



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 2026

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus of Nazareth's promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Holy Baptism commissions us to share our Lord's mission in the world. As First 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.

Prelude

*An Easter Festival
Brother James' Air
Morning Song of Praise*

Sharon Elery Rogers
arr. Douglas Wagner
arr. Derek Hakes

ENTRANCE RITE

Hymn

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!



1 Hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;
2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn - ful sigh?
3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;
4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran - somed of the earth.
5 Hal - le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom - y halls of death Christ, the con - quer - or, has gone,
He who died our broth - er here lives our broth - er still on high,
joined to him, your liv - ing head, where he is, you shall be too;
Praise him in a no - bler song, cher - u - bim of heav'n - ly birth.
Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:



bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.
lives for - ev - er to be - stow bless - ings on his church be - low.
with the Lord, at his right hand, as a vic - tor you shall stand.
Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o - bey.
glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

Easter Acclamation & Apostolic Greeting

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

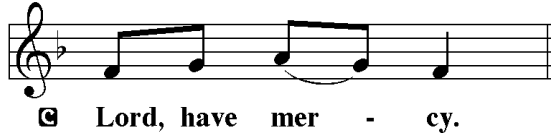
C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

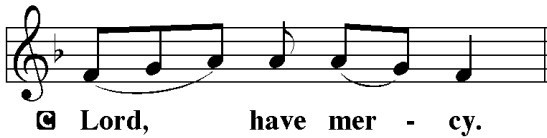
C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



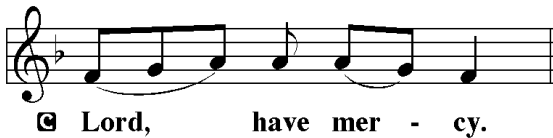
P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



P: 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.



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



P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Hymn of Praise



slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,

al-le-lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. ☐ Pow - er, rich-es, wis-dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,

al-le-lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. ☐ Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and

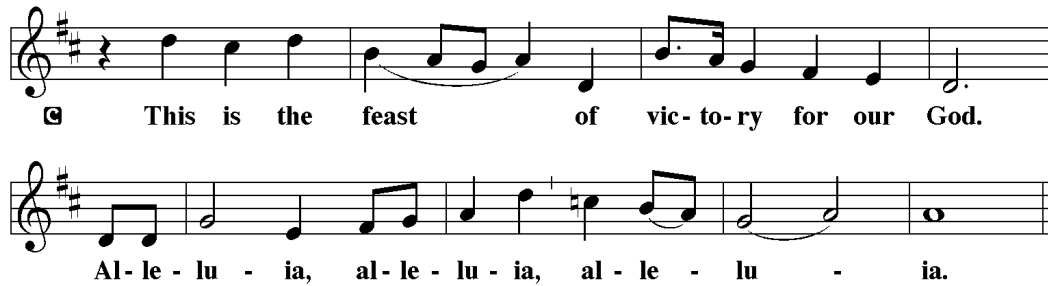
join in the hymn of all cre-a - tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for-ev - er. A - men.

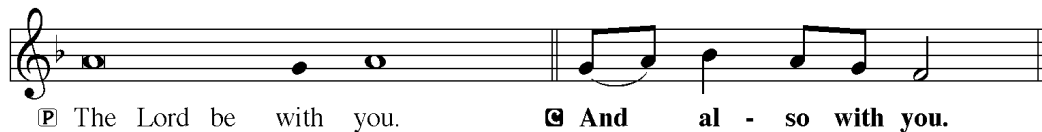
☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,

al-le-lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. ☐ For the Lamb who was

slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu - ia.



Salutation and Prayer of the Day



P: Let us pray.

ALL: 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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson - 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.

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, he 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!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then 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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

(sung in unison)

This is a psalm of trust by one who looks to the Lord for mercy and protection.

**In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be¹ put to shame;*
 deliver me¹ in your righteousness.**

**²Incline your¹ ear to me;*
 make haste to de-¹ liver me.**

**³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
 for you are my crag¹ and my stronghold;*
 for the sake of your name, lead¹ me and guide me.**

**⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly¹ set for me,*
 for you are my tow-¹ er of strength.**

**⁵Into your hands I com-¹ mend my spirit,*
 for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O¹ God of truth.**

**¹⁵My times are¹ in your hand;*
 rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who¹ persecute me.**

**¹⁶Make your face to shine up-¹ on your servant,*
and in your loving-¹ kindness save me."**

Second Lesson - 1 Peter 2:2-10

The 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.

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation — ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like 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. ⁶For 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." ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "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. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse

(The congregation sings the refrain (R) as indicated.)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel - John 14:1-14

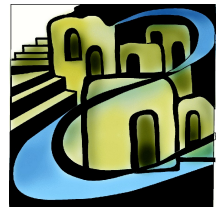
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

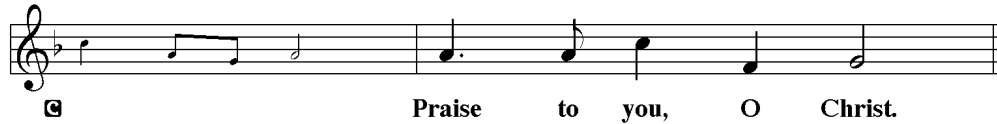
On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus of Nazareth shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

Jesus said to the disciples: "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 me 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."



P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Pastor Roberts

silence for reflection

Hymn of the Day

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life



1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a
 2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a
 3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as con - quers death.
 length; such a strength as makes his guest.
 part; such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert, 1593–1632
 Music: THE CALL, R. Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Apostles' Creed

P: Using the words of our ancestors in the faith as expressed in the Apostles' Creed, we proclaim the triune God whom we believe:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The Prayers

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

- A: God of glory, you have built your Church on the cornerstone of the Christ. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Help us protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: 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,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick. Instill us with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: 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 also known among those who join us online for worship today. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: 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,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ALL: Amen**

LITURGY OF THE MEAL

The Peace

- P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: And also with you.**

Offering

Offertory Anthem

This Joyful Eastertide

arr. Vernon Hoyle
(b. 1948)

*This joyful Eastertide, Away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified, Hath sprung to life this morrow!
Had Christ, that once was slain, Ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now hath Christ arisen.*

*My flesh in hope shall rest, And for a season slumber:
Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number.
Had Christ, that once was slain, Ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now hath Christ arisen.*

*Death's flood has lost its chill, Since Jesus crossed the river:
 Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver.
 Had Christ, that once was slain, Ne'er burst his three-day prison,
 Our faith had been in vain: But now hath Christ arisen.*

(Text: G. R. Woodward, 1848-1934)

Offertory

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
 cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
 seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
 Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
 prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

ALL: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
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.

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

C: 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 with our Risen Lord

Agnus Dei

C Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer- cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer- cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958
 Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
 Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

You Are the Way



1 You are the way; through you a - lone can we the Fa - ther find;
 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



in you, O Christ, has God re - vealed his heart, his will, his mind!
 you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
 and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
 that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.
 Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen**

Post-Communion Canticle



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

Benediction



☩ Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now . . . and for - ever. ☩ A - men

Hymn

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds in praise of love that
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, there - fore our heart with
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; set heart and will on
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring and with the heav'n-ly



still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
things a - bove that we con - quer through your tri - umph;
bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!"



Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song
 Now still he comes to give us life and by his pres -
 grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's day that by our lives
 Be to the Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest,



of glo - ry here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
 ence stills all strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
 we tru - ly say: Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
 most ho - ly God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Festival Postlude

Moritz Brosig
 (1815-1887)



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Pat Hawkins
 in honor of Pastor Roberts for all his help with Ken's service.

The candles are given to the glory of God by Sherri and Jeff Fleck
 in honor of Kim and Steven Williamson's wedding anniversary.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|---|
| Sunday, May 3 | 8:30 a.m. | Service of Holy Communion |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Sunday Church School |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube |
| | 2:00 p.m. | Pastor's Information Class |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Senior Youth (grades nine - twelve) |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Nibblin' & Sippin' |
| Wednesday, May 6 | 9:00 a.m. | Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.) |
| | 12:10 p.m. | Service of Holy Communion |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Adult Choir Rehearsal |
| Friday, May 8 | 9:00 a.m. | Strength and Balance Exercise Class |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Chair Yoga Class |
| Sunday, May 10 | 8:30 a.m. | Service of Holy Communion and Rite of Confirmation |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Sunday Church School |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube |

The liturgy is reprinted by permission: Augsburg Fortress Annual License SAS024905.
The hymns are reprinted by permission: OneLicense.net A-725273.

Our Mission: "To care actively in the name of Jesus Christ."

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1000 Langhorne Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503**

Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity

President: Deb Serio

Organist-Choirmaster: J. William Greene

Parish Administrator: Carol Dee Robertson

Parish Nurse: Gail Midkiff

Pastor: Dennis S. Roberts

Director of Youth and Campus Ministries:
Susan H. Williams

Sextons: Linda Woody and Patricia Wiggington

Church Office: 434-384-8441

email: office@holytrinitylynchburg.org

www.holytrinitylynchburg.org