

# THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 2026

## *“Growing Up Into Your Salvation”*

### THE EASTER ACCLAMATION AND WELCOME

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

### THE OPENING HYMN #467 *“Awake, My Heart, with Gladness”* (vv.1-3 & 7)



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, See what to - day is done;  
2 The foe in tri - umph shout - ed When Christ lay in the tomb;  
3 This is a sight that glad - dens—What peace it doth im - part!  
7 He brings me to the por - tal That leads to bliss un - told,



Now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, Comes forth the glo - rious sun.  
But lo, he now is rout - ed, His boast is turned to gloom.  
Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens The joy with - in my heart.  
Where - on this rhyme im - mor - tal Is found in script of gold:



My Sav - ior there was laid Where our bed must be made  
For Christ a - gain is free; In glo - rious vic - to - ry  
No gloom shall ev - er shake, No foe shall ev - er take  
“Who there My cross has shared Finds here a crown pre - pared;



When to the realms of light Our spir - it wings its flight.  
He who is strong to save Has tri - umphed o'er the grave.  
The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.  
Who there with Me has died Shall here be glo - ri - fied.”

*(please stand)*

### THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

**THE HYMN OF PRAISE** *“This is the Feast” (page 155 in the hymnal)*

**Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb Who was slain,  
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. Refrain:**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. Refrain:**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. Refrain:**

**For the Lamb Who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. Refrain:**

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**THE FIRST READING** Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60 (ESV)

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word.” And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of

grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . . And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran" . . . . "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the Law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### **THE EPISTLE** 1 Peter 2:2-10 (ESV)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame." So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." Because they disobey the Word, they stumble over it; that's the end appointed for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(please stand)*

#### **THE ALLELUIA VERSE** *(sung) (page 156 in the hymnal)*

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL** John 14:1-14 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

**C:** *(sung)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms. 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, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to 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 had known Me, you would have known My Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know Me, Philip? 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 authority, but the Father who dwells in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will He do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** *(sung)* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **THE NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

## **THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## THE HYMN OF THE DAY #487 "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain Of tri - um-phant glad - ness!  
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst His pris - on  
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright With the day of splen - dor,  
4 For to - day a - mong His own Christ ap - peared, be - stow - ing  
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry To our King im - mor - tal,



God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness,  
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun has ris - en;  
With the roy - al feast of feasts Comes its joy to ren - der;  
His deep peace, which ev - er - more Pass - es hu - man know - ing.  
Who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars Of the tomb's dark por - tal.



Loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,  
All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing  
Comes to glad - den faith-ful hearts Which with true af - fec - tion  
Nei - ther could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark por - tal  
Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



Led them with un-moist-ened foot Through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
From His light, to whom is giv'n Laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
Wel - come in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!  
Nor the watch - ers nor the seal Hold Him as a mor - tal.  
God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness!

## THE SERMON "Growing Up Into Your Salvation" Text: 1 Peter 2:2-3

### THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS #465 "Now All the Vault" (verse 3)

**O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set heart and will on things above  
That we conquer through Your triumph; Grant grace sufficient for life's day  
That by our lives we truly say: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*(please stand)*

### THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(Each petition concludes with the following response: "Let us pray to the Lord," "Lord, have mercy.")*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER *(printed inside the back cover of the hymnal)*

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE PEACE *John 20:19*

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

C: Amen.

*(please be seated)*

**THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS** *(please remain seated for all final Trinitarian verses)*

**#633** "At the Lamb's High Feast"



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to  
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His  
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—  
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - umphant go  
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

- 5 Mighty Victim from the sky,  
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;  
You have conquered in the fight,  
You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!**
- 6 Now no more can death appall,  
Now no more the grave enthrall;  
You have opened paradise,  
And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!**
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
This alone can sin destroy;  
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!**
- △ 8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days:  
Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!**

# #644 "The Church's One Foundation"



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;  
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,  
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war  
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.  
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more  
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;  
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,  
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"  
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,  
O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.  
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.  
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.  
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

## #722 "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;  
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear,  
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,



Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.  
For You, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.  
I know that You will strength - en My steps toward home.



With - out Your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;  
Close by Your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,  
Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;



So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.  
For when Your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.  
So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

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*(please stand)*

### THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C: Amen.

### THE POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this Sacrament. Daily remind us of our identity in You as a newborn, chosen, priestly people called to proclaim Your excellencies; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

### THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

*(please be seated)*

### THE ANNOUNCEMENTS