

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
May 3, 2026 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter
8:30 Bulletin

LITURGICAL SEASON EXPLAINED

The season after Easter Day until Pentecost is called the **Easter Season** or **Eastertide** and lasts 50 days. The central theme of Eastertide is the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of new life, hope, and redemption. This is the most joyful season in the Christian calendar, the mood is bright and triumphant. The scripture readings focus on the appearances of the risen Christ and the beginnings of the Christian community with the missionary work of the apostles. The liturgical color is white, symbolizing joy and purity.



OPENING HYMN: Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation

Please stand as you are able



1. Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion,
2. All that ded - i - cat - ed cit - y,
3. To this tem - ple, where we call you,
4. *Grant, we pray, to all your peo - ple,*



Christ the head and cor - ner - stone;
Dear - ly loved of God on high,
Come, O Lord of hosts, to - day;
All the grace they ask to gain;



Cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,
In ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion
With your wont - ed lov - ing kind - ness
What they gain from you for ev - er



Bind - ing all the Church in one;
Pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy;
Hear your ser - vants as they pray,
With the bless - ed to re - tain,



Ho - ly Zi - on's help for ev - er,
God the One in three a - dor - ing
And your full - est ben - e - dic - tion
And here - af - ter in your glo - ry



And her con - fi - dence a - lone.
In glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.
Shed with - in its walls al - way.
Shed in all its bright ar - ray.

ACCLAMATION *BCP p. 355*

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Celebrant continues:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

GLORIA *BCP p. 356*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. **AMEN.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

*This Week's Reader: **Karen Davenport** † Next Sunday: **Cheryle Kahl***

FIRST READING Acts 7:55-60

Please be seated

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

*Verses read alternately by the reader and the people, breaking at the **

¹In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

²Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
**for you have redeemed me,
O Lord, O God of truth.**

¹⁵My times are in your hand; *
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶Make your face to shine upon your servant,*
and in your loving-kindness save me.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL John 14:1-14

Please stand as you are able

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. 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, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place 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 know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? 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; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

Please be seated

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: 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.

We 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. 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

The Leader and people pray responsively:

Christ is risen—alleluia! In the confidence of the Resurrection, we now pray in our Savior's name for all of God's people throughout the world, saying: Awake, O Sleeper, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to your church, O God, that we might serve you with courage and grace. Awake, O Church, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to your world, O God, that all might know the goodness of your love. Awake, O World, rise from death,
And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to our nation, O God, that each person might share with and honor the other. Awake, O People, rise from death,
And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change for the poor of the earth, O God, for the victims of warfare and natural disasters, and for refugees around the world, especially in Ukraine, the Middle East, Sudan, Haiti, the Congo, and Venezuela. Awake, O Downcast, rise from death,
And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to our community, O God, as we pray for the children in our lives and in our world. Grant us calm strength and patient wisdom that we may teach them to love whatever is just, true, and good. Awake, O Family, rise from death,
And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change for the sick and the suffering, especially those on our prayer list. Are there others?

That they might know your saving help. Awake, O Sorrowful, rise from death,
And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to even the departed, O God, that they might forever grow in your likeness. Awake, O Saints, rise from death,
And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to our hearts, O God, that we might grow larger in faith and hope. Awake, O Soul, rise from death,
And Christ will give you life!

Awake, O Sleeper, rise from death, for Christ has burst forth from the tomb, making all things new. Rise and live, says the Lord. This

day God has made for life and all joy!
Alleluia, amen!

CONCLUDING COLLECT

God our creator, you are constantly and unconditionally loving us even when we stray from you. Hear our prayers and guide us into the way of your peace. **AMEN.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebrant and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to our God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant continues:

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out

from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing; all you create is a sign of hope for our journey. And so, as the morning stars sing your praises, we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all; your Word has never been silent. You called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations; you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign, and to give himself for us. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love.

For it is through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that we worship you, our God and Creator, in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and forever. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *BCP p. 364*

Celebrant:

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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, for ever and ever. AMEN.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

COMMUNION

Please be seated

Communion at Grace is Open to Everyone

Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, there is a place for you at God's table. You may choose to receive bread (gluten free wafers available upon request). You may choose to receive wine in the silver chalice or grape juice in the white and blue chalice. You may drink from either cup or intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. You may refrain from the bread and chalice and just receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand as you are able

After Communion, the Celebrant says:

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. AMEN.

BLESSING

May the Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world. And may the blessing of God Almighty—God our Creator, God our Redeemer, and God our Sanctifier—be with you this day and forevermore. **AMEN.**

CLOSING HYMN: Let Us With A Gladsome Mind



1 Let us, with a glad - some mind, praise the Lord, for he is kind:
2 Let us blaze his Name a - broad, for of gods he is the God:
3 He with all - com - mand - ing might filled the new - made world with light:
4 He the gold - en - tress - ed sun caused all day his course to run:
5 The horn - ed moon to shine by night, mid her span - gled sis - ters bright:



for his mer - cies they en - dure, ev - er faith - ful, ev - er sure.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant My friends, our worship has now ended. Let us go forth in peace to show the world by our actions and our words the saving power of the risen Jesus! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

People **We will, with God's help! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The Prayers of this Congregation

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop, Bonnie Anne Perry; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod. Our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; our retired community, spouses, and companions. Our diocesan household: Committees, commissions, ministries, agencies, priests, deacons, lay leaders, volunteers, and staff members; Steven Steinberger-Domienik; Grace Church Mt. Clemens; Bonaio, DR Church of the Pentecost.

For our Wednesday and Sunday supper guests; Donna Hanes; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair; Charlotte Kalligeros; Tom Stotz; Jennifer Holland; Joan Walsh; Elizabeth Gage; Logan & Teresa Davidson; Jeanne Nowak; Donna Powell; Pamela Sherry; Linda Fields; Michael Woodard; Sara Mattocks; Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Scott Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Jason Zadorski; Pat Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Mary Anne Jackson; Martha Wehba; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Bassey; Suzanne LaMontagne; Vito Fontana; Christa Carpenter; Nancy & Bob Johnson; Rick Gherisi; Rory Heinz; Carole Schwertman; Tish Germain; Shirley & Nelson Rumpel; Helen Fitzgibbon; Joyce & Roy Schafer; Danielle; Betty Brogan; Paige Biehl; Ulrike Lamb; Debbie H.; Beverly Wolff; Ellen Laudicina; Beth Jarvis; Dave Salyer; Al Gazoul; Randy; Sharon Fedchenko; Joyce Geiger; Steve Burns; Brenden Murphy and family; the Domienik family; Michael Oakley; Betty Moore; Sandy Krell; Bobby Coutts; Sharon Potter; Rita Vermeersch; Sallie Coffey; Frank Davis; Jerry Gardner; Shelly Volpe; Bud Denham; John Schober; Tish Mastro-Burns; Jane Kaminski.

Do you know someone who can use our prayers?

Please contact the office to add them to or keep them on the prayer list.

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please send all bulletin submissions to
bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org*

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please sign up for altar flowers on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

COFFEE HOUR

Please volunteer to host a coffee hour; the sign-up sheet is in the hallway. The host(s) makes and sets up the coffee and any snacks and then cleans up afterwards. You may also be reimbursed for any money you spend for snacks—just let Marchea (in the office) know! Thank you for sharing in the hospitality ministry of our parish!

BIBLE STUDY

Please join us on **Sundays** at **9:30 AM** in the Guild Room for our Bible study. No preparation needed; just come and listen and join in the conversation. Each session is self-contained so you do not have to attend each week; come when you can. We learn a great deal about Scripture, our faith, ourselves, and each other! Hope to see you there!

CHOIR

Please join us for choir rehearsal on **Wednesdays** at **6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. No experience required; just bring your spirited heart and a friend! Thank you!

GARDENS OF GRACE

Spring's arrival means it's time to give some TLC to our church gardens. Please see the Amazing Grace newsletter (available at both entrances and online) for monthly updates and ways you can help out. Also, we'd like to borrow some

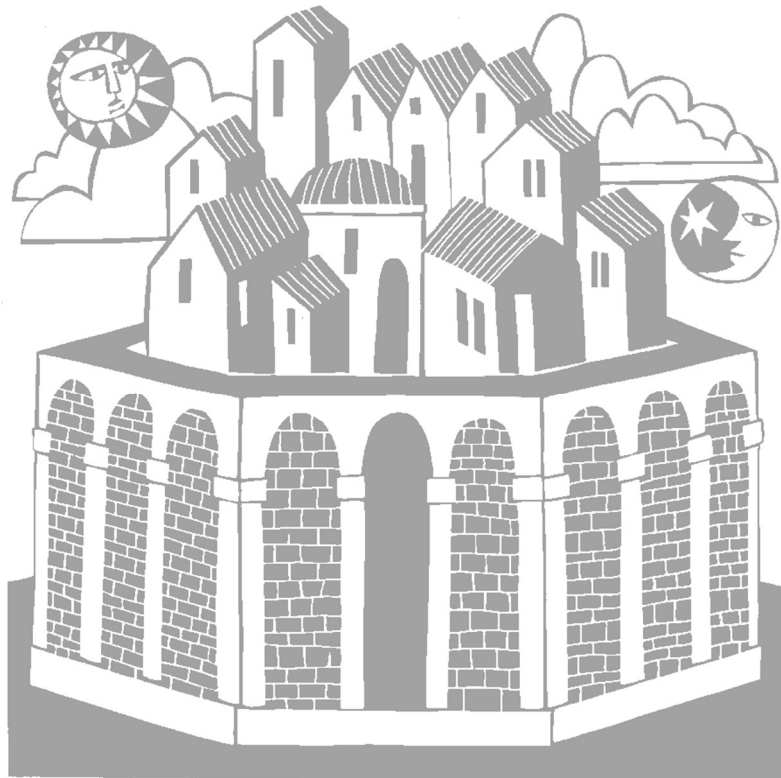
lightweight safety cones for when we rent out our parking lot in June. If you have some to spare, please drop them off in the office. Thanks!

BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting will be on **Thursday, May 14** at **6 PM** at Grace Church. At the last meeting we couldn't decide which book was next, so we ended up choosing two books! They are: *Hold Strong* by Robert Dugoni and *twice* by Mitch Albom. We hope to see you at the next meeting! If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to Ann Strevel.

ALC EVENTS

Please see the flyer posted on the bulletin board in the hallway for more info on upcoming and ongoing events at American Lutheran. There's a lot to choose from!



For Victims of Gun Violence in the U.S.

God of peace, whose Son wept at the tomb of Lazarus and by his resurrection has overcome death, **we pray for all victims** of gun violence. We pray for the repose of the souls of all who have died from **mass shootings, suicides**, and other forms of **gun violence**, and we lift up their grieving families to your tender care. We pray for all victims and bystanders of gun violence who have been **injured in body, mind, or spirit**. Merciful God, bring an **end to the violence** that afflicts our communities. Help us to not grow numb, but to rise up for the sake of your kingdom, which calls us to be peacemakers and ministers of your compassion. **Make us advocates for an end to gun violence** and give the governing authorities wisdom and courage to serve the common good and safeguard all people. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
