

Sunday, May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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.

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.

Gathering Hymn ACS 979 Making Their Way

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 & HYMN OF PRAISE - Bonnie Drewes, page 4

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.**

KIDS SERMON

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.

Stephen, meanwhile, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked to the sky and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right side of God. "Look!" he exclaimed. "I see the heavens opened, and the Chosen One standing at God's right hand!" The onlookers were standing there, shouting and holding their hands over their ears as they did so. They rushed at him as one, and dragged him out of the city. The witnesses then stoned him, having laid their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. As they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "O Jesus, receive my spirit." He fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, "Please, don't hold this sin against them!" And with that, he died.

The word of God for the people of God,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

Ps. 31

Michel Guimont

O Lord, O Lord, I put my
life in your hands.

In you, O LORD, I take refuge.
Let me never be put to shame.
In your justice, set me free.
Into your hands I commend my spirit.
It is you who will redeem me, LORD. *℟.*

In the face of all my foes
I am a reproach,
an object of scorn to my neighbors
and of fear to my friends. *℟.*

Those who see me in the street
run far away from me.
I am like the dead, forgotten by all,
like a thing thrown away. *℟.*

But as for me, I trust in you, LORD;
I say: "You are my God.
My life is in your hands, deliver me
from the hands of those who hate me. *℟.*

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-8a

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.

Like newborn babies, be hungry for nothing but milk—the pure milk of the word that will make you grow into salvation, now that you have “tasted that our God is good.”

Come to Christ—a living stone, rejected by mortals but approved nonetheless, chosen and precious in God's eyes. And you are living stones as well: you are being built as an edifice of spirit, to become a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ. For scripture has it,

“See, I am laying a cornerstone in Zion;
an approved stone, and precious.

Those who put their faith in it
will not be shaken.”

The stone is precious for you who have faith. But for those without faith,

“The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

and, at the same time,

“an obstacle and a stumbling block.”

The word of God for the people of God,

Thanks be to God.

I invite you to stand in body or spirit for the Gospel Acclamation:

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - Bonnie Drewes, page 5

GOSPEL: John 14:1-6a

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:] “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith in me as well. In God’s house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you? I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I will come back to take you with me, that where I am there you may be as well. You know the way that leads to where I am going.” Thomas replied, “But we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?” Jesus told him, “I myself am the Way—I am Truth, and I am Life.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 758 You Are the Way

We will now take a moment of reflection, to listen to the spirit. This is also a time to prepare our hearts for the offering. We all have so much to share: time, talent, tithe. In the bulletins, there is a piece called Joyful Giving to share what you will give the community this week. Those slips can be placed in the offering basket.

TIME OF REFLECTION

OFFERING **Offertory, Bonnie Drewes, page 7**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will
hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus, 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. 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.

We also ask that you be with those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts, especially (PRAYER LIST)... 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.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (Sung, Bonnie Drewes, page 8)

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

On Easter morning, the women went looking for Jesus. The angel said he was not in the tomb, so they ran, afraid yet filled with joy. They sought after him. They hurried to Galilee, looking for their risen Christ. And in their seeking, the text tells us: "Suddenly, Jesus met them" (*Matthew 28:9*).

Jesus met the women in their seeking.

Jesus met them in their moment of fear and grief.

Jesus met them when they felt lost.

Jesus met them and provided hope.

Friends, if like the women you are seeking Christ, if you have known grief or fear, if you have ever felt lost, or if you are in need of some hope, then come to this Table.

All are welcome here.

For just as Jesus met the women in their seeking, I am confident that Jesus meets us here, saying, "Do not be afraid."

Here at this table we remember that final meal, where Jesus gathered with his friends, followers and loved ones, even the one who was to betray him. And at that table he 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.

Holy One, through this meal we remember the promise of Easter: death does not have the last word. So may we live like that is true. May we speak this hope to our neighbors. May we look for you in our midst. May we see you at this Table, in this ordinary bread and cup. And may we always remember: alleluias came after the grave. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As we live like Easter people, let us continue to pray the words Jesus taught us to pray, in the language or version of our hearts:

Heavenly God, giver of life, holy is your name. Your realm 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 you reign in power and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Distribution

Communion Hymns ACS 1094 Bring Many Names

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Blessing

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the embodiment of unfathomable love and grace,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song **Bonnie Drewes, page 10-11**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!