



**Fifth Sunday after Easter**  
May 3, 2026 10:30 a.m.

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Joyful, Joyful" Ludwig van Beethoven; Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski  
Chancel Ringers

*(\*) Indicates that all are invited to stand*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (1)

One: Welcome home, people of God!

**All: We have come to find refuge in the shelter of God's care.**

One: Come and find peace. There is room for everyone in God's house.

**All: We have come to be nourished by God's word.**

One: We are God's own people, and are precious in God's sight.

**All: We have come to offer our praise with grateful, open hearts!**

\*GATHERING HYMN “Christ is Made the Sure Foundation” #400  
*(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)*  
**Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,  
Chosen of our God and precious, binding all the Church in one;  
Holy Zion’s help forever, and our confidence alone.**

**To this temple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, today!  
With your constant, loving kindness hear your people as they pray.  
Give your fullest benediction: grace to follow Christ the Way.**

**Here renew your servants’ vision, that by faith they may attain  
Peace and hope, renewed compassion, strength to comfort those in pain,  
Tears and grief transformed to gladness in your everlasting reign.**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (2)

God of compassionate mercy, your grace and love extend to all people.

**We are called to forgive others, as you forgive us.**

Far too often, however, we see others doing wrong and feel haughty when we grant them grace.

**We become narrow in our quest for truth, and ignore other people, in other rooms, crying out for your justice.**

In your grace, guide us to share your power and grace as we follow you in humble faith. *(silent confession)*

\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, believe the good news! God raised Jesus and made room for us, calling us to live out of God’s forgiveness by making sure there is room for all.

**Thanks be to God!**

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #236 New Century Hymnal *(repeat once)*

**Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

HANDBELL ANTHEM     "Prelude on 'Dix'"     Douglas E. Wagner

## LISTENING

*God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.*

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: John 14:1-14                      Pew Bible pp.877  
A Word of God that is still speaking, **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON    Sarah Fredriksen McCann

### SILENT MEDITATION

HYMN OF REFLECTION: "Giver of Life, Where'er They Be" #603  
*(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)*

**Giver of life, where'er they be, safe in your own eternity,  
Now live your children gloriously. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**All souls you call, both here and there, do rest within your sheltering care;  
One providence alike they share: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Your word is true, your ways are just; above the chanted "dust to dust"  
Shall rise our song of grateful trust: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Happy are they in God who rest, no more by fear and doubt oppressed;  
Living or dying they are blessed: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## RESPONDING

*We respond to God's Word through our prayers and our gifts.*

### NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY "Meditation in A-Flat"              Alfred Hollins  
*(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)*

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (tune: "Lasst Uns Erfreuen" *The Hymnal* #15)

**Praise God, the Giver and the Gift,**

**Hearts, minds and voices now uplift, Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise, praise the breath of glad surprise, Freeing, uplifting, opening eyes.**

**Three-In-Oneness, Love Communing, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God!**

Eternal God, holy and mighty, it is our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, and to worship you in every place where your glory abides. You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. You made us in your image, and called us to be your people, but we turned from you, leaving sin and death to reign. Still you loved and sought us. In Christ your grace defeated death and opened the way to eternal life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voice with the faithful of every time and place:

**Holy, holy, holy God, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!**

You are holy, O God, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your son and our risen Savior.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that we may be united with the living Christ and with all his people. Accept this our sacrifice of praise as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen:

**Dying you destroyed our death. Rising you restored our life.**

**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS *(All are welcome to participate! Elements will be served by ushers. Wine trays contain white grape juice and red wine cups.*

*Wrapped gluten-free wafers are available on bread trays. Please hold the elements until all are served, so we may commune together)*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (*unison*)

**We give thanks, O God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we, too, may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen.**

### **SENDING**

*With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.*

**\*COMMISSIONING HYMN** "Lead On Eternal Sovereign" #573  
(*For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack*)

**Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow in your way;  
Loud rings your cry for justice, your call for peace this day:  
Through prayerful preparation, your grace will make us strong,  
To carry on the struggle to triumph over wrong.**

**Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear,  
For in each human conflict your words of strength we hear:  
That when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fall,  
Our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all.**

**Lead on eternal Sovereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
And all your saints together will sing a hymn of peace;  
Then all in your dominion will live with hearts set free,  
To love and serve each other for all eternity.**

**\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** "Fanfare in D" Jaak Nikolaas Lemmens

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Worship Endnotes:

1. Adapted from [www.waldwickchurch.org](http://www.waldwickchurch.org)
2. Adapted from [www.pres-outlook.org](http://www.pres-outlook.org)

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