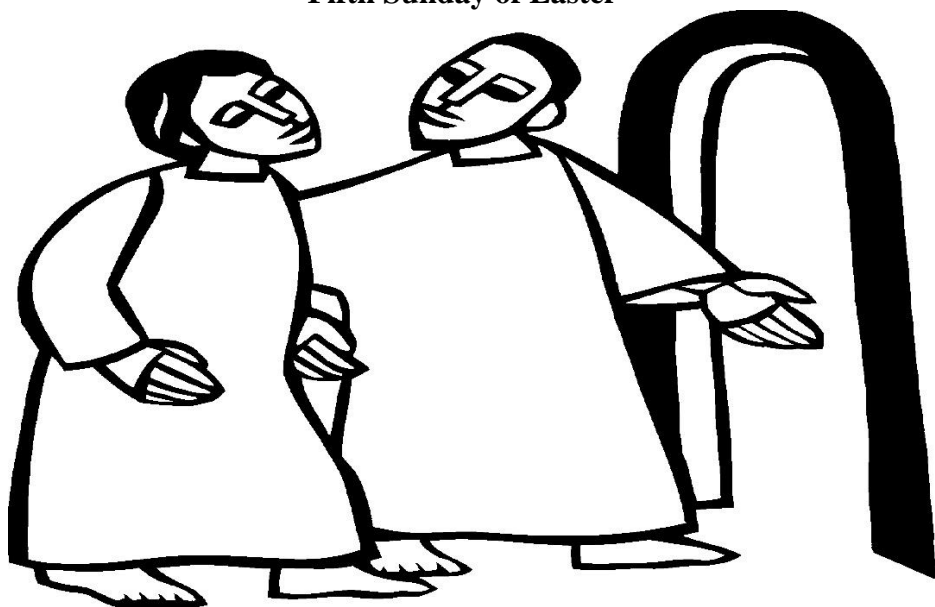


Hope Lutheran Church
2001 S 500 E, Columbia City, IN 46725
Grace Lutheran Church
204 North Main Street Columbia City, Indiana 46725
Phone: 260-244-7118 Fax: 260-248-2138
E-Mail: office.gracelutheran@gmail.com
Web Page: www.gracecolumbiacity.org
Reverend Matthew Converse, Pastor
Kirsten Jines, Preschool Director
Joyce Dubach, Organist
May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter



Introduction to the day

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

Food pantry need: cereal and soup
Attendance for April 26, 2026 -

PRELUDE

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*).

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,

and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

(ELW 645)

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

Music: Henry Purcell, 1659-1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802-1868

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

☐ 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.

☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

☐ 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.

☩ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
 (I) For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 (II) 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.
 ☩ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

A reading from Acts.

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ 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. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹ In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;

deliver me | in your righteousness.

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

³ Be 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.

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

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

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

¹⁶ Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and in your lovingkindness save me.

SECOND READING : 1 Peter 2:2-10

A reading from 1 Peter.

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

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

⁸ 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.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to John_, the 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² 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? ³ 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. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ 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’? ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² 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. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow.

HYMN OF THE DAY

(ELW 816)

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

Text: George Herbert, 1593-1632

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

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.**

THE PRAYERS

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: Peace be with you.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray:

Merciful God,

accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

**You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.**

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,

that goodness and mercy may follow us

and bless the world you love.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

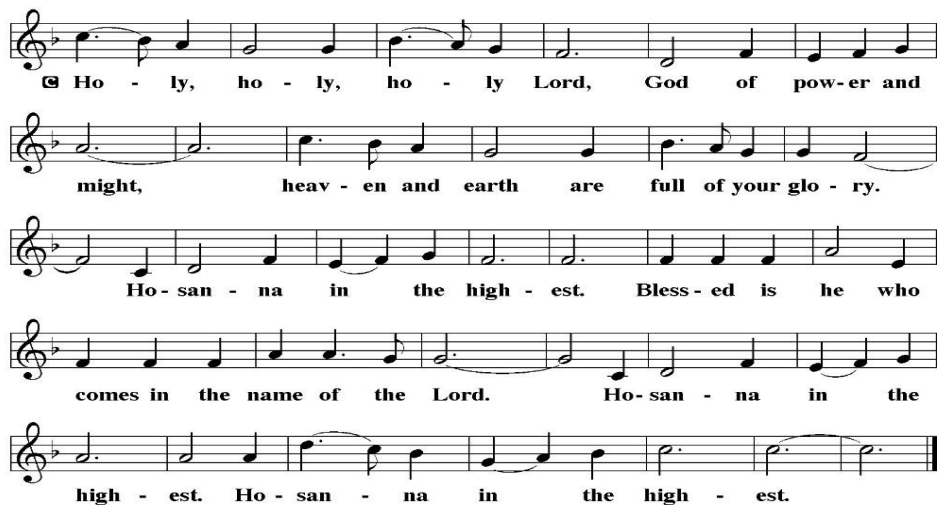
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his 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:

SANCTUS



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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Glory to you, God from before the beginning,
God bearing from above your Word of grace,
God sending on us the Dove of peace.

Glory to you, O God!

Glory to you, O God!

You are the great I AM,
feeding your people with manna in the wilderness.
You are the Father of our beloved Jesus,
whom you gave to the world
to be the Lamb, the King of Israel, the Son of Man.

Glory to you, O God!

Glory to you, O God!

You anointed Jesus to be our messiah and teacher.
He is the bread from heaven, the fruitful vine,
the good shepherd, the gate of protection, our very Lord and God,
our way, our truth, and our resurrection to life eternal.

Glory to you, O God!

Glory to you, O God!

On the night that he washed his disciples' feet,
he 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 Lazarus we wait in our tomb,
we hear you call our name,
and we come out from our death into your life.
With Mary Magdalene we cry out,
We have seen the Lord.
We have seen the Lord.

Breathe your Spirit of power on us.
Nourish us with your living water,
and sustain us with the body and blood of your Son.
Claim us as your friends.
Birth us anew and enlighten our eyes.
Unbind us, that as your servants we may unbind one another.
Glory to you, O God!
Glory to you, O God!

Glory to you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
the Source of all, the Light of the world, the Advocate for your
children.

Blessing: **Blessing**
and thanksgiving: **Thanksgiving**
and honor: **Honor**
and might: **Might**
be to you forever and ever.
Amen.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us 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,
 forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

(Everyone is welcome to come to the communion table. If you have not received instruction in the Sacraments, come to the altar for a blessing. If you would like to receive communion where you are seated in the pews, please tell the usher and at the close of communion you will be served.)

The communion follows. The bread may be broken for distribution. As the ministers give the bread and cup to each communicant, they say these words:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: **Amen**

COMMUNION SONG



☞ 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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

Bring Many Names



1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good,
2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day,
3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - 'ry child,
4 Old, ach - ing God, gray with end - less care,
5 Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger, on the move,
6 Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,



cel - e - brate, in par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in
plan - ning all the won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e -
feel - ing all the strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for -
calm - ly pierc - ing e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur -
say - ing no to false - hood and un - kind - ness, cry - ing out for
joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing, clos - er yet than



glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God. Hail and ho -
qua - tion, gen - i - us at play: Hail and ho -
giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled: Hail and ho -
pris - es, wis - er than de - spair: Hail and ho -
jus - tice, giv - ing all you have: Hail and ho -
breath - ing, ev - er - last - ing home: Hail and ho -



san - na! Bring man - y names!
san - na, strong moth - er God!
san - na, warm fa - ther God!
san - na, old, ach - ing God!
san - na, young, grow - ing God!
san - na,

6 great, liv - ing God!

Text: Brian Wren, b. 1936

Music: WESTCHASE, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

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POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



☞ Thank - ful hearts and voi - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray:

Holy One,

through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,

and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,

Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,

and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,

✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! (ELW 377)
Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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ANNOUNCEMENT

BREAD LOAF OFFERING - MAY- The Center

- **INDIANA-KENTUCKY SYNOD YOUTH MISSION TRIP**
 - **June 14–20, 2026 | Indianapolis, Indiana**
- Get ready for a week of service, growth, and unforgettable experiences in Indianapolis! Youth and adult mentors will spend the week serving alongside inspiring local ministries and nonprofit organizations, putting faith into action through meaningful, hands-on opportunities to love and serve our neighbors.
- This mission trip will be a chance to make a real difference, build new friendships, deepen faith, and discover more about what it means to follow Jesus in everyday life. Along the way, participants will also enjoy evening activities that highlight the culture, energy, and diversity of Indiana’s largest city.
- Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Carmel will serve as host site for the week. This trip is open to students in grades 7–12 and adult mentors. Cost: \$250 per person. The cost is all-inclusive except for travel to Indianapolis. Scholarships are available.
- Come be part of a week that will challenge you, inspire you, and remind you that God can use every one of us to make a difference.

- Gloria Pelfrey has moved to 4725 N State Rd 9 Columbia City IN, 46725

Weekly Agenda at Grace Lutheran Church

Monday, May 4, 2026

Helping hands 12:30 pm

Scouting America Troop 84 6:30 pm

AA 7:30 pm

Tuesday May 5, 2026

Elections

T.O.P.S 9:30 am

Staff Meeting 3:40 pm

3082 6:30 pm

Wednesday May 6, 2026

Men's Breakfast 8 am

Pre-k Chapel 10:20 am

Pre-k Chapel 11 am

Food Pantry 12 pm

Pre-k chapel 12:40 pm

Voucher 4 pm

Thursday May 7, 2026

AA 7:30 pm

Al-non 7:30 pm

Friday May 8, 2026

Pastor's Day Off

Food pantry 12 pm

Girl scout lock-in 5 pm

Saturday May 9, 2026

Girl scout lock-in 10 am

Sunday May 10, 2026

Mother's Day

Worship @ Hope 8:15 am

Worship @ Grace 10:00 am

Fellowship 11:15 am

Worship @ Oakes 1 pm

**We have new sign-up sheets in the parish hall, for coffee hour.
Coffee hour will be after church service, for anyone that would
like to stay.**