

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025



Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.



ZION
Ministries Under the Cross

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Welcome to Zion!

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we're glad you're here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God's goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

Get Connected at Zion

The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook and Instagram), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Children in Worship

Children are God's gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Playground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

Giving

We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



Livestreaming

Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

We Gather

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN

ELW Hymn #424

“Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

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

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW pp. 140-141

PRAYER OF THE DAY

See Insert

We Hear & Respond to God’s Word

FIRST READING

Acts 11:1-18

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:1-6

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

John 13:31-35

Before the reading: The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ALL

HYMN OF THE DAY

“How Great is Our God”

NICENE CREED

Together with all Christians of every time, place, and space, let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY HYMN & PRAYER

ELW Hymn #674

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

Let us pray together...**Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.**

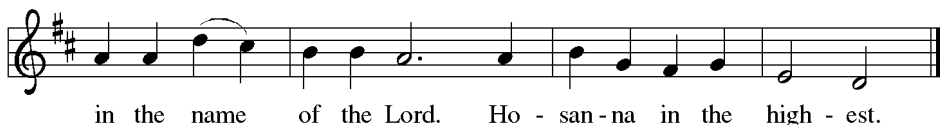
We Feast at the Lord's Table

THE 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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

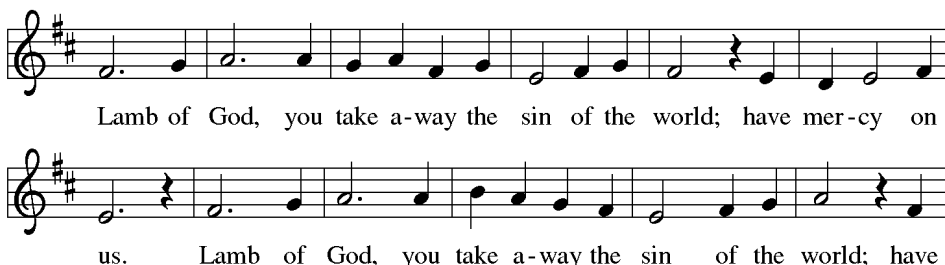
LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

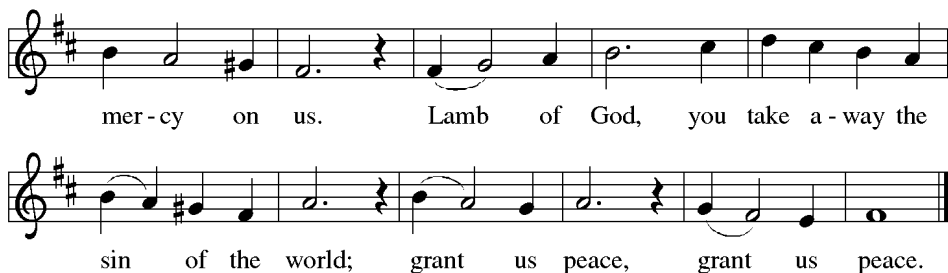


Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal-low-ed be your
name, hal-low-ed be your name. Your king-dom come, your
will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven, on earth as it is in hea-ven.
Give us to-day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our
sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for-give those who sin a -
gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from
e - vil, de - liv - er us from - e - vil. For yours is the
king-dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry, for - e - ver and e - ver, for
e - ver and e - ver. A - men, a - men. A - men.

SHARING THE MEAL



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



We Are Sent into the World

BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ comfort, strengthen, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together...**Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.**

BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Father, ✚ Son, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Hallelujah, He is Risen!”

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace. Share the good news that Christ is risen! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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Today's Readings

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent

to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Psalm

Psalm 148; tone 10



Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD ¹ from the heavens;
praise God ¹ in the heights.

²Praise the LORD, ¹ all you angels;
sing praise, all you ¹ hosts of heaven.

³Praise the LORD, ¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you ¹ shining stars.

⁴Praise the LORD, heav- ¹ en of heavens,
and you waters a- ¹ bove the heavens.

continued

Psalm, continued

⁵Let them praise the name ¹ of the LORD,
who commanded,
and they ¹ were created,
⁶who made them stand fast
forev- ¹ er and ever,
giving them a law
that shall not ¹ pass away.
⁷Praise the LORD ¹ from the earth,
you sea monsters ¹ and all deeps;
⁸fire and hail, ¹ snow and fog,
tempestuous wind,
do- ¹ ing God's will;
⁹mountains ¹ and all hills,
fruit trees ¹ and all cedars;
¹⁰wild beasts ¹ and all cattle,
creeping things and ¹ flying birds;

¹¹sovereigns of the earth ¹ and all peoples,
princes and all rulers ¹ of the world;
¹²young ¹ men and maidens,
old and ¹ young together.
¹³Let them praise the name
¹ of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted,
whose splendor
is over ¹ earth and heaven.
¹⁴The LORD has raised up
strength for the people
and praise for all ¹ faithful servants,
the children of Israel,
a people who are near the LORD.
¹ Hallelujah!

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will
be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

Gospel

John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now

I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

TODAY'S READINGS May 18, 2025

Volume 56, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9.

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