

John 14:6

Jesus said “I Am the way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”



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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 2026

Holy Communion 11:00 am

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Now All The Vaults of Heaven Resounds* (ELW) No. 367

*The Confession and Forgiveness (ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The Apostolic Greeting (ELW) page 138

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.

*The Kyrie (*sung response*) (ELW) page 138

P:, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: O God, You make the minds of the faithful to be of one will. Grant that Your people would love what You command and desire what You promise, that, among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 146

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

⁴When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

⁵Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD His God,

⁶who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners; He upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.

¹⁰The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*The Lenten Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

C: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

* The Gospel

John 14:1-14

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

*The Hymn of the Day

Beautiful Savior

(ELW) No. 838

*The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

I 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

*The Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

(SBH) No. 27

*The Great Thanksgiving

(ELW) page 144

*The 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.

Lamb of God

(ELW) page 146

The Distribution

Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together

(ELW) No. 471

Prayer/Blessing

Announcements

*The Benediction (sung response)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn

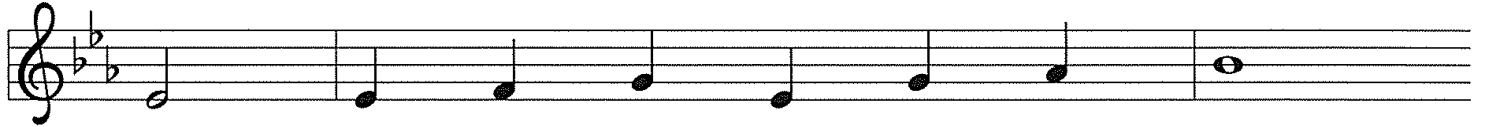
Be Thou My Vision

(ELW) No. 793

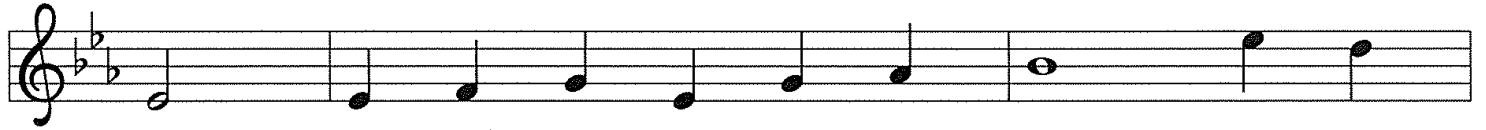
*The Dismissal (response)

C: Thanks be to God.

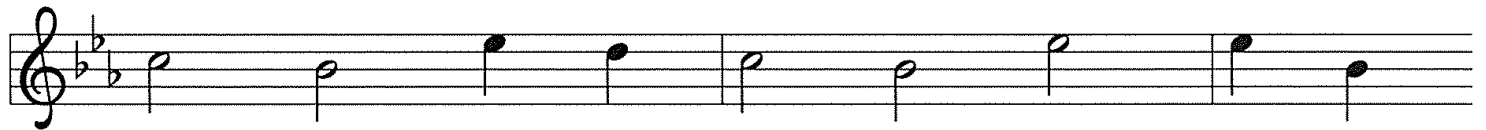
Postlude



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

Refrain

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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



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

Refrain

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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



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

Refrain

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

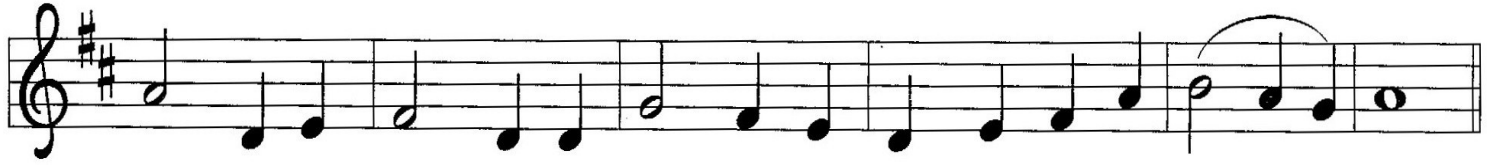


al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

(continue on next page)



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

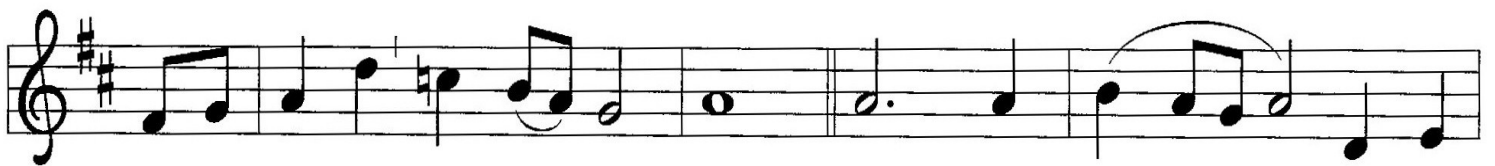


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



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

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Beautiful Savior

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1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
than all the an - gels in the sky.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

The Communion

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -

The first system of musical notation for 'The Communion'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -'.

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

The second system of musical notation. The melody continues with the lyrics 'new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -'.

way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly

The third system of musical notation. The melody continues with the lyrics 'way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly'.

Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

The fourth system of musical notation. The melody continues with the lyrics 'Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of'.

thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

The fifth and final system of musical notation. The melody concludes with the lyrics 'thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.'

Let Us Break Bread Together

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1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

First Lutheran Church

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724-225-4040

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Online services posted weekly on website:

<https://firstlutheranwashington.church/>

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Mark Black, Matthew Mazzotti, Lutheran Lay Worship Leaders

Retired: J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist and Music Director

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God in celebration of Andrew Serbak and Leydi Baumann graduating this weekend from the University of Pittsburgh. We are very proud of them. It is through God's goodness they have been successful and may He continue to guide them. A donation has been made to the Restoration Fund by Matthew and Cristina Serbak.

The Lay Reader is Dennis Schmidt.

Acolytes are Heidi and Denico Walsh.

Counters/Greeters today are J. Black and L. Coleman.

Welcome to our Visitors! The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church? Please contact Pastor Grewe.

Nursery: We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs for infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

The Flower Chart for 2026 is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2026. Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2026. Please sign up.

Please pray for those in need of healing:

Isaac Christian, Lindsay Mankey, Amy Verderber, Lou Mayne, Greg Mason, Ed Dupas, Pat Dupas, Carol Cancelmi, Amanda Laib, Sandy Hebrank, Richard Hager, Judd Lacko, Sandy Mannsman, Ian, Isaiah, Aleashia, Sharon, Tammy, Edelgard, Wolfgang, Klaus & Mel, Bernadette, Bob and Anneleise Christian, Carl Group, Shari Kienzel, Susan Westott, Amber Falosk, Appolos Yocca, Brenda Tennant, Darlene Kosak, Gary Conti, June Gosnell, Sally Hazlett, Erin Reel, Stacy Carroll, R. J. Ramone, Debbie Beighley, Kenny and Josh, David, Eric, Sue Palfrey, George Salvucci, Gary Freeland, Tom Weiers, Danielle S., Tim F. (Jr.), Wyatt K., Aimee Schaffer, Grant Braun, Nikki Thon, Shelly, Don, Sandi Kern, Jacin Flowers, Jennifer, Rudy, Kris, James Kedar, David Bernthaler, Sandra R., Adam Wiltrout, USN, Nashaun Sutton, Holly H., and Matthew.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

Sober House Living

724-228-2203

Turning Point at Washington

Adult Catechism class is on Tuesday at 11 and 7 pm. All are welcome. We look forward to you joining us in our discussion.

Adult Sunday School is held before our Church Service starting at 9:45 am in the church library. Come join us.

Chess Club meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. All are welcome from beginners to experienced. We hope that you will join us for fellowship and fun. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

First Lutheran Church **Mother/Daughter Banquet (May 11) Dinner** tickets are \$25 each.

Please see Michelle Williams, Joanne Marker, Ruby Rogers or Sonie Rae for tickets.

Listening for the Promise
Weekly Devotional
Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 3, 2026

*“Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord his God.”*
Psalms 146:5-

God is Faithful

Two thousand years after the birth of Christ we are still waiting for the fulfillment of God's promises. We are taught repeatedly in the scriptures to be patient. We aren't very patient, are we? The language of the New Testament has a sense of immediacy that seems to contradict the reality we see. Two thousand years is a long time; those who were the first followers of Jesus thought that He would come again immediately. It has been long enough to make us doubt what we believe, to make us wonder whether God will ever fulfill His promises.

Jesus' ministry did not make sense to the religious elite of His day. He touched the untouchables. He brought wholeness to the outcast. He brought life to those who were dead to the world. He set the prisoners free, opened the eyes of the blind, and made the lame walk. He did not do good things for the righteous; He did great things for the sinners. It made no sense in Jesus' day and does not make sense today. Human nature expects reward for goodness. Jesus gave gifts to the humble, He fixed the broken, He forgave the sinners. No wonder so many people doubt that He is the Messiah even today.

The psalmist speaks of the hope we have in Jesus. “Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God.” This is not good news to the righteous; it is good news for the sinner because it speaks of looking beyond oneself and trusting in a higher power. That higher power, by virtue of its greatness, must know better how things should be accomplished. We are still waiting for the fulfillment of the promises two thousand years after the coming of Christ because God still has work to do. There are things to be accomplished, and we are called to wait both patiently and expectantly while God finishes what He has started. He will because He is faithful. We will one day see the fulfillment of all His promises.