

# **FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Order of Service

May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Divine Service 4

With Communion (LSB – page 203)

# Hymn 602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives

1 The gifts Christ freely gives  
He gives to you and me  
To be His Church, His bride,  
His chosen, saved and free!  
Saints blest with these rich gifts  
Are children who proclaim  
That they were won by Christ  
And cling to His strong name.

## Hymn 602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives

2 The gifts flow from the font  
Where He calls us His own;  
New life He gives that makes  
Us His and His alone.  
Here He forgives our sins  
With water and His Word;  
The triune God Himself  
Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.

## Hymn 602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives

3 The gifts of grace and peace  
From absolution flow;  
The pastor's words are Christ's  
For us to trust and know.  
Forgiveness that we need  
Is granted to us there;  
The Lord of mercy sends  
Us forth in His blest care.

## Hymn 602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives

4 The gifts are there each day  
The holy Word is read;  
God's children listen, hear,  
Receive, and they are fed.  
Christ fills them with Himself,  
Blest words that give them life,  
Restoring and refreshing  
Them for this world's strife.

## Hymn 602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives

5 The gifts are in the feast,  
Gifts far more than we see;  
Beneath the bread and wine  
Is food from Calvary.  
The body and the blood  
Remove our ev'ry sin;  
We leave His presence in  
His peace, renewed again.

# Hymn 602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives

6 All glory to the One  
Who lavishes such love;  
The triune God in love  
Assures our life above.  
His means of grace for us  
Are gifts He loves to give;  
All thanks and praise for His  
Great love by which we live!

# Invocation

P Christ is risen! Alleluia!

**C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P Surely this is our God;

**C We trusted Him and He saved us.**

P This is the Lord,

**C We trusted in Him. Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.**

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

**C Amen.**

# Confession and Absolution

P Our help is the name of the Lord.

**C Who made Heaven and Earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C But, with You, there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His

# Confession and Absolution

people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ and saying: God be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## **Psalmody** (based on Psalm 146)

P 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. (1 Peter 2:10)

**C Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. (Psalm 146:1-2)**

P Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.

**C Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them -- the Lord, who remains faithful forever. (Psalm 146:5-6)**

## **Psalmody** (based on Psalm 146)

**P** Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In My Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am.”

**C** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**(sung) Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

# Gloria in Excelsis

1 To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven  
Proclaimed at Jesus birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father;  
Your holy name we sing  
Our thanks for Your great glory,  
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

2 To You, O sole begotten,  
The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior,  
You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus;  
Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated  
At God's right hand on high.

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

3 For You alone are holy;  
    You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever,  
    Be worshipped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit  
    Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory.  
    “Amen!” our glad reply.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are around.

**C** **We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **First Lesson – Acts 6: 7-9; 7: 51-60**

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. And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then 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. And Stephen said: “You always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you

## **First Lesson – Acts 6: 7-9; 7: 51-60**

have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the Law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” Now, when they heard these things, they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into Heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then 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. And as they were

## **First Lesson – Acts 6: 7-9; 7: 51-60**

stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And, 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.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

# The Gradual

P Christ has risen from the dead. God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honour.

**C He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands; He has put everything under His feet.**

## **Epistle Lesson – 1 Peter 2: 2-5, 9-10**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that, by it, you may grow up into salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you 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. 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

## **Epistle Lesson – 1 Peter 2: 2-5, 9-10**

light. 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.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Alleluia & Verse**

**C Alleluia. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again. Death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen, yet have believed. Alleluia.**

## **Gospel**

**P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter**

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

## **Holy Gospel – John 14: 1-11**

Jesus said, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In 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? And, 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. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to Him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.” Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father,

## **Holy Gospel – Luke 24: 13-31**

and it is enough for us.” Jesus 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’? Do 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. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## **Nicene Creed**

**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 Spirit 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,**

## **Nicene Creed**

**He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son and together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in 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 912 Christ Is Our Cornerstone

- 1 Christ is our cornerstone,  
On Him alone we build;  
With His true saints alone  
The courts of heav'n are filled.  
On His great love  
Our hopes we place  
Of present grace  
And joys above.

## Hymn 912 Christ Is Our Cornerstone

- 2 Here may we gain from heav'n  
The grace which we implore,  
And may that grace, once giv'n,  
Be with us evermore  
Until that day  
When all the blest  
To endless rest  
Are called away.

## Hymn 912 Christ Is Our Cornerstone

3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise  
These hallowed courts shall ring;  
Our voices we will raise  
The Three in One to sing  
And thus proclaim  
In joyful song,  
Both loud and long,  
That glorious name.

**Sermon**

# **Prayer of the Church**

## **Offertory and Offering**

**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.**

## Service of the Sacrament - Preface

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

# Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should, at all times and in all places, give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. Most especially are we bound to praise You that on the first Easter, You resurrected Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is the very Paschal Lamb who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying, He has destroyed death, and by His rising again, He has restored us to everlasting life. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of Heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

# **Sanctus**

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth  
adored:**

**Heav'n and earth with full acclaim  
shout the glory of your name.**

**Sing hosanna in the highest,  
sing hosanna to the Lord;**

**Truly blest is He who comes in the  
name of the Lord!**

# Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all Creation, for You have had mercy on us and given us Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, we have been redeemed from bondage to sin and death and, by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him. Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His Body given into death and drinking His Blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the Promised Land of life eternal. Hear us as we pray in His name and He has taught us:

# 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.

# The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you: this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

# **Pax Domini**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you  
always.

**C** **Amen.**

# **Agnus Dei**

- C 1. O Jesus Christ, True Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, True Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**
- 2. O Jesus Christ, True Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

## **Hymn 720 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**

- 1 We walk by faith and not by sight,  
No gracious words we hear  
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
But we believe Him near.

## **Hymn 720 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**

2 We may not touch His hands and side,  
Nor follow where He trod;  
But in His promise we rejoice  
And cry "My Lord and God!"

## **Hymn 720 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**

3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
And may our faith abound  
To call on You when You are near  
And seek where You are found.

## **Hymn 720 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**

4 For You, O resurrected Lord,  
Are found in means divine:  
Beneath the water and the Word,  
Beneath the bread and wine.

## **Hymn 720 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**

5 Lord, when our life of faith is done,  
In realms of clearer light  
We may behold You as You are,  
With full and endless sight.

# Hymn 635 O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing

1 O gracious Lord, I firmly am believing  
Your boundless love will bless each faithful  
soul,  
As from this altar we are here receiving  
Your body and Your blood to make us whole,  
Your body and Your blood to make us whole.

## **Hymn 635 O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing**

2 Lord, I have sinned, a thousand times offending;  
My thankless thoughts and words and deeds  
erase,  
To me Your hand of mercy now extending,  
O God, my Savior, I implore Your grace,  
O God, my Savior, I implore Your grace.

## **Hymn 635 O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing**

3 You see my sin yet seat me at Your table;

Lord, as a guest, I surely am the least:

Unclean, unfit, of worthy deeds unable-

My heart prepare for this most holy feast,

My heart prepare for this most holy feast.

# **Hymn 635 O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing**

4 O Lamb of God, my faithful, loving Savior,  
You I embrace in faith and holy love;  
Grant me the strength to show by my behavior  
A life now hidden in Your reign above,  
A life now hidden in Your reign above.

# Hymn 635 O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing

5 Heavenly Bread, my life and benediction,

This cup You give can take away each ill.  
Come and relieve my soul from all affliction;

Calm ev'ry sigh until my heart is still,  
Calm ev'ry sigh until my heart is still.

# **Nunc Dimittis**

- 1. O Lord, now let Your servant  
Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory  
Of Your redeeming grace;  
A light to lead the Gentiles  
Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people,  
Your chosen Israel.**

# **Nunc Dimittis**

**2. All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.**

## Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

# Benedicamus

P Alleluia! We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

**C Alleluia! Because of Christ, death has no dominion over all who believe in Him!**

P Let us bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

# Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be  
gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give  
you peace.

**C Amen.**

## Hymn (sung to LSB 883)

- 1     Forth in the peace of Christ we go,  
        Christ to the world with joy we bring.  
Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,  
        Christ in our hearts, the world's true King.

## Hymn (sung to LSB 883)

- 2 Christ's are our lips, His Word we speak,  
Prophets are we whose deeds proclaim.  
Christ's truth in love, that we may be,  
Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.

## Hymn (sung to LSB 883)

- 3 We are the Church, Christ bids us show,  
That, in His Church, all nations find,  
Their hearts and home where Christ restores,  
True peace, true love, to all mankind.