

5.3.2026

10:00 am



5th Sunday of Easter

Sharing God's love so that all are served and supported.



Today's Worship Theme

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.



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Greeter: Roger Bodo
Ushers: Bob & Joan Streightiff
Altar Guild: Carolyn Witt
Coffee Host: Gail Schuette

If you are visiting, please review the Welcome Pew Card in the hymnal holder.

✠ **GATHER** ✠

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

For up-to-date info, see the “Grace Happenings” Thursday e-newsletter and our website’s monthly calendar (also displayed in the Narthex & Fellowship Hall).



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY MOMENT

Janice Koppenhaver
Watauga Habitat for Humanity

PRELUDE

“Contemplation on Beautiful Savior” Matthew Compton
Ringers of Grace

HOLY BAPTISM (ELW p. 227)

Please join us in thanksgiving and celebration of the baptism of Daniel Holden, son of James & Blair Holden.

BAPTISMAL HYMN

“Welcome Child of God”

Rain-drops o-ceans, lakes and ri-vers Wel-come child of God. Mo-thers, fa-thers,
6
bro-thers, sis-ters Wel-come child of God. When the world feels wide a-round you
11
When the dark of night sur-rounds you We are here to
14
tend and guide you Wel-come child of God.

We rise.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Please share a sign of Christ's peace.

GATHERING HYMN

"Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing"

ELW 389

GREETING

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Assisting Minister: Jan Burgess

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.**

Be seated.

✠ **WORD** ✠

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children may come forward for the Children's Message, then go upstairs for Children's Church & Music, and return for communion.

A READING FROM Acts 7:55-60

Lector: Nancy Mamlin

The martyrdom of Stephen

⁵⁵Filled 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 *Read responsively.*

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.”

A READING FROM 1 Peter 2:2-10

God's people chosen to proclaim God's mighty acts

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.”

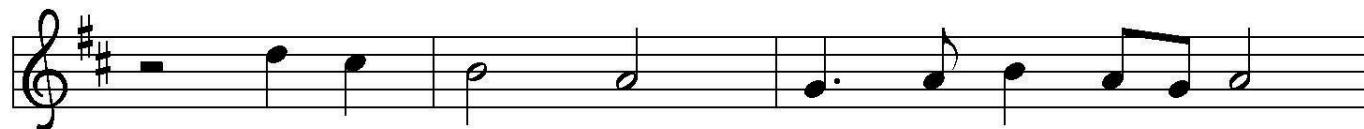
⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” ⁸ and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

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.**

We rise.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING: John 14:1-14

Christ the way, truth, and life

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus 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’? ¹⁰Do 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. ¹¹Believe 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.

(CONT.)

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.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Steve Troisi

We rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life”

ELW 816

We kneel.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayer ends with these words:

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be seated.

✠ **MEAL** ✠

OFFERING SONG

“Baptized and Set Free”

John Helgen

*We are people created, chosen by God.
Then we're washed ever gently, in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more, Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing and wholeness and more.*

*We are fed and we're nourished, filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed.
For whatever the need, God is greater; indeed,
endless ocean, always deeper than all of our need.*

*We are nourished by water, all living things,
And by life that the Spirit abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home, may your presence be known;
Precious river ever flowing, now carry us home.*

*Now with praise and thanksgiving, we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved but set free! From now on we will be
One in Jesus, one in water, baptized and set free.*



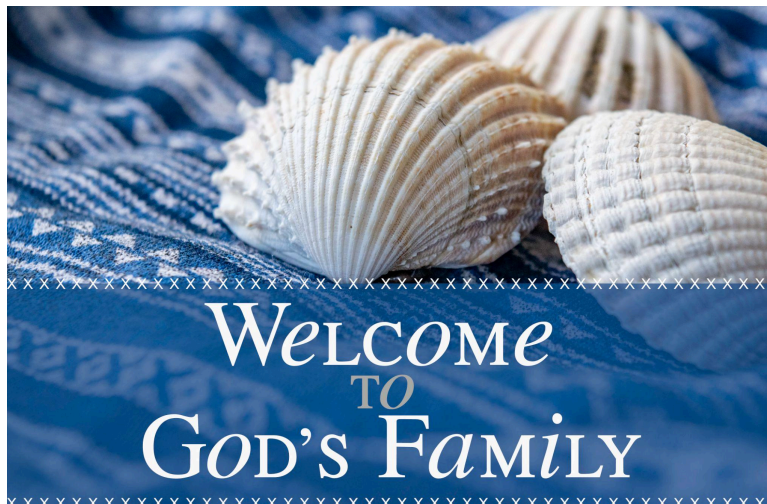
We rise.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

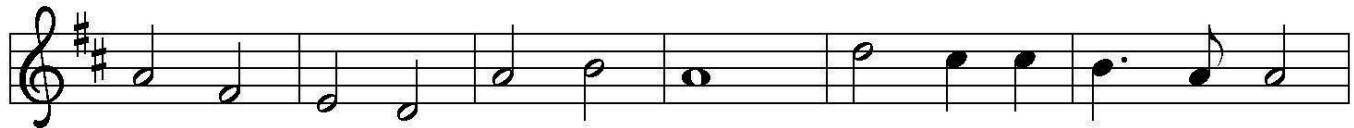
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.



PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... and join their unending hymn:

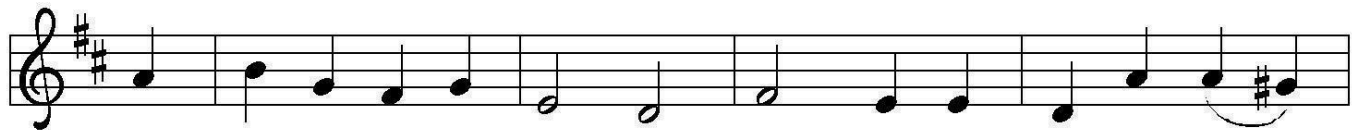
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



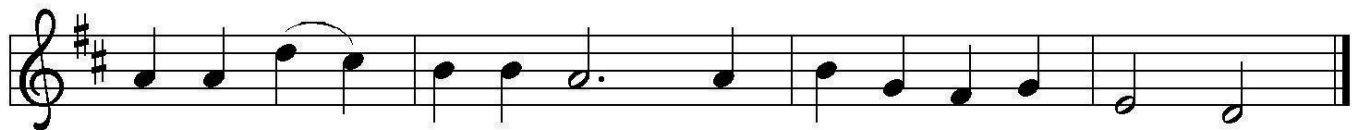
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



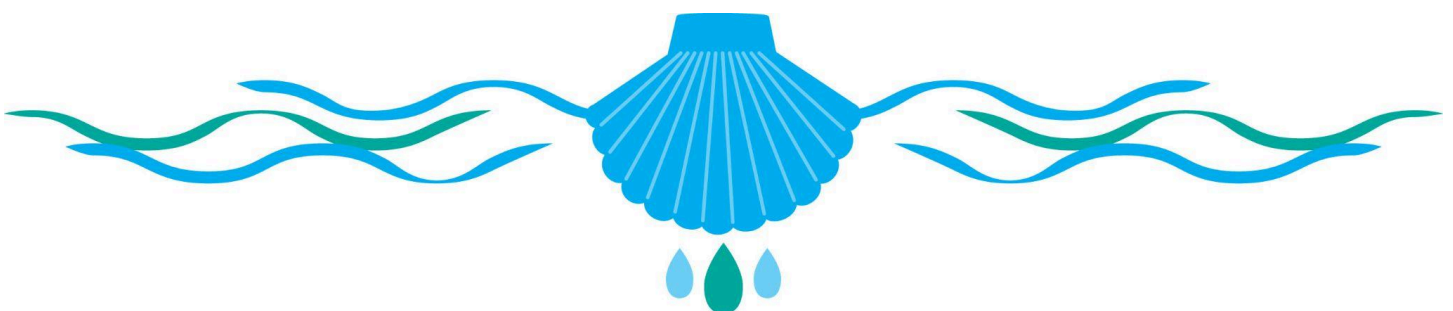
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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."



LORD'S PRAYER

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Communion Assistant: Amy Atkins

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated. This is the Lord's Table; all who seek Christ's true presence promised through this bread and wine are welcome and invited to partake in communion at the head of the aisle. You'll receive bread first (gluten-, nut-, soy- & dairy-free) and then wine (grape juice is available). Please alert an usher if you require the sacrament to be brought to you. On the first and third Sundays, healing prayers are offered in the Chapel.

COMMUNION SONG (See p. 154 in ELW.)

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Baptized in Water"

ELW 456

"I Received the Living God"

ELW 477

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

<p><u>CHANCEL FLOWERS</u> Are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for all our students, teachers and staff as we come to the end of another school year by Beth Reavis.</p>	<p><u>SANCTUARY LAMP</u> Is burning to the glory of God and in memory of Betty Schuette by Ron & Gail Schuette.</p>
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READINGS FOR MAY 10

Acts 17:22-31 | Psalm 66:8-20 | 1 Peter 3:13-22 | John 14:15-21

GIVING REPORT

Giving September 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026

March Giving	March Budgeted Giving	Year to Date Giving	Year to Date Budgeted Giving
\$30,331.09	\$33,333.33	\$238,639.84	\$233,333.31



*During the month of May, we will be running our annual Grace Stewardship Drive. Please take a moment as a household to fill out a **2026-2027 Household Financial Pledge Card**. And as an individual, complete the **2026-2027 Individual Time and Talent Pledge Card**.*

In the “Grace Happenings” weekly e-newsletter you will see links to each of these forms so you can complete them digitally. If you prefer, paper copies are available in the narthex. Please reach out to the Stewardship Committee (Kristie Evans, Alan Hauser, James Holden and Wayne Powell) or the church office if you have any questions.

Thank you!