



***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor***

May 3, 2026

**JOHN
14:1-14
SERMON**



***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School***
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

INTO YOUR HAND
I COMMIT MY SPIRIT;

you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

PSALM 31:5



lcmmc

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US

ALTAR *flowers*



Altar flowers are placed in loving memory of
Leland Kruse



To Albert Heselmeyer,
celebrating his 90th birthday today!

INTRODUCTION

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to
come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of
life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and
resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of
life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of
baptism,
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and
praise,
now and forever.

Amen.

Gathering Song

“Morning Has Broken”

Hymn # 556

**1 Morning has broken
like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.**

Hymn # 556

**Praise for the singing!
Praise for the Morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the word!**

Hymn # 556

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall,
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.**

Hymn # 556

**Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.**

Hymn # 556

Final Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning,
born of the one light
Eden saw play!

Hymn # 556

**Praise with elation,
praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation
of the new day.**

Hymn # 556

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of
God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you
all.

And also with you.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,

let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being
of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us
pray to the lord*

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their
worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord
A-men.

THIS IS THE FEAST

***This is the feast of victory
for our God.***

Alleluia, alleluia

(sung twice)

***Worthy is Christ,
the Lamb who was slain
whose blood set us free
to be people of God***

***Power, riches, wisdom, and
strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory
are his***

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

(sung twice)

***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.***

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

(sung twice)

***For the Lamb who was slain
has begun his reign. Alleluia.***

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

(sung twice)

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 31:1-5, 15-16

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

¹ In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

² **Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³ 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.

**⁴ Take me out of the net that they
have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of
truth.

**¹⁵ My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my
enemies, and from those who
persecute me.**

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to
shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for
those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

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

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal
priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in
order that you may proclaim the excellence 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal Life.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to John 14:1-14

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. 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, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place 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 know me, you will know 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 we will be satisfied.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? 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, 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, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves.

¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

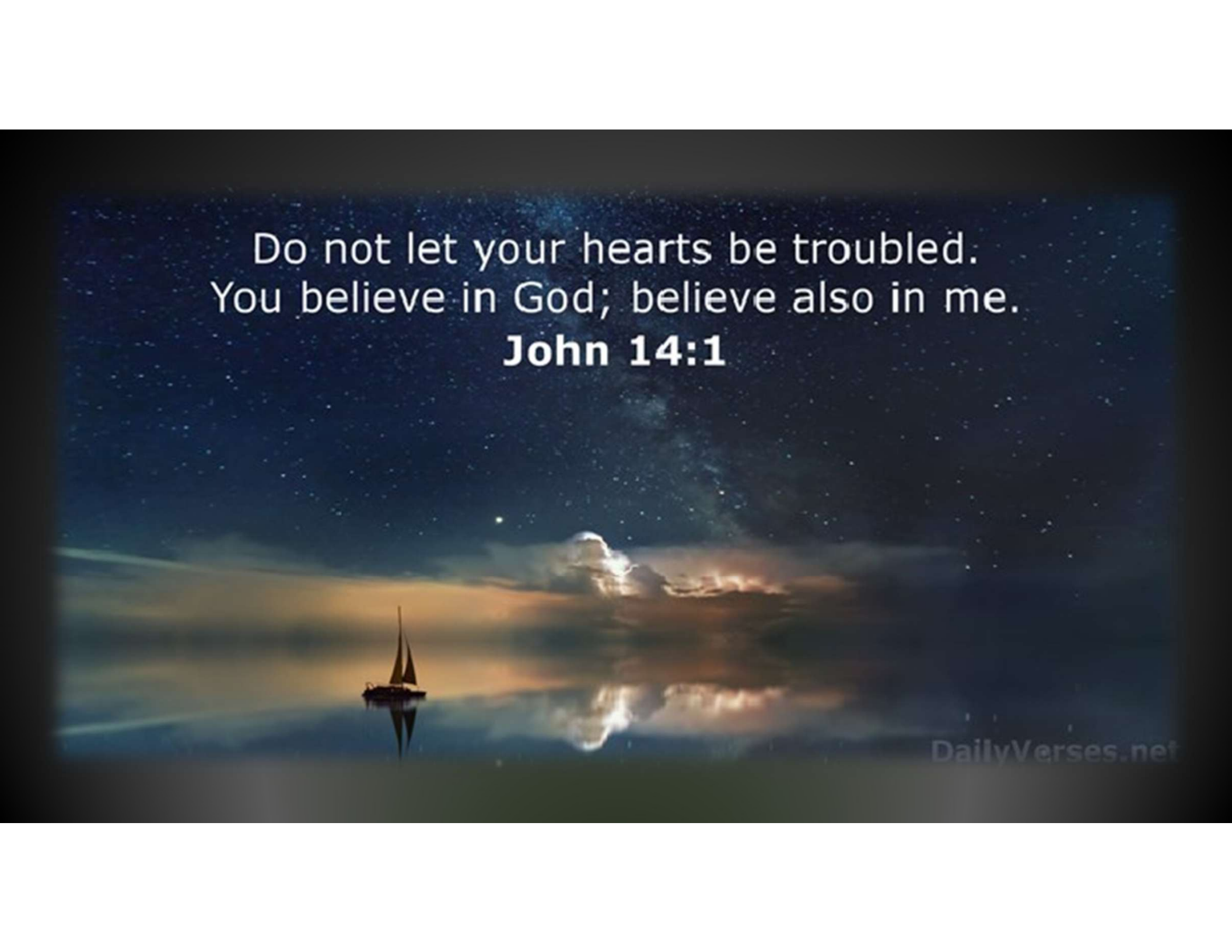
Praise to you, O Christ.



CHILDREN'S
SERMON

Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

A serene night scene with a starry sky, a galaxy, and a sailboat on the water. The sky is dark blue with numerous stars and a prominent galaxy. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the sailboat. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Do not let your hearts be troubled.
You believe in God; believe also in me.

John 14:1

Hymn of the Day

“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”

Hymn # 966

From ASC Supplement

**¹ Loaves were broken, words were
spoken by the Galilean shore.
Jesus, Bread of life from Heaven,
was their food forevermore.**

[Refrain]

Hymn # 966

[Refrain]

**By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

**² Loaves were broken, words were
spoken in a quiet room one night.
In the bread and wine you gave
them, Christ, you came as
Light from Light.**

[Refrain]

Hymn # 966

[Refrain]

**By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

³ Loaves were broken, words were spoken, as in faith we gather here. Jesus speaks across the ages: “I am with you; do not fear!”

[Refrain]

Hymn # 966

[Refrain]

**By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

Final By the loaves you break and
give us,
send us in your name to share
bread for which the millions hunger,
words that tell your love and care.

[Refrain]

Hymn # 966

[Refrain]

**By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

CREED

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

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick and we remember our friends and family members before you. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionary Liv in the Middle East, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Good Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zoarville, Ohio.

Today we also give you thanks for St. Paul Lutheran in New Braunfels, Texas and their pastors, Paul Owens and Timothy Sternberg. Bless their ministry both now and for generations to come.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

*The Lord be with you
And also with You*

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

***It is right to give our thanks
and praise***

It is indeed right, our duty and our
joy...

...we praise your name and join their
unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are
full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

COMMUNION

*Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle line
and at the altar rail.*

Lamb of God Pg. 174

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.***



Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle line and at the altar rail.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

Sending Song

“The Lord Now Sends Us Forth”

Hymn # 538

**¹ The Lord now sends us forth
with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth
a better place to live.**

(sung twice)

Hymn # 538

Final The angels are not sent
into our world of pain
to do what we were meant
to do in Jesus' name;

Hymn # 538

**that falls to you and me
and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray,
to do your will today**

Hymn # 538

**The angels are not sent
into our world of pain
to do what we were meant
to do in Jesus' name;**

Hymn # 538

**that falls to you and me
and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray,
to do your will today.**

Hymn # 538

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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Fifth Sunday

of Easter