



**Lutheran Church of the Covenant**  
**Maple Heights, OH**

***Fifth Sunday of Easter***

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant welcomes you to worship!

Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life together!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary.

We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!

Portions marked with \* are when we invite you to stand as you are able to do so. There will not be a separate time for an offering, so a basket is placed in the back for those who wish to support our local ministry as well as the wider church.

A children’s table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you’ll find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in worship.

Our Worship Leaders & Staff

Presiding Minister	Rev. Andrea McDonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Lector	Bert Zahn
Reader	Nancy Langtry
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vince Besednjak

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**9:00 a.m. May 18, 2025**

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**Prelude Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace Handbells**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

Christ is alive; let all the people praise him.

**Let all creation sing with joy. Alleluia!**

Trusting in the love of God to make all things new,  
let us confess our sin to God and our neighbor.

God of mercy,

**your command to love one another across all differences opens us  
to new horizons, yet we often respond with fear and judgment that  
hinders your goal for humanity. Forgive our sins, we pray, and give  
us a true repentance that leads to life for all creation. We pray in  
Jesus' name. Amen.**

God's promises are trustworthy and true; ✝ your sins are forgiven.  
Be at peace to serve the Lord, and may you always be known by your  
love. **Amen.**

**\*Gathering Song: Oh, Praise the Gracious Power ELW#651**



1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear  
2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds  
3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,  
7 Oh, praise the living Christ with faith's bright songful voice!



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:  
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:  
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:  
Announce the gospel to the world and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

**\*Greeting**

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.**

**\*Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Jesus has loved us so that we may love others. Go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Postlude**

**Praying Together**

**... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:**  
Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Joan Clarke, Bruce Constant, Chuck Dickey, Olive Evanofski, Barbara Fossa, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Barbara Mingee, Phyllis Nemeth, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Jean Rusher, Barb Toth, Maud Wright, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

**Last Week**

**General Fund receipts for week ending 5/11/2025:\$1854.00**

\*Sending Hymn: *The Church's One Foundation* ELW #654

1 The church's one foun-da-tion is Je-sus Christ, her Lord;  
4 Through toil and trib-u-la-tion and tu-mult of her war,  
5 Yet she on earth has u-nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre-a-tion by wa-ter and the word.  
she waits the con-sum-ma-tion of peace for-ev-er-more;  
and mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho-ly bride;  
till with the vi-sion glo-ri-ous her long-ing eyes are blest,  
Oh, bless-ed heav'n-ly cho-rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
and the great church vic-to-ri-ous shall be the church at rest.  
that we, like saints be-fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900  
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

\*Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

\*Hymn of Praise

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

\*Post-Communion Prayer

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, Sovereign, , ✚ Savior, and Spirit, give you the grace to grow in faith, hope, love, and justice, now and always. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**\*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**\*Invitation to Communion**

**Communion Hymn**

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

Surprising God, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ you make all things new. Long ago you called your church to a love beyond all social and cultural differences and gave them the gift of your Holy Spirit to open their hearts to enact such love. Give us that same spirit of openness, that we too might discern new directions in our day for your dream to reconcile and heal all creation. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

## **Children's Moment**

### **First Reading: Acts 11:1-18**

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> "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. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup> But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we

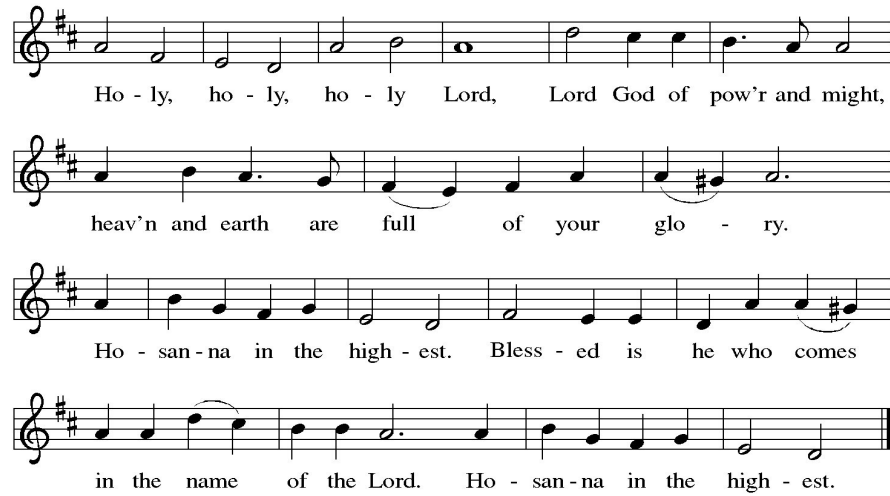
were. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup> If 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?" <sup>18</sup> When 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."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

In the same way Jesus took the cup, saying,  
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,  
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering your gracious acts,  
as we keep the feast that Christ prepares.  
Gracious God,  
now pour out your Holy Spirit among us:  
in this bread, in this cup,  
in your people;  
one with Christ,  
one in mission, one in ministry;  
in this place, in every place,  
in this world, in the world to come.  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor are yours,  
almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**





We give you thanks for Jesus Christ:

Word made flesh,

light of the world,

living water,

shepherd and gate,

way and truth and life.

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus

on the night before he died, took bread,

and after giving thanks to you, he broke it,

and gave it to his disciples, saying,

Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

## Psalm: Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise the Lord, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise the Lord, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup> **who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup> **young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and  
heaven.

<sup>14</sup> **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all  
faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Halleljah!**

## Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And 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 and be their God;

<sup>4</sup> he 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.”

<sup>5</sup> And 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.” <sup>6</sup> Then 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.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## \*Offering Prayer

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. 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.**

## \*Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, we praise you for your love: bringing order out of chaos, breathing life into dust, leading captives into freedom, consuming false idols with holy fire, calling wandering children home, giving bread to the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, raising the dead to life. Therefore we join our voices with saints and angels and all the faithful of every time and place, singing,

## \*Sanctus (next page)

Prayers of the People

Sharing of the Peace

Music Interlude

The Offertory Hymn: *We Praise You O God* ELW #870

1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;  
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;  
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.  
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

\*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. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little 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.’ <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

**\*Hymn of the Day: *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us***  
**ELW#358**



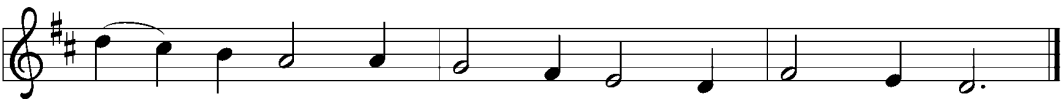
1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for  
2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and  
3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us  
5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,  
cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,  
as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,  
joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our  
by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems  
but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your  
to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.  
close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.  
mer - cy seat, and find you kneel - ing at our feet.  
faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936  
Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889–1953  
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**\*Apostles Creed**

**I believe in god, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**