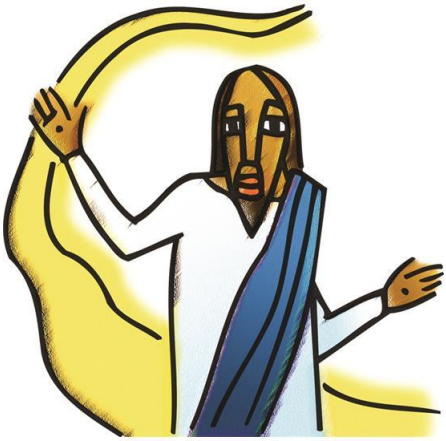


# 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PASTOR ED PEASE

MAY 3 2026



*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.*

(\*please stand as you are able)

(Congregation reads **bold print**)

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## Welcome & Announcements

### \*Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### \*Opening Hymn "Making Their Way" #979 ACS

### \*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**

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**

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

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

## **Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 16**

- <sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.
- <sup>2</sup> **Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**
- <sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.
- <sup>4</sup> **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.**
- <sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.
- <sup>15</sup> **My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**
- <sup>16</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

## **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.*

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

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

<sup>7</sup> 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,”<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> 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.<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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation -- p. 142**

**\*The Holy Gospel according to John the 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter. Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Gospel: John 14:1-14**

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:]<sup>1</sup> “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.<sup>2</sup> 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?<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place 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 know me, you will know 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 we will be satisfied.”<sup>9</sup> 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’?<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, 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, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves.<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.<sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Children’s Message**

**Message**

**Hymn** “O Jesus, I Have Promised” #810

**\*Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. 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.

*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. 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 we pray for Bonnie, Barb, Carla, Barb, Diane, Bill, Ed, Pat, Jeni,*

*Kenny, and Jayme*). 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.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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.**

**\*Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

**Offering**

**\*Offering Prayer**

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*Great Thanksgiving**

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, 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** p. 144

**\*Words of Institution**

**\*Lord's Prayer** p. 145

**\*Invitation to Communion**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

### **Communion (continuous)**

Come forward in the center aisle, distancing as desired. Please cup your hands to receive the bread. Move to the right or left to receive the wine. Return to your pew via the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available in the container in front of the font.

Those who wish to be served at their seats may remain seated.

Distribution Hymns: #1094 ACS – Bring Many Names; #966 ACS – Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

### **\*Prayer after Communion**

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

### **\*Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn** "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing" #389

### **\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Baptized believers sent into God's world to share God's love and grace.**

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**Welcome! May you be blessed as we worship together!**

### **Pastor Ed Pease:**

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Email – [edward.pease@gmail.com](mailto:edward.pease@gmail.com)

- A special welcome to any visitors! Please take the time this morning to fill out the visitor card located with the hymnals and either place it on the offering plate or give it to an usher.
- Vacation Bible School is looking for monetary donations to help fund this year's program. If you would like to give, you can write a check to the church and designate it for Vacation Bible School, or talk to Liz Wahlberg. Thank you!!

**This Week's Events: May 3-10**

Today	9:00am	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>
	10:15am	<b>Council Meeting</b>
Tues.	7:00pm	<b>AA Meeting</b> (Contact person is Larry S., 712-251-4207)
Sun.	9:00am	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>

**Worship Assistants for May:**

Organist: Ruth Chartier	Altar Guild: Dave & Patti Christiansen
Scripture Reader: Rebecca Brockhaus	Offertory Accountants: Rebecca Brockhaus & Gloria Healy
Tech Assistant: Jill & Casey Stratton	
Greeters: Gail & Cindy Ploen	
<b>Greeters Next Week: Rebecca &amp; Ava Brockhaus</b>	

**Birthdays:** 3 - Barb Gray, Tonya Flaugh, Eunice Sternadel; 5 - Jackson Calvillo, Mikayla Mitchell; 7 - Madisyn Sampson; 8 - Julie Thies; 9 - Seth Even

**Prayers**

We pray for Kenny Stroman; Barb Kunkel; Carla Boggs; Barb Allner; Diane Riediger; Bill Nagel; Ed Kunkel; those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.  
For those battling cancer: Jayme Webb –breast cancer; Jeni Aman.

**God's Work. Our gifts. Thank you to all who support our ministry!**

**Our budget needs each week: \$3,175**

<b>Electronic Giving</b>	<b>\$ 440.00</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 1,954.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,394.00</b>

