

5th Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026

Opening Hymn #338
Thine Forever, God of Love

1. Thine forever, God of Love!
Hear us from Thy throne above;
Thine forever may we be
Here and in eternity!

2. Thine forever! Oh, how blest
They who find in Thee their rest!
Savior, Guardian, heavenly Friend,
Oh, defend us to the end!

3. Thine forever, Lord of Life!
Shield us through our earthly strife.
Thou, the Life, the Truth, the Way,
Guide us to the realms of day.

4. Thine forever! Shepherd, keep
These Thy frail and trembling sheep
Safe alone beneath Thy care,
Let us all Thy goodness share.

5. Thine forever! Thou our Guide,
All our wants by Thee supplied,

All our sins by Thee forgiven;
Lead us, Lord, from earth to heaven.

Invocation

P: We worship today in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C ♪: Amen.

Confession & Absolution

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C ♪: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C ♪: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sins.

P & C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorrow for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

C ♪: Amen.

Gloria Patri

C ♪ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Kyrie

C ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis – (Hymn #238 v.1)

All glory be to God alone,
Forevermore the Highest One,
Who doth our sinful race befriend,
And grace and peace to us extend.
Among mankind may His good will
All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

The Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C ♪: **And with thy spirit.**

The Collect for the Day

P: Let us pray..... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ♪: **Amen.**

The First Reading – Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

¹Now 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. . . .

²And Stephen said:

“Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

⁵¹You 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 not your fathers 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.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 146
WS pg. 41

Antiphon – I will praise Your name forever, My King and my God.

While I live I will | praise the Lord;*

I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a | son of man,*

in whom there | is no help.

His spirit departs, he returns | to his earth;*

In that very day his plans | perish.

Antiphon – I will praise Your name forever, My King and my God.

Happy is he who has the God of Jacob | for his help,*

Whose hope is in the | Lord his God,

Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that | is in them;*

Who keeps truth for- | ever;

Who executes justice for | the oppressed,*

Who gives food to the hungry,

The Lord gives freedom to the | prisoners.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Antiphon – I will praise Your name forever, My King and my God.

The Second Reading – 1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you 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. ⁶For 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.” ⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” 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, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies 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.

Verse of the Day – Romans 6:9; John 14:23

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Alleluia.

The Gospel Reading – John 14:1-14

¹[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to 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 had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus 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’? 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 authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe 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. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

Confession of Faith ***The Nicene Creed***

P & C: 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 Ghost 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 sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe 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.

Hymn of the Day #736 WS

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

1. 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!

2. 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!

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

4. 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!

5. 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!

Sermon Text – John 14:1-14

Sermon

*The Lord Jesus Christ Is the Way,
the Truth and the Life*

Offertory

C ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church

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

P: Heavenly Father, through the power of Christ's resurrection You adopt all who believe in Him. 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.

**1. Christ the eternal Lord,
Whose promise here we claim,
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured
On all who name Your name;
With thankfulness and praise
We stand before Your throne,
Intent to serve You all our days
And make Your glory known.**

P: Lord God, You have promised to build up Your Church to be a holy priesthood, that Your people might offer spiritual sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving acceptable to You. Bless Your Church, and bring all congregations together. Bless all pastors who proclaim Christ to us. Bless church workers and those preparing for full-time church vocations, that we may be supplied with faithful leaders and servants of Your Word.

**2. Christ the unchanging Word
To ev'ry passing age,
Whose timeless teachings still are heard
Set forth on Scripture's page;
Transform our thought and mind,
Enlighten all who read,**

**Within Your word by faith to find
The bread of life indeed.**

P: Heavenly Father, build up the households of Your people, that Your holy children, begotten in Baptism, may grow in Your grace and share together in Your forgiveness and life.

**3. Christ the redeeming Son,
Who shares our human birth,
And by His death salvation won
For ev'ry child of earth;
Inspire our hearts, we pray,
To tell Your love abroad,
That all may honor Christ today
And follow Him as Lord.**

P: Merciful heavenly Father, for the sake of Your dear Son, who has restored all things by His cross, grant healing, comfort, deliverance and peace to those in need. Bless the sick, the sorrowing, the anxious, the fearful, the homebound, the homeless, the dying and all who have requested our prayers [*including* _____]. At the last, give them entrance into Your heavenly kingdom.

**4. Christ the unfading Light
Of everlasting day,
Our Morning Star in splendor bright,
The Life, the Truth, the Way;
That light of truth You give
To servants as to friends,
Your way to walk, Your life to live,
Till earth's brief journey ends.**

P: Holy God, Your power brought all things into being and still preserves what You have made. Bless our President; the Congress of these United States; our Governor; and all elected and appointed civil servants. 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.

P: Bless, also, those who will be partaking of Your Holy Supper. Let us taste that the Lord is good and continually grow up in our salvation.

5. Christ the ascended King

Exalted high above,

Whose praise unending ages sing,

Whom yet unseen we love;

When mortal life is past

Your voice from heaven's throne

Shall call Your children home at last

To know as we are known.

P: Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your servant St. Stephen, whom Your Son has received into His glory. May we imitate him in faith and love to speak Your truth with boldness, forgiving 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 born into eternal life; for the sake of Him who was born into our flesh to redeem it, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

The Communion Liturgy

P: The Lord be with you:

C ♪: And with Thy Spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts:

C ♪: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God:

C ♪: It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly, meet, right and salutary...Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

The Sanctus

C ♪: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory;

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer

P: 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;

C ♪: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

P: The peace of the Lord be with you alway!

C ♪: Amen.

The Agnus Dei

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Grant us Thy peace. A-men.

The Distribution

The Nunc Dimittis

C ♪: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace,
According to Thy word.

For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation: which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles

And the Glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

The Thanksgiving

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good:

C ♪: And His mercy endureth forever.

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C ♪: Amen, Amen, Amen.

Closing Hymn #355

Thou Art the Way; to Thee Alone

1. Thou art the Way; to Thee alone
From sin and death we flee;
And he who would the Gather seek
Must seek Him, Lord, by Thee.

2. Thou art the Truth; Thy Word alone
True wisdom can impart;
Thou only canst inform the mind
And purify the heart.

3. Thou art the Life; the rending tomb
Proclaims Thy conquering arm;
And those who put their trust in Thee
Nor death nor hell shall harm.

4. Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life;
Grant us that Way to know,
That Truth to keep, that life Life to win,
Whose joys eternal flow.

Silent Prayer

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®(ESV), copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Portions of the Liturgy from the Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

Prayer of the Church – Text © 1999 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission. Lutheran Service Book Hymn 829 License #100014283.