

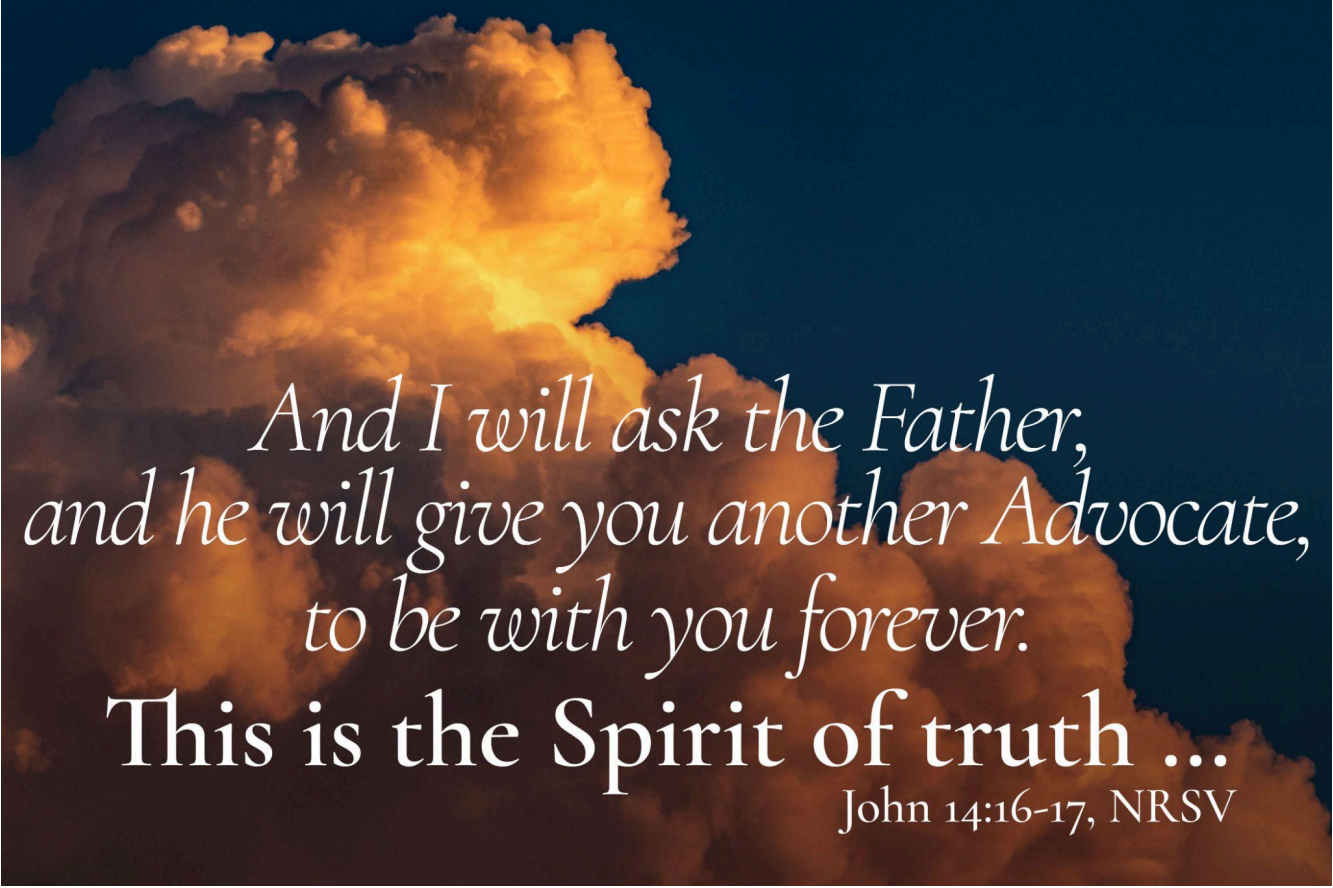
5.10.2026

10:00 am



6th Sunday of Easter

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



*And I will ask the Father,  
and he will give you another Advocate,  
to be with you forever.*

**This is the Spirit of truth ...**

John 14:16-17, NRSV

### **Today's Worship Theme**

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

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*Greeter: Susan McKay  
Ushers: Jeff & Janice Voss  
Altar Guild: Elizabeth Smythe  
Coffee Host: Beverly DeBenedictis*

*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

*Sabena Maiden*

### PRELUDE

*We rise.*

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. 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.**

*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**

*"Come Thou Almighty King"*

*ELW 408*

## **GREETING**

*Assisting Minister: Roger Bodo*

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**

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who 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 17:22-31**

*Lector: Charlene Sox*

*Paul's message to the Athenians*

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, (CONT.)

<sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 66:8-20** *Read responsively.*

<sup>8</sup> Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup> **Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

<sup>11</sup> **You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

<sup>12</sup> You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup> **I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup> those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup> **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.**

<sup>16</sup> Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

<sup>17</sup> **I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

<sup>19</sup> **but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

## **A READING FROM 1 Peter 3:13-22**

*The days of Noah, a sign of baptism*

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

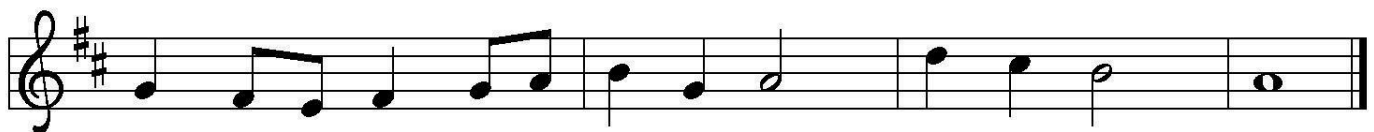
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*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 14:15-21**

*Christ our advocate*

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**  
Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Be seated.*

### **SERMON**

*Maribeth Yoder-White*

*We rise.*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Loving Spirit”*

*ELW 397*

### **NICENE CREED**

We profess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed. **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.**

*(CONT.)*

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*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** *“If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments” Thomas Tallis*

*If ye love Me, keep my commandments,  
And I will pray the Father,  
And He shall give you another comforter,  
That He may abide with you forever,  
Even the Spirit of truth,  
That He may abide with you forever.*

*Thank you for partnering with Grace. Visit [www.graceboone.org/donate](http://www.graceboone.org/donate), or place your gift in the Narthex collection box or mail it to 115 E. King St, Boone, NC 28607.*

*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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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.', and '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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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', and '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

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

ELW 781

"Thy Holy Wings"

ELW 613

*We rise.*

**SPECIAL BLESSING** for Maribeth Yoder-White

✠ **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.**

**SENDING HYMN**

*“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

*ELW 631*

**DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

**CHANCEL FLOWERS**

Are given to the glory of God and in memory of Joan’s mother, Elaine. She loved her family deeply, instilled strong values and always said the best gift you give your children is the gift of coping skills by Bob & Joan Streightiff.

**SANCTUARY LAMP**

Is burning to the glory of God and in joyous celebration for the birth and baptism of Daniel Holden by Duane & Ruth Daggett.

**READINGS FOR MAY 17**

Acts 2:42-47 | Psalm 23 | 1 Peter 2:19-25 | John 10:1-10

**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!*