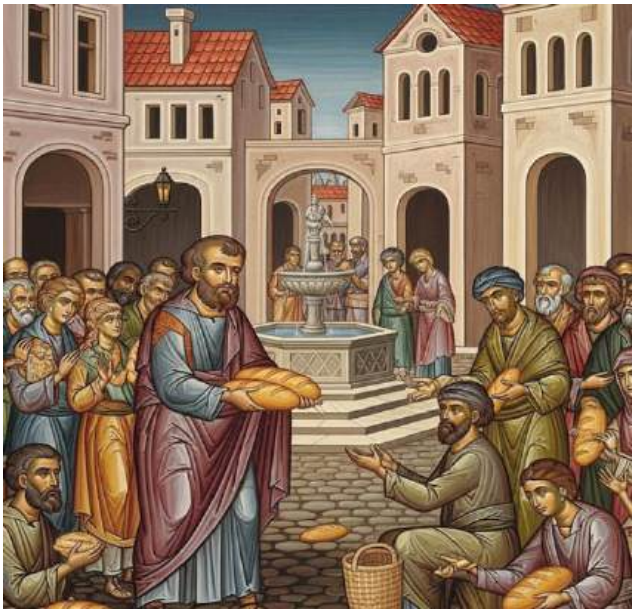
# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026
10:00 am



## First Lutheran Church, LCMS

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**www.flcgainesville.org**

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

## May 3, 2026 - 10:00 am Worship – Divine Setting 2

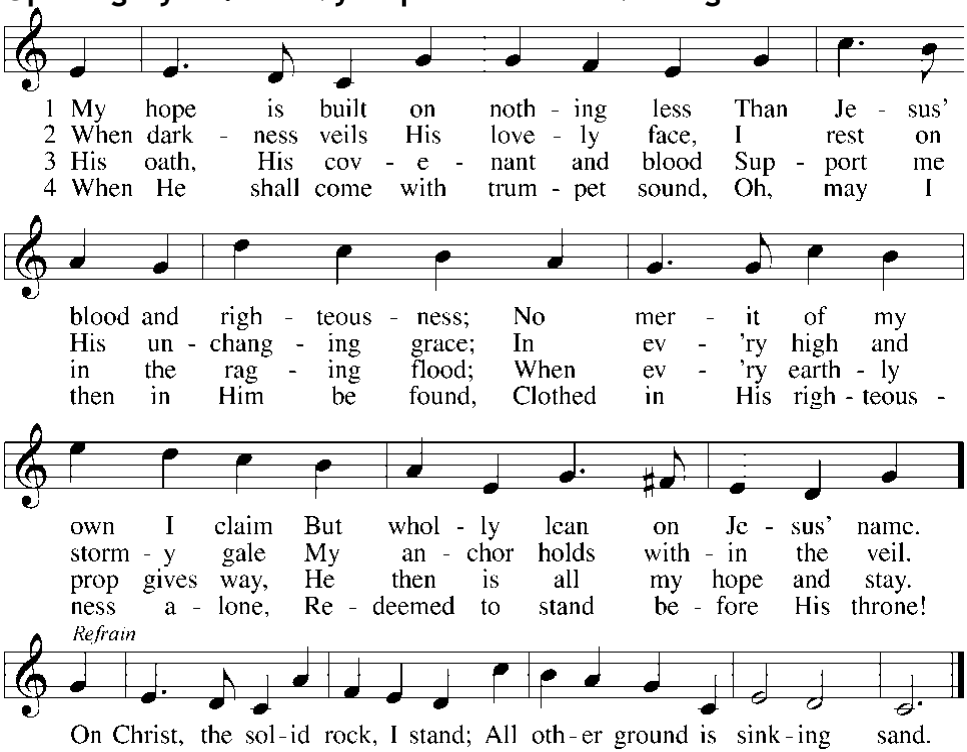
**Prelude: The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns**-set by C. Callahan

**Welcome**

**Sharing of the Peace**

*(Stand)*

**Opening Hymn: 575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**




**Invocation**

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

**C** **Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

**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.**

*(Please Kneel or Sit)*

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

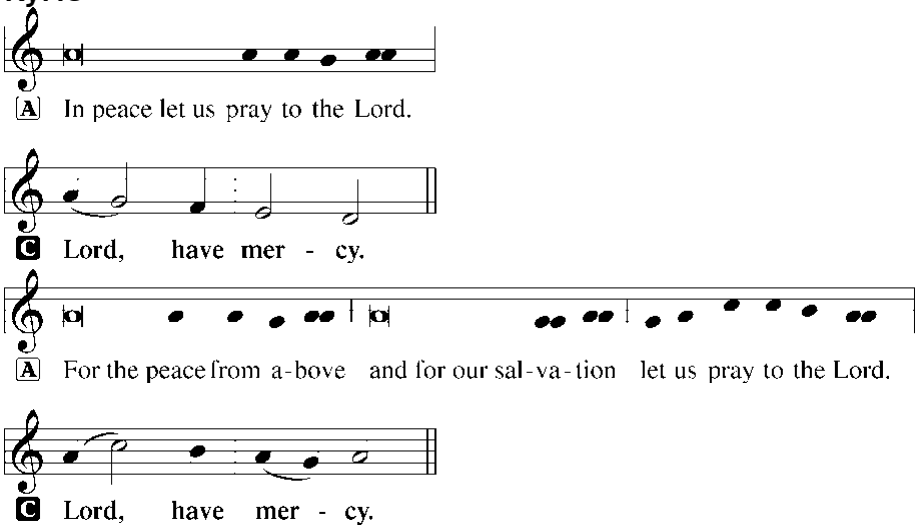
**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your 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.**

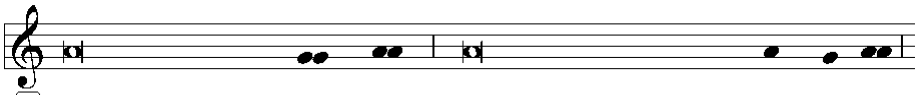
**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

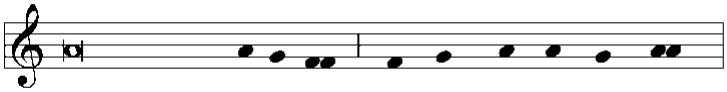
*(Stand)*

## Kyrie

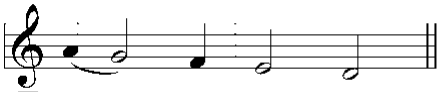




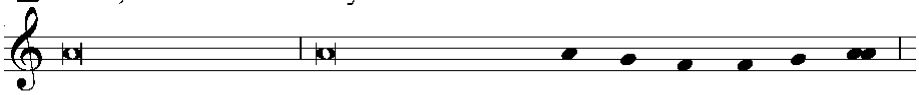
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



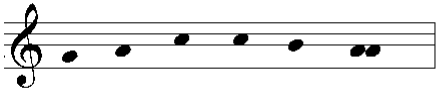
and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



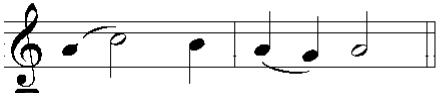
C **Lord, have mer - cy.**



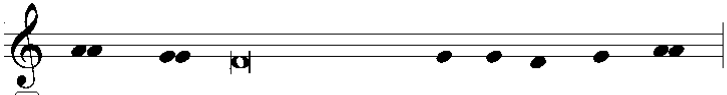
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



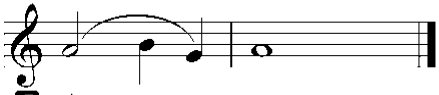
let us pray to the Lord.



C **Lord, have mer - cy.**

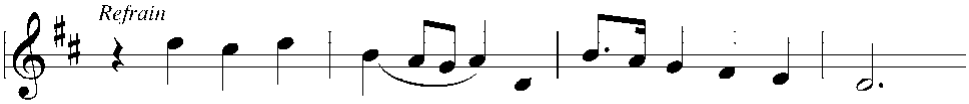


A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord.

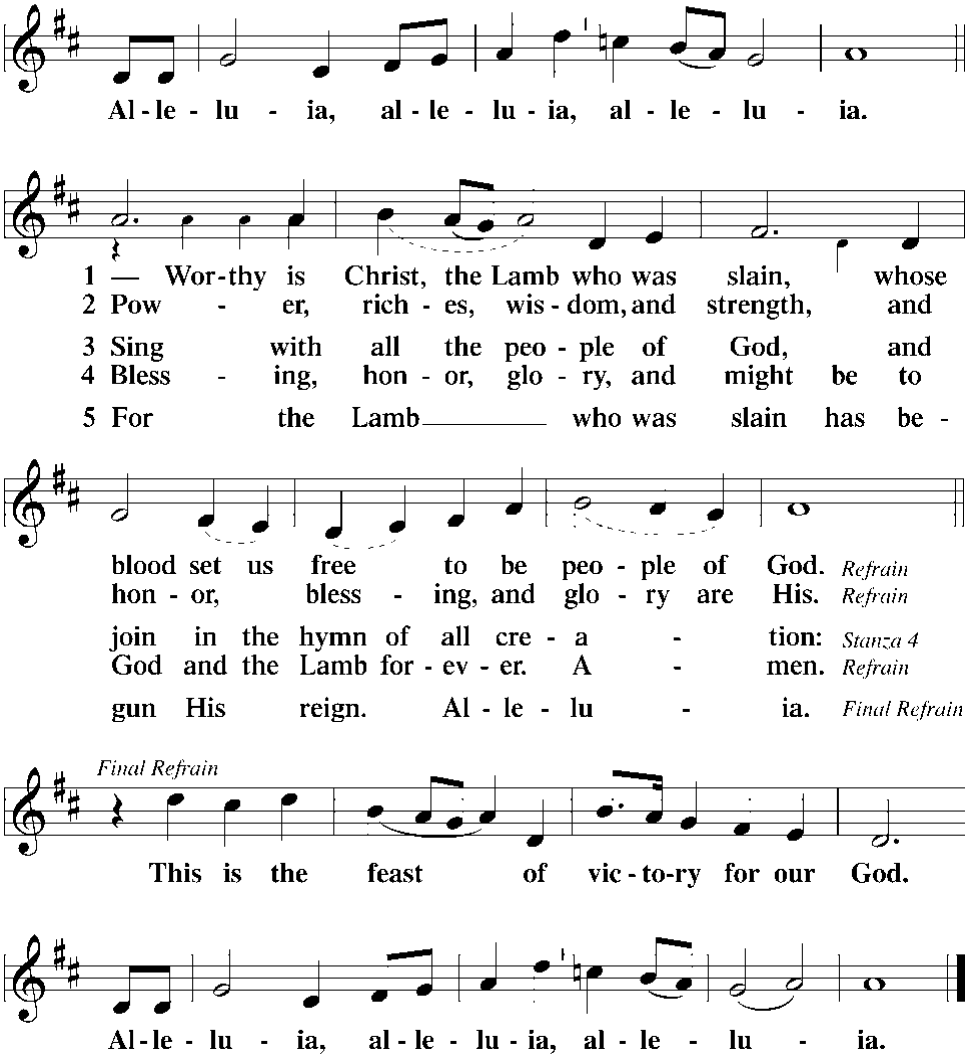


C **A - men.**

## This Is the Feast




C **This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.**




## Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**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, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*(Sit)*

***If you have a Prayer Request, please fill out a yellow Prayer Request Card (in the back of the pew in front of you) and drop it in the offering plate.***

## Connect with Us

- ***Guests and Visitors*** *- We would like to invite you to fill out a Connect Card (in the back of the pew in front of you). Include your name and contact info, and drop this card into the offering plate, and First Lutheran will make a $10 donation to a local charity of your choice. Thank you for joining us today, and for partnering with us to make a difference in our community!*
- ***Members and Frequent Guests*** *– Please let us know you're here by filling out the fellowship pad and passing it down so everyone may complete.*

## Kid's Message

*After the Kids Message, kids will be dismissed for Sunday School and come back to service (around Communion). Please walk and follow the teachers. Thanks!*

## First Reading: Acts 6:1-7

1 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. 2 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.
3 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. 4 But we will devote ourselves to
prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 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.
6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

7 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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

## Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

[2]Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— [3]if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

[4]As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, [5]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. [6]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."

[7]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,"

[8]and

"A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

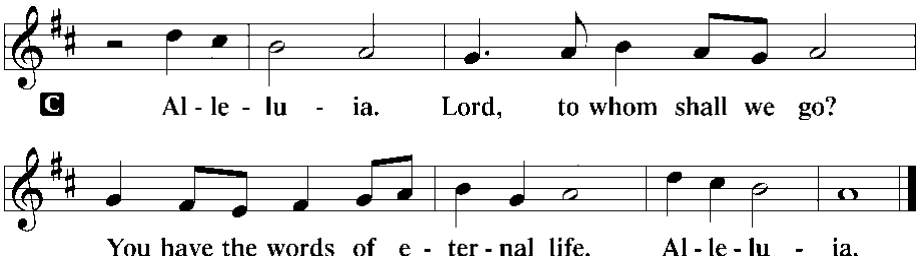
[9]But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. [10]Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

*(Stand)*

**Alleluia**



## Holy Gospel: John 14:1-14

[1][Jesus said:] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. [2]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? [3]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. [4]And you know the way to where I am going." [5]Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" [6]Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. [7]If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

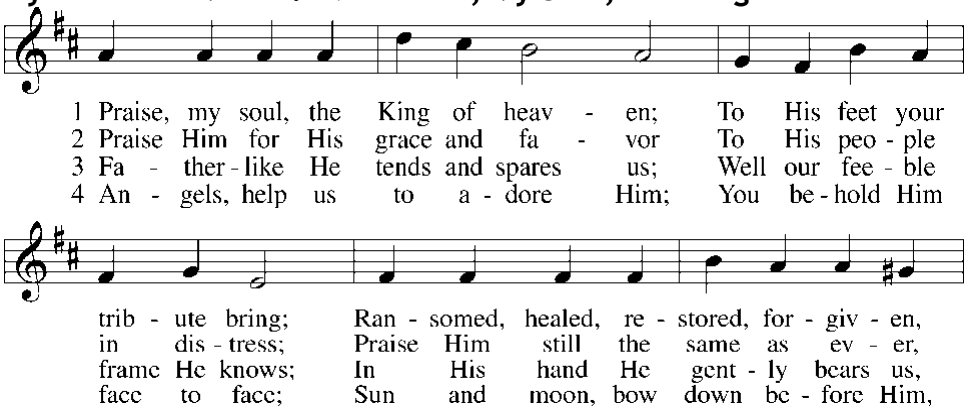
[8]Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." [9]Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? [10]Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the 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. [11]Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

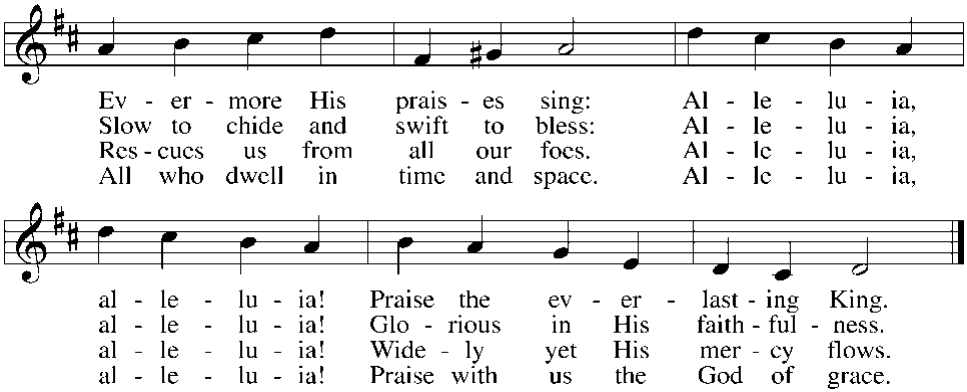
[12]"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. [13]Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. [14]If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Hymn of the Month: 793 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven



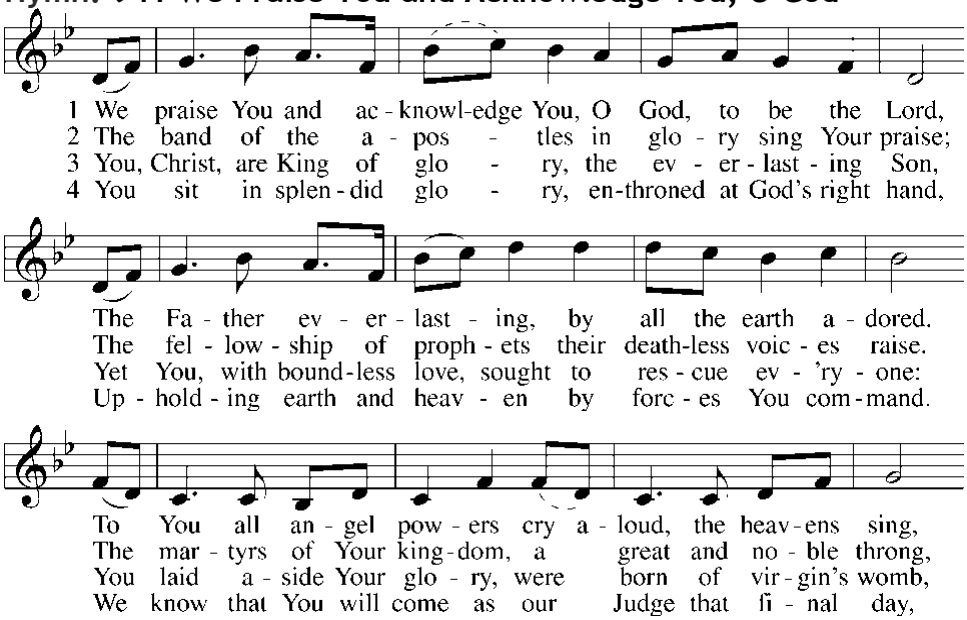


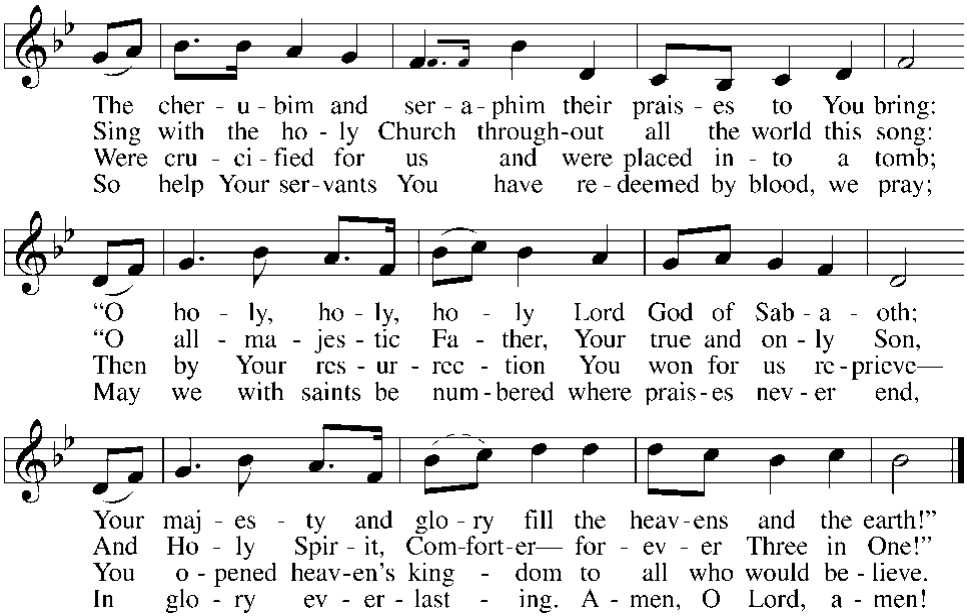

*(Sit)*

## Sermon

*(Stand)*

## Hymn: 941 We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God






## Apostles' Creed

**C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**
**maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**
**The third day He rose again from the dead.**
**He ascended into heaven**
**and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**
**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**
**the holy Christian Church,**
**the communion of saints,**
**the forgiveness of sins,**
**the resurrection of the body,**
**and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

*(Sit)*

## Stephen Ministry Commissioning and Video

## Announcements

## Offering

- ***Ways to Give -*** *You can leave your offering in the plate that the ushers bring down the aisle, donate online (scan the QR code to get to our online giving website), or send in your offering by mail.*
- *Your continued generosity helps us to share Jesus with our community, so thank you!!!*

**Voluntary: Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer-**set by J. Marriott

*(Stand)*

## Prayer of the Church

## Lord's Prayer

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

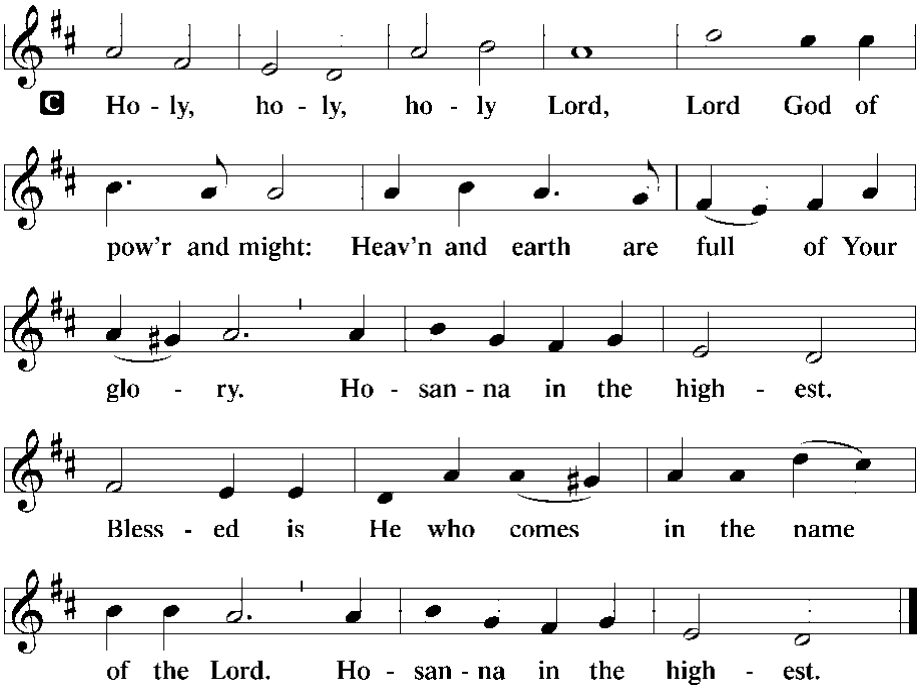
**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**Sanctus**



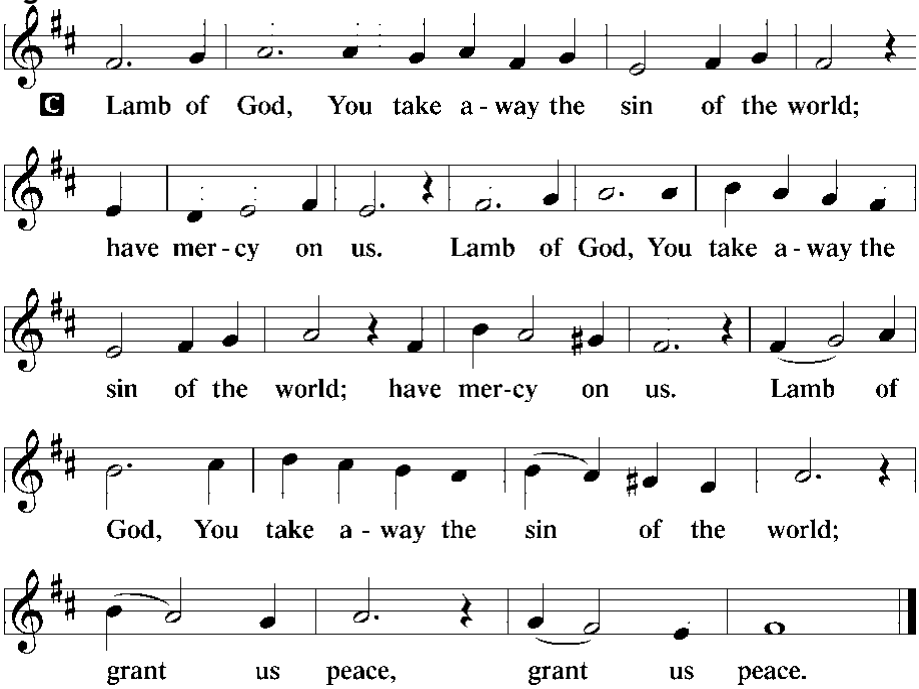

## The Words of our Lord

## Pax Domini

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

**C** **Amen.**

## Agnus Dei

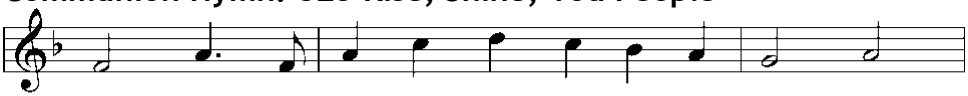



*(Sit)*

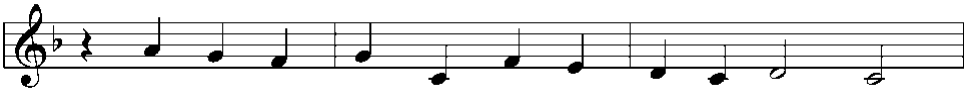
## Communion Distribution

- *Young people who have not yet taken part in our Communion preparation classes are invited to come forward with their parents to receive a blessing*
- *We have gluten free wafers for those allergic to wheat. (Just tell the Pastor that you would like a gluten free wafer)*
- *Grape juice is also available in the center portion of the communion trays for those wishing not to partake in wine.*

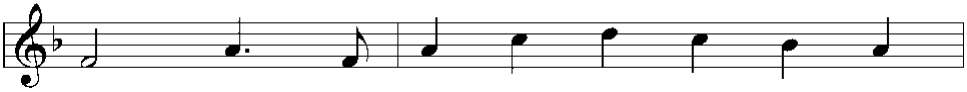
## Communion Hymn: 825 Rise, Shine, You People



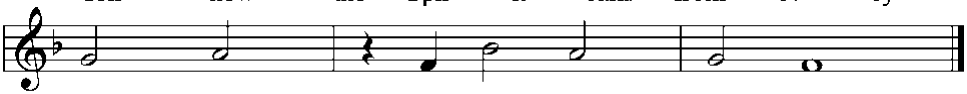
1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how He sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent His Son to save us.



Our hu - man sto - ry; God in Him is cen - tered.
He brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.
Your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark-ness hurl - ing.
Tell of the Son, who life and free-dom gave us.

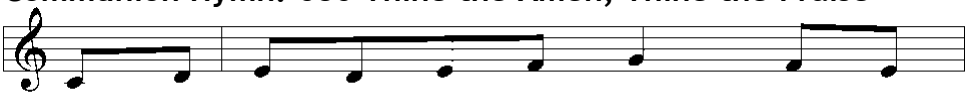


He comes to us, by death and sin sur -
All men and wom - en, who by guilt are
To all the world go out and tell the
Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry

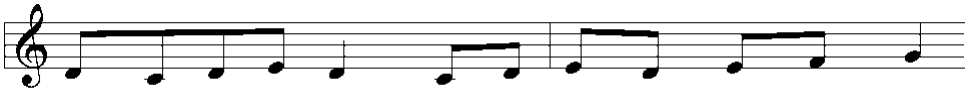


round - ed, With grace un - bound - ed.
driv - en, Now are for - giv - en.
sto - ry Of Je - sus' glo - ry.
na - tion His new cre - a - tion.

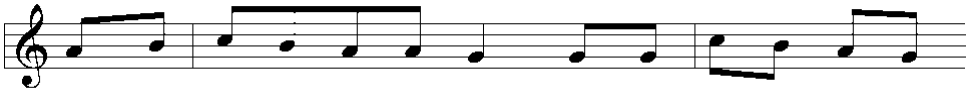
## Communion Hymn: 680 Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise



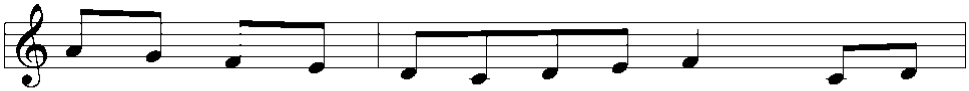
1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly Thine the
3 Thine the tru - ly Thine the yes Thine the
4 Thine the king - dom Thine the prize Thine the
5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more



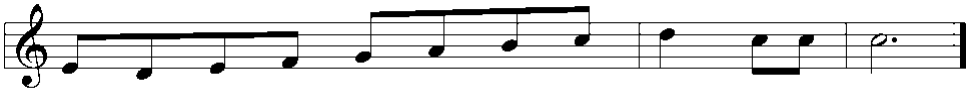
lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head
prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree
ta - ble we the guest Thine the mer - cy all from Thee
won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise
dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the
All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the
Thine the glo - ry yet to be Then the ring - ing and the
Then the jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the
Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly

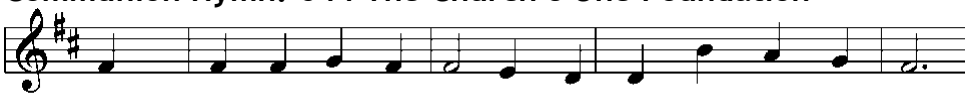


sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the
rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the
sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the
sto - ry Then the wel - come to the least Then the
ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the

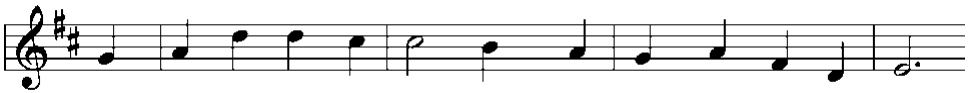


vine-yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy feast at Thy feast.
splen-dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

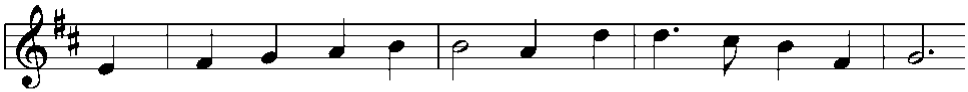
## Communion Hymn: 644 The Church's One Foundation



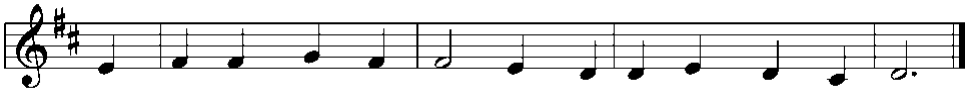
1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With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

*(Stand)*

## Dismissal

## Post-Communion Prayer

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## Benediction

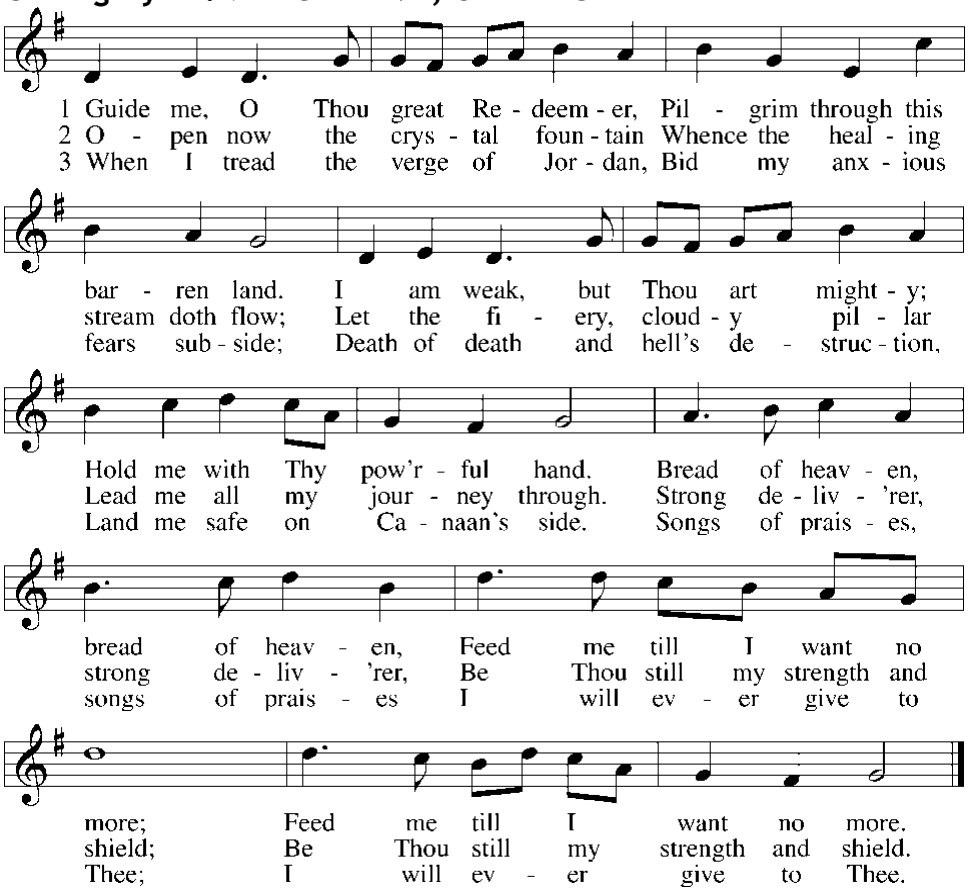
**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

**C** **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn: 918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer




**P** Go in Peace and Serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** **Allegro Maestoso from Handel's Water Music**
by J. Linker and J. McFadden

## Pastoral Assistance

If you are ever in need of pastoral assistance (hospital or home visit, communion, counseling, etc.), please feel free to contact Pastor Chris or Pastor Rockey. You may reach them by email at PastorChris@flcgainesville.org or jonrock53@mtaonline.net, or call the church office at 352-376-2062. In case of emergency, you may reach Pastor Chris on his cell phone at 914-325-7145 or Pastor Rockey at 907-841-4066

**Please "be present" and silence your cell phones in church. Thank you!**

# Announcements

**College Students**

Thanks so much for joining us today! If you are new in town, we would love to get you connected here at First Lutheran.

- **Join our GroupMe Group** – Stay in the loop about all the things happening with our college group. Scan the QR code to the right to get the link to join our group *'First Lutheran Campus Ministry 2025-2026'*
- **Fellowship Lunch** – Taking a break until the Fall Semester.
- **College Bible Study** - Taking a break until the Fall Semester

**Sunday Bible Study Options from 8:45-9:45 am**

- Pastor Chris is teaching a Lutheranism 101 class in the library/conference room. This six-week class will serve as an intro to what Lutherans believe, and what makes us similar or different to other denominations. This will also serve as our New Member class if you want to become a member of FLC.
- Pastor Rockey is teaching a class on "We The People" about Christian citizenship.

**Stewardship - What's Your Superpower?**

Please fill out the **Interest and Abilities Survey**—this a simple way to help us learn how God has gifted our congregation. Survey cards are in the church entryway to pick up and fill out or please scan the QR code to the right. Thank you for helping us grow together in service and ministry! – *FLC Stewardship Committee*

**First Lutheran is Texting**
Stay in the know our texting service is to improve our ability to communicate with you. **Please save our texting number (352) 757-4889 into your phone.**

**Sign up for a Magnetic Nametag!**
Please get you nametag by adding your name to the sheet on the table in the entryway OR scan the QR code and sign up online.

**Contemporary Service**
Mark your calendars for May 17th as there will be a special giving of music from the FLC Praise Team.

## First Lutheran Needs Your Help!

**Spring Food Drive**
Non-perishable food items are being collected to support our community through Gainesville Community Ministries. Please pick up your Publix bag and list of needed items. Everything from toiletries to pet food. Return your gift to the church entry way by May 31st. Any questions please contact Laura Hoyer or Dian Dudeck by emailing the church office.

**Godwink Summer Book Drive** has started. Please deposit your kids' books in the Godwink bin in the church entryway by May 24th. Any questions please contact Judy Varady or Barbara Hughes by emailing the church office.

**Altar Flowers**
Today's flowers have been donated by Susan Lucas in celebration of Dana's birthday Apr. 25th.
*(If you are interested in donating flowers for the altar on Sunday mornings, please sign up on the Flower Chart in the church entryway, or contact the church office at office@flcgainesville.org Flowers are $40 or $20 if you are sharing per Sunday.)*

# Volunteer Schedule

**Today**

| | |
|---|---|
| Lector | Katherine Gross |
| Comm | Jonathan Albertin |
| Acolyte | Cole Rabe |
| Children's Msg | The Bolches |
| Sound | Leeann Lee |
| Camera | Patty Holloway |
| Slides | Saher |
| Usher | Bruce Helling, Roberta Partridge, Jared Partridge, John Holloway |
| Altar Guild | Christine Dietrich/ Roberta Partridge |
| Card Ministry | Karen Natzke |

**Next Sunday (May 10th) Mother's Day**

| | |
|---|---|
| Lector | Linda Wendling |
| Comm | Jeff Thinschmidt |
| Acolyte | Ruth Gassman |
| Children's Msg | Pastor Rockey |
| Sound | Jonathan Albertin |
| Camera | Brandi Dotson |
| Slides | Kina Rutman |
| Usher | Tom Kucharek, Jim Gorske, Dan Hamann, Saher |
| Altar Guild | Christine Dietrich/ Roberta Partridge |
| Card Ministry | Karen Natzke |