

## *SUNDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP*

8:30 AM

May 18, 2025 - Fifth Sunday of Easter / I AM Sunday

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Please see the bulletin or newsletter for any announcements. All announcements are due in writing by noon on Tuesday to the church office.

[ Please stand, as able, where indicated. ]

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### **GATHERING**

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**PRELUDE**

*A New Commandment*

WOV 664

**MINISTRY OF FRIENDSHIP - ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAY:  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / I AM SUNDAY**

*[Please stand as you are able]*

**INVOCATION**

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you!

## KYRIE

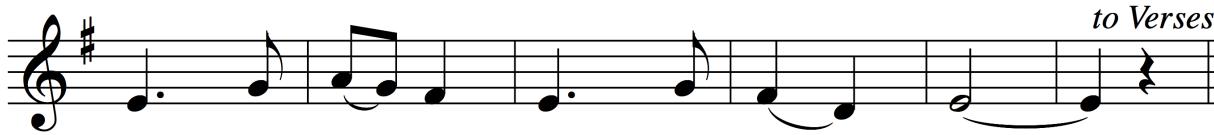
### Refrain

*Assistant:*

*Congregation:*



In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord, have mer-cy,



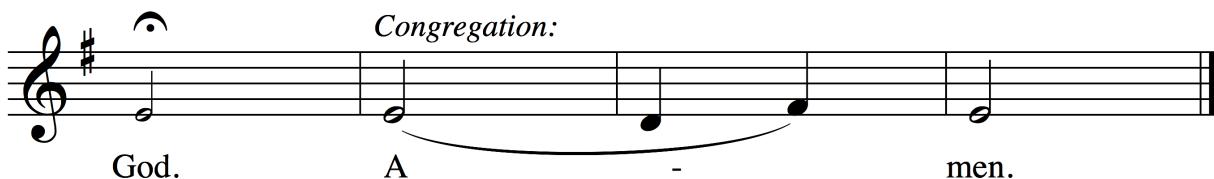
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

*Assistant:* For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)

*Assistant:* For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)



Help, save and de - fend us, O



God. A - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### Refrain

Now the feast and celebra-tion,  
all of crea-tion sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and  
free-dom: praise and glo-ry for ev-er -  
more!

### Verse 1

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once  
slain, whose blood has freed and u -

nit-ed us to be one great peo- ple of  
 God. *to Refrain*

**Verse 2**

2. Pow-er and rich-es, wis-dom and  
 might, all hon-or and glo-ry to Christ  
 for ev-er. *to Refrain*

**Verse 3**

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to  
 make us peo-ple of God; to make  
 all things new. *to Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...*(silence)* O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

[Please sit]

## WORD

## FIRST READING Acts 11:1-18

*In defense of his earlier baptism of pagan believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' own testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.*

### Lector: A reading from Acts.

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I

could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 148**

L: Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
    praise him in the heights.

**C: Praise him, all you angels of his;**  
    **praise him, all his host.**

L: Praise him, sun and moon;  
    praise him, all you shining stars.

**C: Praise him, heaven of heavens,**  
    **and you waters above the heavens.**

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD;  
    for he commanded, and they were created.

**C: He made them stand fast forever and ever;**  
    **he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

L: Praise the LORD from the earth,  
    you sea monsters and all deeps;

**C: fire and hail, snow and fog,**  
    **tempestuous wind, doing his will;**

L: mountains and all hills,  
    fruit trees and all cedars;

**C: wild beasts and all cattle,**  
    **creeping things and winged birds;**

L: kings of the earth and all peoples,  
    princes and all rulers of the world;

**C: young men and maidens,**  
    **old and young together.**

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
    for his name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.

**C: He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants,**  
    **the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING **Revelation 21:1-6**

*John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.*

Lector: A reading from Revelation.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*[Please stand as you are able]*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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*

## **HOLY GOSPEL John 13:31-35**

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.*

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus according to Saint John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P: The Holy Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*[Please sit]*

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Finley**

*[Please stand as you are able]*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

**ELW 359**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH: 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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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 THE FAITHFUL

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A: Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. Help us to plant good seeds in your world.

A: Lord in your mercy. **C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Holy Lord, humble the rulers of nations before your splendor. Direct them to the people who need their attention most, and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power.

A: Lord in your mercy. **C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Loving God, place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities. By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us. Bring an end to divisions. Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another.

A: Lord in your mercy. **C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Almighty God, be with those who are in pain or distress especially all whom we name silently in our hearts or with our voices now ... (long pause) ..... As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need.

A: Lord in your mercy. **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

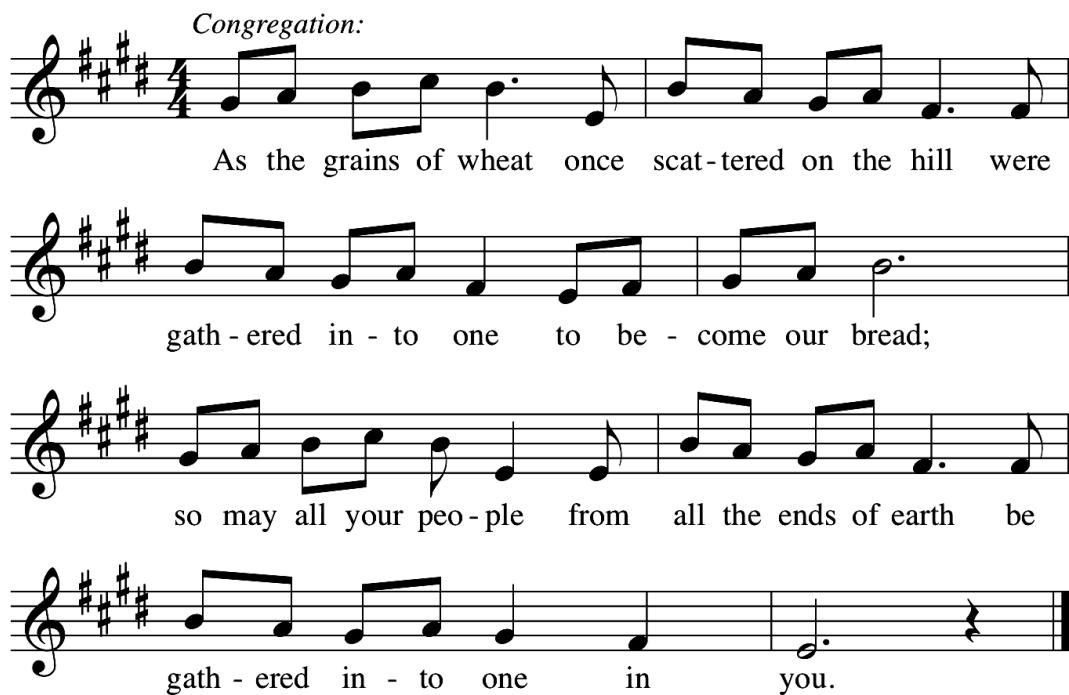
**C: Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.

## THE OFFERTORY

*Congregation:*



As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were  
gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread;  
so may all your peo - ple from all the ends of earth be  
gath - ered in - to one in you.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

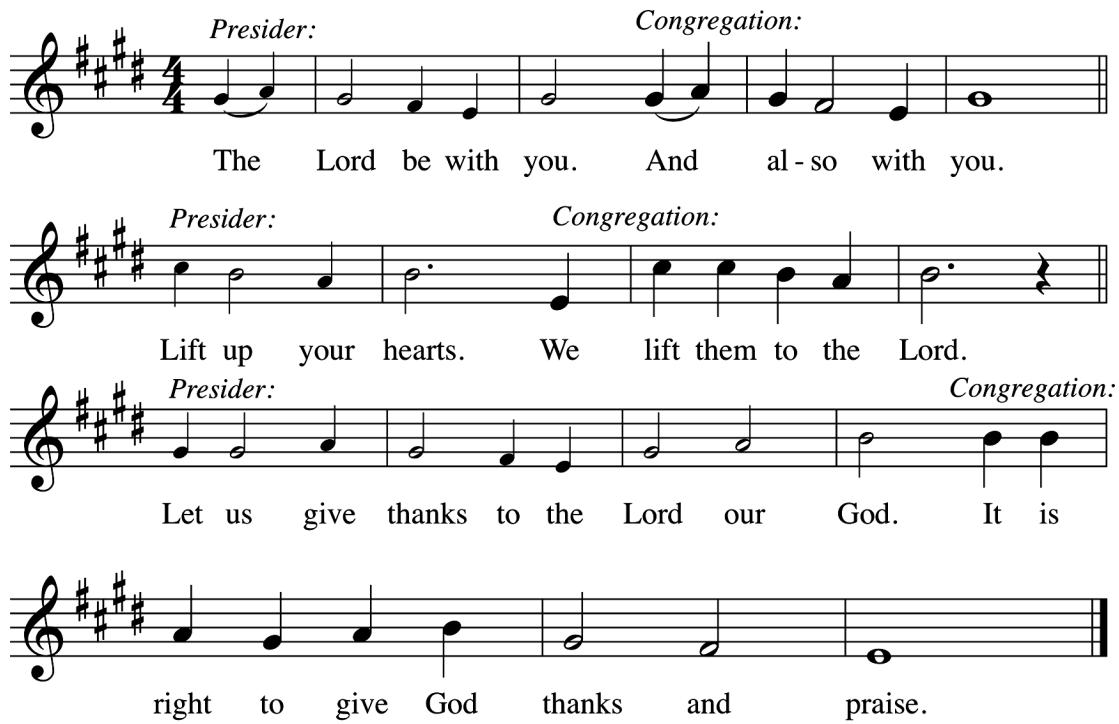
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MEAL

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GREAT THANKSGIVING



Presider: Congregation:

The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Presider: Congregation:

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Congregation:

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The Presider's part is on the first and third staves, and the Congregation's part is on the second and fourth staves. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music features various note values including eighth and sixteenth notes, with some sustained notes and rests.

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high-est!

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;  
you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.  
We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.  
We thank you for the new world to come  
and for the love that will rule all in all.  
We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen,  
the people of your promise:  
the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,  
the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile,  
and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.  
In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,  
who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.  
In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the incarnation of your Son:  
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.  
We remember the sacrifice of his life:  
his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death.  
But chiefly [on this day] we remember his rising from the tomb,  
his ascension to the seat of power,  
and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.  
We cry out for the resurrection of our lives,  
when Christ will come again in beauty and power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we and all who share in this bread and cup  
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,  
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,  
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

### INVITATION AND FRACTURE

P: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**C: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*[Please sit]*

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
you break the chains of ha - tred and  
you are the way of jus - tice and  
you are the way of mer - cy and

world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,  
fear:  
peace:  
love.

**Final Stanza**

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION: INTINCTION AND COMMON CUP

### MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

*Spirit, Open My Heart*

ACS 1043

*[Please stand as you are able]*

### TABLE BLESSING

P: May this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **The office will be closed on Memorial Day—May 26**

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## SENDING

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### SENDING HYMN

*They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

**Chorus** *And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. *Chorus*

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side.  
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride. *Chorus*

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son,  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one. *Chorus*

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### BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

### DISMISSAL

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: Proclaim the Risen Christ!

C: Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE