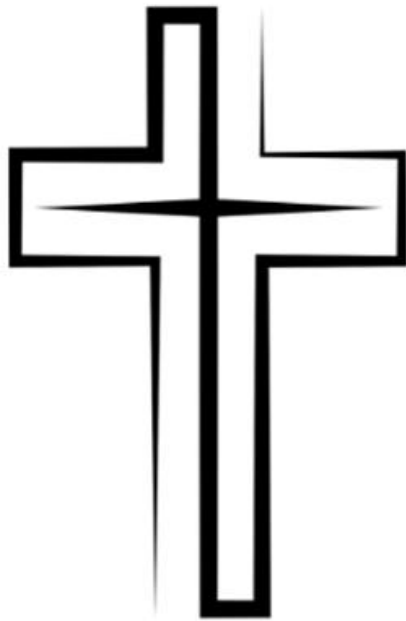


Church of the Holy Cross

Alleluia, the Lord is risen indeed!



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

10 a.m.

40700 W. Ten Mile Road • Novi, MI 48375

248-427-1175

[www.holycrossnovi.org](http://www.holycrossnovi.org)

[holycrossnovi@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossnovi@gmail.com)

# Gathering of the People

## Prelude

### Opening Hymn H 487 *Come, my way, my truth, my life*



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a  
 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a  
 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all  
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in  
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.  
 length; such a strength as makes \_\_\_\_\_ his guest.  
 part; such a heart as joys \_\_\_\_\_ in love.

Words: George Herbert (1593-1633). Music: *The Call*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

## Opening Acclamation (A New Zealand Prayer Book)

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People** **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks for the coming of God's reign of justice and love.

**People** **Jesus Christ is good news for the poor, release for the captives, recovery of sight to the blind and liberty for those who are oppressed.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Hymn of Praise MHSO 108 (v 1-2) *Come, Holy Spirit, descend on us*



Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit, de - scend on us, de -



scend on us. We ga - ther here in Je - - - sus'

(Cantor, except last time)  
Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit.\*

(last time)  
name. (hum) \*Come, Ho - ly

\* Congregation repeats words sung by Cantor(s).  
1 Come, Holy Spirit.  
2 Come, Breath of Heaven,

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## Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* God be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated for the readings.*

## First Reading

Acts 7:55-60

*Reader* A Reading from the book of Acts

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.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

*Recited responsively by verse. The reader leads off, and the congregation responds with the bold verses.*

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.

2 **Incline your ear to me; \***  
**make haste to deliver me.**

3 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.

4 **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.**

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

15 **My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.**

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness save me.

## Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

*Reader* A reading from the first letter of 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."

To you then who believe, he is precious; 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 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.

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.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

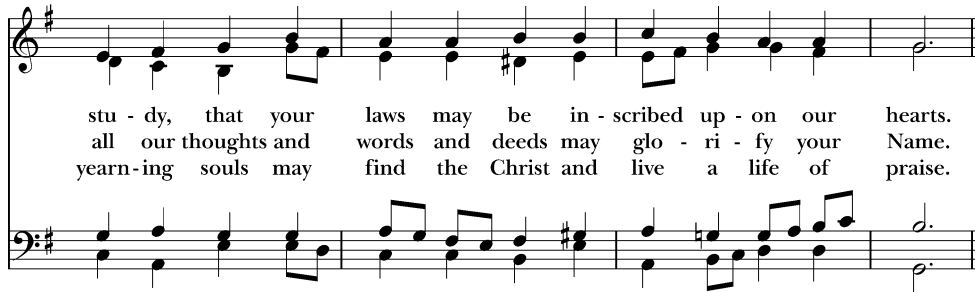
**People** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Sequence Hymn H 628 (v.4) Opening Acclamation Easter

*We will sing the v.1 & 2 before the gospel and v.3 after.*

1 Help us, O Lord, to learn the truths your word im - parts: to  
2 Help us, O Lord, to live the faith which we pro - claim, that  
3 Help us, O Lord, to teach the beau - ty of your ways, that



stu - dy, that your laws may be in - scribed up - on our hearts.  
 all our thoughts and words and deeds may glo - ri - fy your Name.  
 yearn - ing souls may find the Christ and live a life of praise.

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## Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

***People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "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 me 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."

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

***People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Sermon

The Rev. Jonathan Sams

**Creed** (by Susan Bock)

**We believe in God, the Creator,  
 who made the heavens and the earth.  
 We believe in Jesus Christ,  
 God's beloved Son, our brother and savior,  
 who was born of the Holy Spirit and the woman Mary.  
 He was crucified, died, and was buried,  
 but, on the third day, he rose from death  
 and returned to the heart of God  
 from where he reigns in eternal love.  
 He will come again to gather  
 the whole world home to that love.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
in one healed and united Church,  
in the forgiveness of all sins,  
and in eternal life for us all. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People** (Form III)

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for our search committee.  
**Grant them wisdom, discernment and patience as they move through this process.**

We also pray for the pastor who will be joining us.  
**Lead the right priest to our Church and guide us as we move forward together.**

We pray for our church.  
**Send us a tenant for the daycare space who will bless us and who we will bless and guide our vestry as we move through this process.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence. The People may add their own petitions aloud in the room, or typed in the chat on Zoom.*

*Celebrant* God of new life, we give praise for the Resurrection of your Son, Jesus, and for the moments of abundant grace we have experienced which take part in your divine story. Give us mindful hearts to perceive the blessings of your love at all times and in all places. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

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

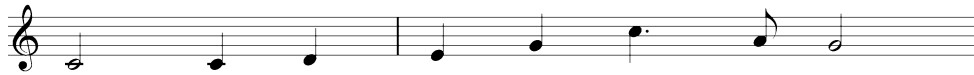
*The Peace is exchanged with one another.*

# The Liturgy of the Table

## Offertory Sentence

### Offertory Hymn H 51 *We the Lord's people*

The hymn is sung while the Deacon sets the table.



1 This day at thy cre - at - ing word  
2 This day the Lord for sin - ners slain  
3 This day the Ho - ly Spi - rit came  
4 All praise to God the Fa - ther be,



first o'er the earth the - light was poured;  
in might vic - to - rious rose a - gain;  
with fier - y tongues of clo - ven flame;  
all praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee,



O Lord, this day up - on us shine  
O Je - sus, may we lift - ed be  
O Spi - rit, fill our hearts this day  
whom, with the Spi - rit, we a - dore



and fill our souls with light di - vine.  
from death of sin to life in thee!  
with grace to hear and grace to pray.  
for ev - er and for ev - er - more.

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## Communion Prayer (from *Enriching Our Worship 3*)

*Celebrant* God be with you.

***People* And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

***People* We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

## Sanctus MHSO 38 *Holy, holy, holy*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - - - ly, God of power and  
power and might, — heaven and earth and full, — are full  
of your glo - ry. — Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho -  
san - na in the high - - - est! Ho - san - na! Ho -  
san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - - - est!

Words: from The Book of Common Prayer (1979) of the Episcopal Church USA.  
Music: John L. Bell (b. 1949) © WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland) (admin. GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 [www.giamusic.com].) All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent. You called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:  
"Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:  
"Drink this, all of you: this cup is the New Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so remembering all that was done in love: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. Blessed are you now and for ever. **AMEN.**

### Lord's Prayer by Kate Autry

*Celebrant* As Jesus has taught us, we now pray,

Cre - a - tor, Di - vine One ho - ly is your name. May  
good-ness grow and your love en - fold on earth as hea-ven. Give us to - day the  
bread of life, for - give us when we fail as we for-give those who hurt or harm us.  
Give us strength in times of trial, de - li - ver us from e - vil. For won der, and  
ma-je-sty, and glo - ry are Yours! Now and for - ev - er, A - men!

### Breaking of the Bread

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**People** **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*Celebrant* The gifts of God for the people of God. Holy gifts for holy people.

### The Communion of the People

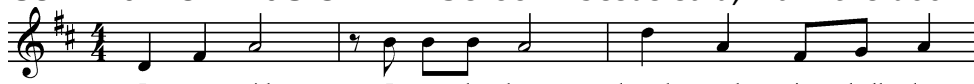
*No one who comes to the table seeking Christ is turned away. You may take the bread and/or the wine. If you do not wish to take either, cross your arms over your chest to signal you prefer a blessing. Our bread is gluten-free. If you are unable to get to the altar, let the usher know and the priest will come to those who need at the end.*

*The words of distribution are:*

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven.

The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation.

**Communion Music**    MHSO 88    *Jesus said, I am the door*



1 Je - sus said,            I am the door,            knock and it shall be  
 2 Je - sus said,            I am the way,            mark my foot - steps  
 3 Je - sus said,            I am the truth,            seek life's trea - sure,  
 4 Je - sus said,            I am the vine,            you the branch - es,  
 5 Je - sus said,            I am the light,            bright - ly shin - ing,



op - ened un - to you.    En - ter in,            joy - ful - ly.            Je - sus said,  
 mark my foot - steps,    fol - low me,            fol - low me.            Je - sus said,  
 seek life's trea - sure,    fol - low me,            fol - low me.            Je - sus said,  
 you the branch - es,    part of me,            part of me.            Je - sus said,  
 bright - ly shin - ing,    come to me,            come to me.            Je - sus said,



I am the door,            en - ter, en - ter,            joy - ful - ly.  
 I am the way,            fol - low, fol - low,            joy - ful - ly.  
 I am the truth,            fol - low, fol - low,            joy - ful - ly.  
 I am the vine,            you the branch - es,            part of me.  
 I am the light,            shin - ing, shin - ing,            come to me.

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**Announcements & Blessing of Life Events**

**Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray.

*The Celebrant and People together say*

**God of abundance,  
 you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
 you have united us with Christ and one another;  
 and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
 Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,  
 that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
 and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**The Easter Blessing**

May the God who shakes heaven and earth,  
 Whom death could not contain, who lives to disturb and heal us,  
 Strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world.  
 May the wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God,  
 Bless you and those you love and pray for this day and always. **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn H 637 (v1-3) *How firm a foundation*

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis - mayed!  
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
 4 "When through fier - y tri - als thy path - way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,

1 is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!  
 2 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
 3 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;  
 4 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
 5 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

1 What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
 2 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
 3 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
 4 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
 5 that soul, though all hell shall en - deav - or to shake,

1 to you that for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 2 up - held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.  
 3 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
 4 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
 5 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

Words: K. in John Rippon's *Selection*, 1787, alt. Music: *Lyons*, att. Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806); desc. Lois Fyfe (b. 1927). Descant Copyright © 1974, The Cumberland Press. Used by permission.

## Going into the World

*Deacon* Let us go forth in the power of the Resurrection. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! ALLELUIA!**

## Postlude

*This brings the worship to a close.  
All are invited for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall following the service.*

Ministers of Today's Service

Reader 1: Pam Janson  
Reader 2: Silvia Huth  
Prayer: Ann Maher  
Greeter/Usher: Leon Collins  
Zoom Host: Bekah Schulze  
Counters: Silvia Huth & Leon Collins  
Piano: Leah Connelly

Altar Guild

**Joanne Quinlan**, Carole Abshier, Gael Grossman,  
Anne Hamilton, Katherine Housman, Kathie Kirby,  
Cathi Peterson

Sunday School Teachers

**Teri Landreth**, Renee Brennan, Pimam Manzi,  
Ashlie Price

Clergy

Bishop of Michigan: The Rt. Rev. Bonnie Perry  
Deacon: The Rev. Dcn. Cleda Smartt

Staff

Administrator: Teri Landreth  
Music Director: Kate Autry  
Sexton: Katie Forbing

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