

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

Greetings and Welcome

Thank you for worshipping with us today! If you are visiting, please fill out one of our welcome cards by the offering boxes so we can get to know you better. If you would like to share a prayer request, you may do so on a card and place it in the box.

Prelude by Jean Welch – “This is my Father's World,” arr. Line

GATHERING

Call to Worship

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

Philippians 1:27 – “Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” *Take a moment to acknowledge how you have failed to live worthy of the gospel of Christ.*

In Philippians 2:3 – “Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” *Take a moment to confess your sin, when you have put yourself first and ignored others.*

Philippians 3:9 – “We do not have a righteousness of our own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ.” *Take a moment and ask God for God’s forgiveness.*

Philippians 4:4 – “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!” *Take a moment to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for God’s forgiveness.*

Philippians 4:7 – “The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” *We now share this peace with one another.*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

**Gathering Song* – “Teach Me to Dance”

*Refrain: Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,
teach me to move in the pow’r of your Spirit,
teach me to walk in the light of your presence,
teach to me to dance to the beat of your heart.
Teach me to love with your heart of compassion,
teach me to trust in the word of your promise,
teach me to hope in the day of your coming,
teach to me to dance to the beat of your heart.*

1. **You wrote the rhythm of life, created heaven and earth,
in you is joy without measure.
So, like a child in your sight, I dance to see your delight,
for I was made for your pleasure, pleasure. *Refrain***
2. **Let all my movements express a heart that loves to say ‘yes’,
a will that leaps to obey you.
Let all my energy blaze to see the joy in your face;
let my whole being praise you, praise you. *Refrain***

**Prayer of the Day*

P: God of the unknown, Your mysteries are astounding. Give us knowledge and vision to see you in the world around us and moving in our lives.

C: Amen.

Children’s Sermon: “Every Move I Make I Make in You”

Hymn of Praise: “Come, Thou Almighty King” ELW 408

- 1 **Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing;
help us to praise; Father all-glorious,
o'er all victorious, come and reign over us, ancient of Days.**
- 2 **Come, thou incarnate Word, merciful, mighty Lord;
our prayer attend. Come and thy people bless,
and give thy word success, and let thy righteousness on us descend.**

- 3 **Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour! Thou who almighty art,
rule now in ev'ry heart, never from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.**
- 4 **To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be hence evermore!
Thy sov'reign majesty may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore.**

WORD

Reading: Acts 17:16-31

Reader: Liddy Stark

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, “What does this pretentious babbler want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.” (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

²⁹“Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has

overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Reading:* 1 John 4:7-12

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

P: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon:

Song of the Day – “Take My Life that I May Be” ELW 583

*Refrain: Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

1. **Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. Refrain**

2. **Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use ev’ry pow’r as thou shalt choose. Refrain**

3. **Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee. Refrain**

4. **Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. Refrain**

**The Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues," arr. Crowder
by the Faith Singers

Stewardship is the spiritual practice of responding to God's grace in generosity towards God and others. If you would like to give an offering today, you are invited to come forward and place it in an offering basket. If you would like to give electronically, you can use the provided QR code.



**Offering Prayer*

P: Merciful God,

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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Words of Institution*

P: 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.

**Lord's Prayer*

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.

Communion Songs

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” ELW 807

- 1 **Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.**
- 2 **Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.**
- 3 **Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.**

“All My Days”

- 1 **All my days I will sing this song of gladness,
give my praise to the Fountain of delights;**

**For in my helplessness You heard my cry,
and waves of mercy poured down on my life.**

**2 I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer, I will sing of the blood that never fails;
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed, of death defeated and life without end.**

*Refrain: Beautiful Savior, Wonderful Counselor, clothed in majesty, Lord of history,
You're the Way, the Truth, the Life, Star of the Morning, glorious holiness,
You're the Risen One, heaven's Champion, and You reign, You reign over all!*

**3 I long to be where the praise is never ending,
Yearn to dwell where the glory never fades;
Where countless worshippers will share one song,
And cries of 'worthy' will honor the Lamb! *Refrain***

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – "Shout to the North"*

**Men of faith, rise up and sing of the great and glorious King.
You are strong when you feel weak, in your brokenness complete.**

*Refrain: Shout to the north and the south, sing to the east and the west.
Jesus is Savior to all, Lord of heaven and earth.*

**Rise up, women of the truth, stand and sing to broken hearts.
Who can know the healing pow'r of our awesome King of love? *Refrain***

**We've been through fire, we've been through rain,
we've been refined by the pow'r of his name.
We've fallen deeper in love with you, you've burned the truth on our lips.**
Refrain

**Rise up, church with broken wings, fill this place with songs again
of our God who reigns on high, by his grace again we'll fly.** *Refrain*

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Song Credits

“Teach Me to Dance,” from **The Source**, Kevin Mayhew Limited, © 1998. CCLI#973583
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission.
“All My Days,” by Stuart Townend. © 1998 Thankyou Music/Adm. Used by permission.
“Shout to the North,” from **The Source**, Kevin Mayhew Limited, © 1998. CCLI#973583

The altar plants are donated today by the Roth family
in celebration of Naomi's birthday on May 7 and Ella's birthday on May 17
and by

Lynette Hamilton in honor of granddaughter, Katelyn Keller's
graduation from SIUE College of Nursing

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Karen Sibert
Greeter: Lynette Hamilton
Reader: Liddy Stark
Ushers: Angie & Mike Fenner
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Musician: Jean Welch
Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen
Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen
Financial Assistants: Greg Kimler & John Williams
Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw
Coffee Host: Kay Schnitker



Singers:

Maddie Crossin	Kelly Hartz	Adam Krohe	Cole Street
Benen Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kevin Krohe	Monica Proefrock	Cory Street
Greg Kimler	Patty Nelson	Kay Schnitker	John Williams

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, May 3, 9:30am: Outdoor Worship
10:30am: Picnic & Planting Day

Wednesday, May 6, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

Saturday, May 9, 8:00am: Cooking for
9:00am: Men's Breakfast

Sunday, May 10, 9:30am: Worship
11:00am: Discussion Group in the Justice Room

Wednesday, May 13, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Summer Worship Schedule

Our Worship Team and Council continue to strive to listen to our congregation as we plan our worship. Recently, they have heard how much we value our blended services where we worship together and have also requested more outdoor services. As a result, they have decided to alternate between outdoor and indoor worship services through the summer with one blended service each Sunday. Magnets with the summer schedule are available to help keep us all on track. **We will be outdoors again on May 17 and 31, and indoors on May 10 and 24.** As always, outdoor services will move indoors in poor weather, and we have solid-surface seating available on the parking lot and air-conditioned seating indoors in the Justice Room.

Picnic & Planting Day at Faith

Join us after church **today**, for a Picnic & Planting Day at Faith! We're inviting everyone to stay after worship for food, fellowship, and outdoor planting to help spruce up our garden spaces. Kids and adults are welcome—there will be jobs for all ages. Picnic food will be provided. This special day is a collaboration between the Garden Team and the GIFT Team—come ready to eat, connect, and get your hands a little dirty!

Faith's Little Flock — (Ages 2–7)

gathers each Sunday after the Children's Sermon and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion.

MEN'S BREAKFAST SCHEDULE CHANGE!!!

We did not meet on May 2 but will be meeting on May 9 this month so that we can prepare a special Mother's Day project during breakfast.

Spring Altar Flowers for Faith's Gardens

We are purchasing flowers each week for the altar that will then be planted in our church gardens. If you would like to donate a plant, the cost is \$15, and you can sign up at the podium in the Gathering Area.

VBS

Have you seen all the kids around here?! Our Faith Family is growing and we want to provide some wonderful education and fellowship for our children, youth, and their families. This summer, we will be providing a Vacation Bible School program for children of all ages. Instead of a single week, we will be offering a variety of days through the summer in hopes to involve more children and volunteers. Our Discipleship Core Team is beginning the planning and is looking for help. Not only are we welcoming those interested in planning, but also volunteers to assist with games, dramas, crafts, music, and meals. Contact anyone on our Discipleship Core Team to offer your help: Pam Devlin, Carol Freesen, Celeste Hill, and Pastor Adam, **or indicate on the Sign-Up sheet at the Coffee Sales counter by the coat closet if you are interested in helping to plan, helping to lead games, music, crafts, music, or help provide meals, or if your children are interested in coming.** Dates will be determined soon.

Post-Service Discussions – Digging Deeper

Join Naomi Hahn and friends in the Justice Room after worship to dig deeper into the readings and sermon of the day. While we try to stay on topic, the Holy Spirit sometimes has her way and we find ourselves delving into all sorts of topics of faith and life... just as fruitful as the scriptures and sermon. It's a wonderful way to connect with others and grow

in our faith seeking understanding. **During the summer schedule, we will only be meeting after the indoor services.**

Read the Bible in a Year

Join us in reading the Bible over the course of a year, **Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Faith Library**. We gather weekly to discuss our insights and reflections. We are utilizing The Bible Recap by Tara-Leigh Cobble, available on the YouVersion Bible app, to guide our journey. For more information, feel free to reach out to Pam Devlin.

Celebrating our Graduates

Is someone in your family graduating this spring? If so, we'd like to celebrate with them! Please tell us their name, school, degree, any future plans, and send us a photo.

Doorbell Dinners - May 25-29

Help us deliver meals in the community. We are in need of drivers & deliverers to cover the needs of five routes — time commitment is 11:15-12:30 each day. For more information and to sign up, visit the sign-up counter by the Fair Trade coffee sales.

Youth Summer Camps

Our youth are participating in a number of summer camps. Here are some of their top recommendations:

Marilyn Dichsen and Adam Krohe love **Leadership Lab**, a camp for high school sophomores through adults at Augustana College in Rock Island. Ask them why they enjoy it so much, and consider joining them for a future camp!

Beckham and Kellon Oldenettel have long been involved with the **Western Illinois Youth Camp**. This summer, they have camps through all of June and July. Learn more and register at WIYC.NET.

Benen and Louis Dichsen love **Performing Arts Camp (PAC)** at Green Pastures. It is for grades 5-12 to explore the arts through music, drama, improv, dance, and more. Louis plans to attend all three of the PAC camps this summer (June 12-13, 19-20, 26-27). Cost is \$50/camper. Ask them why they enjoy it so much and consider joining them. There is always room for more at these camps! Pastor Adam and Marilyn Dichsen are serving as counselors this year.

If needed, scholarships are available for **Performing Arts Camp**.

Registration link: <http://www.greenpasturesretreatcenter.org/registration>.

For more information call: 217-584-1374

Email: contact@greenpasturesretreatcenter.org