

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled
May 2 & 3, 2026

AS WE GATHER

How far can you see? Several factors affect our vision but for an observer at sea level, the horizon is about three miles away. How clearly a person can see may be limited by atmospheric conditions such as fog, haze, dust, and water vapor. A clear vision makes a great difference in every situation! In “What God Ordains Is Always Good,” German hymn writer Samuel Rodigast shared this Christian life insight about God’s plan and providence: “Now I may know both joy and woe; someday I shall see clearly that He has loved me dearly” (*LSB* 760:4). Our worship helps us clarify our vision of God’s graciousness!

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

VERSE

That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. 1 Corinthians 3:10-11

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #461 “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” Stanzas 1-5

I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head.

He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply; He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul’s complaint.

He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

People: The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Pastor: The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,

People: in those who hope in His steadfast love.

Pastor: O LORD, how manifold are your works!

People: In wisdom have you made them all.

Pastor: May the glory of the LORD endure forever.

People: Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

People: O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed your law. For this I justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

People: Amen.

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB p. 204

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son, Jesus Christ, is the way, and the truth, and the life. We bless you for His saving work and for the comfort that He brings to troubled hearts. Help us to be faithful to Him to death and so to receive life eternal. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ **WORD** ☩

FIRST READING *Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60* (Stephen is stoned and becomes a martyr for Christ.) 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. ²And 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. ³Therefore, 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. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And 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. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷And 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. ⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then 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: ⁵¹"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which 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, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." ⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰And 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 Peter 2:2–10 (An exhortation to live lives of Christian love)

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

5:00 JR BELLS *“Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng!”*

9:00 BELLS *“Jesus Shall Reign (I Know That My Redeemer Lives)”* arr. Larry Sue

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL John 14:1–14 (Jesus says that He is the way, and the truth, and the life.)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

“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

⁵ continued

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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

“Jesus in the Morning”

AGPS #143

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning, Jesus at the noontime,
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus when the sun goes down.

Love Him, Love Him, Love Him in the morning, Love Him at the noontime,
Love Him, Love Him, Love Him when the sun goes down.

Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him in the morning, Praise Him, in the noontime,
Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him when the sun goes down.

SERMON HYMN #633 “At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing”

Stanzas 1-5

At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast--Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

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!

SERMON

(Rise)

HYMN #633 **“At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing”** Stanzas 6-8

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

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!
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!

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.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, through the power of Christ's resurrection you adopt all who believe in Him through the waters of Holy Baptism.

People: Receive us as your newborn children and nourish our faith through the pure spiritual milk of your Word, that we may dwell in your presence forever.

Pastor: Send laborers into your harvest, Lord. Preserve your ministers among us devoted to your Word and to prayer. Give many servants to your Church, that the gospel be proclaimed with all boldness.

People: Bless Pastor Richard Schneider as he is installed this weekend. Move us to receive him in love and to listen intently to his preaching and teaching.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, help parents to raise up their children to know you as their help and hope, their Lord and Savior.

People: Keep us all from trusting in people and things through whom there is no salvation.

Pastor: Holy God, your power brought all things into being and still preserves what you have made. Bless Donald, our president; the Congress of the United States; Tony, our governor; and all elected and appointed civil servants.

People: Lead them to honor you and your purpose, establishing order and justice, encouraging virtue, and protecting all life. Give them wisdom and moderation to lead for the well-being of the nation.

Pastor: Father of glory, your Son declared Himself to be the way, the truth and the life. Bless all who have requested our prayers especially Timothy, Sharon, Michael, Barb, Marlene, Katherine, Zach, Carole, Kathy, Dan, Maxine, Pam, Marilyn, Dorothy, Janet, Jerry, Paula, Rhonda, Harland, June, John, Debbie, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Guy, Jill, Cathy and Sarah. May Christ Himself be their way of salvation, their truth amid doubt and their life amid death.

People: Grant them a sure and steadfast hope in the good news that He has prepared a place for them with you, where pain and sickness are no more and all things are made new.

Pastor: Almighty God, in Christ you have made us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and a people for your possession. Preserve your people in the one true faith.

People: Grant that all who come to the Supper this day might do so with repentant hearts that thankfully receive your Son's body and blood for forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Pastor: O Lord, we thank and praise you for your servant Stephen, the first martyr, whom your Son has received into glory. May we imitate him in faith and love to speak your truth with boldness.

People: Bless us most especially to forgive those who sin against us as Christ forgave His persecutors from the cross. When our last hour comes, let us fall asleep in Him and be raised unto eternal life.

Pastor: Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to you alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to you, Lord our God, for you have shown mercy to all in Christ our Redeemer, who gives peace to troubled hearts. Receive our thanks that He has a place waiting for us in heaven. Unite our praises with those of all the faithful who are around the eternal throne of Christ. United in faith and hope, grant that we join with them in the unending praise of the Lamb with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.

SANCTUS

LSB p. 208

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB p. 210

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**HYMN #526 "You Are the Way; Through You Alone"**

You are the way; through You alone Can we the Father find;
In You, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind.

You are the truth; Your Word alone True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind And purify the heart.

You are the life; the empty tomb Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,
And those who put their trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.

You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win Whose joys eternal flow.

HYMN #570 "Just As I Am, Without One Plea"

Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

HYMN #490 "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"

Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won! Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done! From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! To Him the throne High above all things is given.

I shall go where He is gone, Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence! This shall be my confidence.

11 continued

Jesus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide, Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! I know full well Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! And now is death But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense: Jesus is my confidence!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you for having fed us with your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same and help us to rejoice in your mercies that we may know comfort when our hearts are troubled and our days know challenges. Finally, in your mercy, grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

People: Amen.**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.**CLOSING HYMN #461 461 "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" Stanzas 6-8**

He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Prophet, Priest and King.

He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.

12 continued

He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives; I know that my Redeemer lives!

Preacher & Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Richard Schneider
Don Horn, Mark Richardson
Deaconess Carole King

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YOU ARE INVITED!

**The Installation of
Pastor Richard Schneider**

On Sunday, May 3, 2026, at 4:00pm
Pastor Richard Schneider will be
Installed as the Senior Pastor at
St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

After the Installation, please join us for a
Reception welcoming Pastor Richard, his
wife Kristin, and his family
into our St. Paul's Church family.

