷ 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;”

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit

Leader: Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. *(to Refrain)*

REFRAIN: ALL

GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

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. ² 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? ³ 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. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ 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?’ ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please
 be
 seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

#1094 “Bring Many Names”



1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good,
 2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day,
 3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - 'ry child,
 4 Old, ach - ing God, gray with end - less care,
 5 Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger, on the move,
 6 Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,



cel - e - brate, in par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in
 plan - ning all the won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e -
 feel - ing all the strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for -
 calm - ly pierc - ing e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur -
 say - ing no to false - hood and un - kind - ness, cry - ing out for
 joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing, clos - er yet than



glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God. Hail and ho -
 qua - tion, gen - i - us at play: Hail and ho -
 giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled: Hail and ho -
 pris - es, wis - er than de - spair: Hail and ho -
 jus - tice, giv - ing all you have: Hail and ho -
 breath - ing, ev - er - last - ing home: Hail and ho -



san - na! Bring man - y names!
 san - na, strong moth - er God!
 san - na, warm fa - ther God!
 san - na, old, ach - ing God!
 san - na, young, grow - ing God!
 san - na,

6 great, liv - ing God!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please
stand as
you are
comfortable
in
body or
spirit.

**In the dark before dawn,
 we believe that God is alive.
 In the midst of our grief,
 we believe the Spirit is at work.
 In the chaos of our broken world,
 we believe that love is on the loose.
 For no stone could keep God at bay,
 and no violence could keep God's love from us.
 So today we sing,
 Alleluia!
 For somewhere in between our belief and doubt,
 hope lives.
 Christ has died,
 and Christ has also risen.
 Thanks be to God! Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

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. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick, especially... Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Living God”

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

Generous God, you gave us the one thing we could not earn or keep for ourselves -- life out of death, morning out of the grave. Receive what we return to you now: these gifts, this hour, ourselves. Use them in the world you would not stop loving, that others might find, as we have found, that the stone has been rolled away. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Each line led by song leader & repeated by congregation.)

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might



2. Heav'n and earth ___ are full ___ of your glo - ry, Ho-san - na in the high-est _____



3. Bless'd is he _____ who comes ___ in the name of the Lord _____

Holy,
mighty,
and

merciful Lord...

... with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

The risen Christ kept showing up at meals—on the road, on the shore, in the upper room. The Table was where the disciples knew him. It still is. Come: whether you are certain or still sorting things out, whether resurrection feels close or far. Christ sets this Table, and Christ invites you. You are welcome.

When an usher invites you, come forward.

*At either station, receive **bread** and **dip it into the wine** (intinction); Or, if you prefer the **common cup**, receive bread at either station, eat it, and then step to the minister between the stations to drink from the shared cup; **Gluten-free wafers** and **separate wine or grape juice** are available; If you prefer a **blessing**, come forward with your arms crossed. Return to your seat by the side aisles.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Lamb of God”

Please be seated.



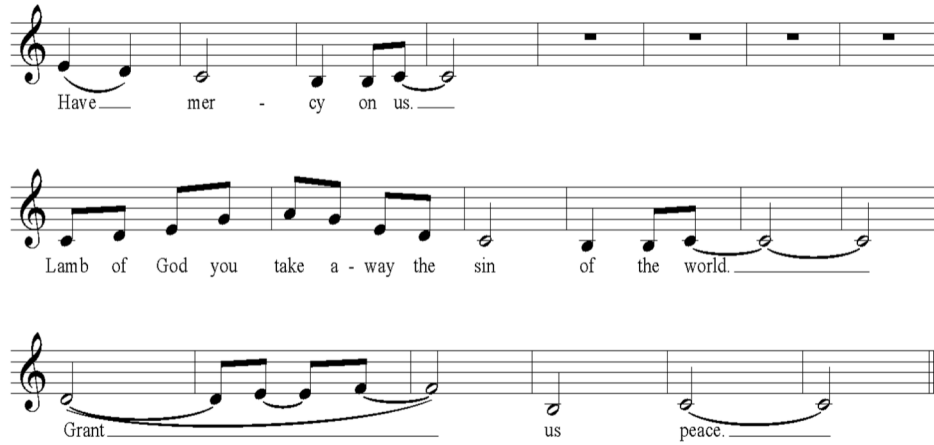
Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world. ___



Have ___ mer - cy on us. ___



Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world. ___



#477 "I Received the Living God"
 #466 "In the Singing"

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

Benediction: *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Go now into the world that God refused to abandon.

Go as people who have heard it:
 the stone has been rolled away.
 Death does not have the last word.
 The risen Christ is already out ahead of you.

So look for him on the road.
 Look for him at the table.
 Look for him in the face of your neighbor.

And may the God who creates and sustains you,
 the Christ who died and rose for you,
 and the Spirit who moves through you
 go with you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Firm Foundation" by *Cody Carnes*
 (next page)

$\text{♩} = 150$

$B\flat$ $B\flat\text{sus}$ $B\flat\text{sus}$ $B\flat$

Christ is my firm foun-da-tion,

6 $Gm7$ $F(4)$ $B\flat\text{sus}$ $B\flat$

the rock on which I stand. When ev-'ry-thing a-round me is shak-en, I've

11 $Gm7$ $F(4)$ $E\flat$ $B\flat/D$ $Gm7$

nev-er been more glad that I put my faith in Je-sus, 'cause He's nev-er let me

16

down. He's faith-ful through gen-er-a-tions, so why would He fail now. He won't

$B\flat$ $B\flat\text{sus}$ $B\flat\text{sus}$ $B\flat$

He won't. I've still got joy in cha-os. I've got

21 $Gm7$ $F(4)$ $E\flat$ $B\flat/D$ Cm $B\flat$ $Gm7$

peace that makes no sense. So, I won't be go-ing un-der. I'm not held by my own

26 $F(4)$ $E\flat/G$ $B\flat/D$ $Gm7$ F/A $B\flat$ $F(4)$

strength, 'cause I've built my life on Je-sus. He's nev-er let me down. He's faith-ful in

31

ev-'ry sea-son, so why would He fail now. He won't He won't.

36

He won't fail. He won't fail. He won't. (No, no,

41

no, no.) He won't. He won't fail. He won't fail.

46

Christ is my (fail) now. He won't He won't. He won't

fail. He won't fail, no.

Rain came and wind blew, but my house was built on

You. (And) I'm safe with You, I'm gon-na make it through. (Oh,) through. Yeah,

I'm gon-na make it through, 'cause I'm stand-ing strong on You. Yeah,

I'm gon-na make it through, 'cause my house is built on You. Christ is my

firm foun-da-tion, the rock on which I stand. When ev-'ry-thing a-round me is shak-en,

I've nev-er been more glad that I put my faith in Je-sus, 'cause He's

nev-er let me down. He's faith-ful through gen-er - a - tions, so why would He fail

now. He won't. He won't. He won't fail.

He won't fail. He won't. He won't

He won't fail. He won't fail, no, He won't.

SENDING

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church



Children belong in worship!

Worship kits and a nursery space is available. God rejoices in the joyful noise of children and so do we!



God calls us to welcome everyone!

Messiah seeks to be a welcoming community and to share the love of God with our neighbors. If you are new, please introduce yourself to our pastors.



Worship should be accessible!

Hearing devices (and T-Coil) and large print bulletins are available. We invite you to sit or stand as you are comfortable. All gender and family restroom facilities are available on the first level, please see signs in the Narthex.



All are welcome at Jesus' table!

During communion grape juice and gluten-free options are available. Those not wishing to commune may come forward for a blessing. Those not able to come forward may receive communion in their pew, please notify the usher.



God calls us to pray!

Private prayer requests may be made by writing them on the back of the Welcome Card. If you would like to be added to the prayer list or receive a pastoral care visit, please contact the church office.

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Preacher:	Pr. Sharolyn Swenson
Assisting Minister:	Mike Hill
Reader:	Molly Luty
Ushers:	Any Diedrich, Jill Luoma
Communion Assistants:	Mike & Joan Hill, Marina Shinkarenko, Gayle Van Osdol
Greeters:	Laurel Kniskern, Gayle Van Osdol
Songleader:	Sara Parks
Pianist:	Jacob Schmeltzer
Band Members:	Tom Bronken, Ross Larson, Darren Smith
Audio Technician:	Dan Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Projection Technician:	Lesley Williams
Nursery:	Sarah Bleckiner
Flower Delivery:	Jill Luoma

Acknowledgements:

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