

May 3, 2026
5th Sunday of Easter



Leading Worship Today:

Pastor: Brian Entz

Lay Leader: Kathy Quady

Accompanist: Ralph Johansen

*Please read along with all **Bold** text
All are invited to stand when there is an **

Larger Print: Please see an usher if you would like larger print hymns.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. -Hebrews 11:1

*I am a Christian because, as soon as the sun rose on Sunday, they showed up at Jesus's tomb
anyway, burial spices in hand.*

I am a Christian because of the women who showed up.

I am a Christian because of women who said yes. - Rachel Held Evans

GATHERING

CHORAL INTROIT

This is the Day

Garrett

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 31

In you, O God, have I taken refuge;

let me never be put to shame;

deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me;

make haste to deliver me.

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.

*OPENING HYMN

#766 The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Holy God, you call us to live faithfully following Jesus, yet too often we turn away and wander in directions of our own making. You command us to love one another as you love us, yet we are consumed by our own wants and desires, abandoning others in their time of need. You teach us to train our attention on the present moment, yet we are consumed by past regret and nostalgia and future longing and worry.

Forgive us, Holy One, turn our attention back to you and the way you have set before us. Show us once again how to love the people you have placed in front of us; seeing their need, their dignity, and their belovedness. We pray this in the faithful name of Jesus, Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters your sins are forgiven and you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear this good news of God's promise: "I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh." Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. In the name of Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. **Alleluia, thanks be to God!**

***RESPONSE**

#581 The Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Therefore, since we have been made righteous through Christ's faithfulness, we have peace with God. Let us also share peace with one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*The people may exchange with their neighbors, by words or gesture,
signs of peace and reconciliation.*

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, may the reading of your word be for us the bread you send from heaven that gives life to the world. Amen.

1ST SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 4:32-37

³² Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. ³⁶ There was a Levite from Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). ³⁷ He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word,
Thanks be to God.

2nd SCRIPTURE READING

James 2:14-26

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith apart from works, and I by my works will show you faith. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is worthless? ²¹ Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and by works faith was brought to completion. ²³ Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? ²⁶ For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

*HYMN

#684 Faith Begins by Letting Go

3rd SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 7:1-10

⁷ After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. ² A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly and who was ill and close to death. ³ When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. ⁴ When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, ⁵ for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us." ⁶ And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; ⁷ therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. ⁸ For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me, and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes,

and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." ⁹When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and, turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." ¹⁰When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

The word of God for the people of God,
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Living Our Faith

Rev. Brian Entz

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

By Faith and Not by Sight

Larson



*"Let us present ourselves to God as those who have been delivered from death to life."
To contribute to our mission and ministry online, please scan the QR code.*

*DOXOLOGY

#606 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*OFFERING PRAYER

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit

everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,

sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,

and binds us together with all believers

in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit

who inspired the prophets and apostles

rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,

engages us through the Word proclaimed,

claims us in the waters of baptism,

feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,

and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world

the Spirit gives us courage

to pray without ceasing,

to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,

to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,

to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,

and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

Pastor: In every time and every age,... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

#596 You Are Holy

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: And now as Christ our Savior taught we are bold to pray,

People: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is for the hungry and thirsty. It's a feast for those seeking God, in Christ, to be nourished for the life of love to which God calls us all. So come, eat, drink, and meet our Lord Jesus.

*Holy Communion will be served by passing trays through the pews. The servers will serve the bread first and once everyone has been served we will eat together at the invitation of the pastor. Then the servers will pass out the cups containing grape juice, after all have been served we will drink together at the invitation of the pastor. **All bread is gluten/peanut/tree-nut/dairy/egg free.** We trust that as we are gathered at Christ's table we are also gathered in the Spirit with Christ and surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living Christ, as you open the scriptures to us you make yourself known in the breaking of the bread. Let us now go forth from this place, fed at your table and filled by the Spirit, to walk with you all the days of our lives, and proclaim the glory of your resurrection to all the world. Amen.

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN

#536 Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus

WORSHIP NOTES

The Call to Worship is taken from The Saint Helena Psalter, © 2004 The Order of Saint Helena.
All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

#766 | **The Church of Christ Cannot be Bound** | Tice, Adam M. L. (b. 1979)|African American spiritual|Text © 2005 GIA Publications, Inc.

#684 | **Faith Begins by Letting Go** | Carl P. Daw Jr., 1995|Charles F. Gounod, 1872 |Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company

#536 | **Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen**|Susan Palo Cherwien, 1997 |Timothy J. Strand, 1997 |Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien (admin. Augsburg Fortress)Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Immigration Aid Collection: There is a bin outside the Fellowship Hall for donations of bath & body soap, dish soap, and laundry detergent. Our immigrant neighbors are still in need of our help, let us keep loving our neighbors!

Period Packs: BPC will be collecting money in the month of May for Period Packs which are distributed by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Church World Service. Once the funds are raised we will have a packing party to assemble the kits before they are dropped off at the Synod School Collection site in July. **We are aiming to assemble 20 packs, each of which costs \$27.** Donations can be put in the office door, please mark the envelope or check "Period Pack".

Today May 3	9:30am: Worship 10:30am: Congregational Meeting 10:40am: CCC: Stained Glass Part 2 12:00pm Elder/Deacon Training
Monday May 4	6:30pm Prayer Shawl Group
Tuesday May 5	9:00am: Crafty Ladies 9:00am: Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe 3:30pm Presbytery Meeting 6:30pm Faith Formation Committee
Wednesday May 6	7:00pm: Adult Choir
Thursday May 7	7:30am: People of Faith via Zoom 10:00am: Women of Faith 5:30pm: Racial Justice Reading Group
Sunday May 10	9:30am: Worship 10:30am: CCC: Pastor Brian

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How Can We Pray for You?

How can we pray for you? Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.

BPC Prayer List:

- Rich Dahl
- Christy Wood
- George Thole
- Mary Gillis, fighting cancer
- Steve Grittman
- Dennis Stanley, fighting cancer
- The Family of Marquietta Shupe
- Diane Ellis
- Anne Marie Wille, Bonnie Morek's daughter
- Daniel & Gloria Elliot, Bonnie Morek's brother & sister-in-law
- Dennis Sletten, friend of Diane
- Sherry Sletten, friend of Diane
- Lois Lindstrom
- Ann Smith
- Madree
- Jim, Elaine Thole's brother, following a diagnosis
- Donna, a friend of Lana Kopplin, who has cancer
- Jonathon, a friend of Barb & Larry Janski
- Shannon, Virginia's former daughter-in-law
- Erva Hance
- Barb and Tom Stone
- Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter
- Jodi & the family of Jim Underwood, Lanny & Shirley's son-in-law
- Brittany Daniels
- John and Charlotte Collins
- The Family of Ann Tansill, family friend of Pastor Brian
- Cassie & Bryce Taylor, grandson of Lanny and Shirley Taylor
- Louise Markve
- Don Eddy
- Jesse Morek, Bonnie Morek's son
- Family of Rev. Kerry Carson
- Windi Willette

766 The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

1 The church of Christ can - not be bound by
 2 True faith will o - pen up the door and
 3 True love will not sit i - dly by when
 4 If what we have we free - ly share to
 5 The church of Christ can - not be bound by

walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and
 step in - to the street. True ser - vice will seek
 jus - tice is de - nied. True mer - cy hears the
 meet our neigh - bor's need, then we ex - tend the
 walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and

love are found, there can the church be known.
 out the poor and ask to wash their feet.
 home - less cry and wel - comes them in - side.
 Spir - it's care through ev - ery self - less deed.
 love are found, there can the church be known.

This text was the winning entry in a hymnwriting competition seeking new texts dealing with poverty and homelessness, but as the stanza sung at the beginning and end of the hymn makes clear, such specific ministries grow out of an understanding of the church as love in action.

Faith Begins by Letting Go 684

1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what
 2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ory's
 3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en -

had seemed sure, tak - ing risks and press - ing on,
 roots a - live so that hope may bear its fruit;
 larg - ing hearts, shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer,

though the way feels less se - cure: pil - grim - age both
 prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive, not through mer - it
 bind - ing up the bro - ken parts; till we find the

right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
 we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
 com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

This text affirms that faith is not a state of being but a process of becoming what we are called to be in relationship to God, other people, and the world. The movement from one stage of faith to another is suggested by gestures of the hand: letting go, holding on, reaching out.

536 Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen



1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en, from this
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low af - ter
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture God has
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion; cour - age



meal of love and grace; may we through such love en -
 Christ, though wound - ed, whole; bro - ken, shared, our lives are
 called us to re - ceive; pres - ent by God's lov - ing
 be our dai - ly breath; mer - cy be our des - ti -



vi - sion whose we are, and whose, our praise. Al - le -
 hal - lowed to re - lease and to con - sole. Al - le -
 nur - ture, Spir - it - ed then let us live. Al - le -
 na - tion from this day and un - to death. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: God, the won - der of our days.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The second line of the first stanza shows that this hymn is meant for use in the context of the Lord's Supper, but the last stanza further clarifies its special purpose as a sending hymn celebrating the values guiding the work of the church in the world: service, courage, mercy.

