

First Lutheran Church

May 3, 2026

**THE
WAY THE
TRUTH
AND THE
LIFE**

JOHN 14:1-14

**Fifth Sunday
of Easter**

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 1st 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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

TRURO

Matthew H. Corl

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

GATHERING

The assembly stands.

Softly spoken

PM: Christ is Risen!

C: He is Risen, Indeed!

In a regular voice

PM: Christ is Risen!

C: He is Risen, Indeed!

Lifting our voices toward heaven.

PM: Christ is Risen!

C: He is Risen, Indeed!
Alleluia!



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

PM: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

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

C: **Amen.**

PM: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

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.
Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

PM: 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.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

PM: 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.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

PM: 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.

C: Amen.

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

FESTIVAL CANTICLE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Cantor will sing the verses.

1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. **Refrain**

2. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

Final Refrain

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

++ CHILDREN MAY ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL

SOLO

Come My Way, My Truth My Light Ralph Vaughn Williams
Aaron Wilson, baritone

FIRST READING

ACTS 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

AM: A reading from Acts, the seventh chapter.

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.

AM: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us re-joice and be glad in it.

The Cantor will sing the verses.

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

² Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted!

The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷ I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD. **Refrain**

¹⁸ The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of righteousness;

I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ "This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

²¹ I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation. **Refrain**

²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. **Refrain**

SECOND READING

1 PETER 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

AM: A reading from 1 Peter, the second chapter.

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.

AM: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands.

ALLELUIA



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The Cantor sings the verse.

I am the way, the truth,¹ and the life. No one comes to the Father ex-¹cept through me. (John 14:6)*

GOSPEL

JOHN 14:1-14

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

PM: The Holy Gospel according to John, the fourteenth chapter.



Glo - ry 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.”

PM: The Gospel of our Lord.



The assembly is seated.

REFLECTION

PASTOR CHRISTIAN DITTMAR

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

YOU ARE THE WAY

ELW# 758



1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

NICENE CREED

AM: In trust and hope we profess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C: 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 assembly kneels.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

AM: 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.

Each petition concludes:

PM: Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

PM: 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.
C: Amen.

The assembly stands.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PM: The peace of Christ, be with you always.
C: And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION

LIVING GOD

Melvin Rotermund

I Received the Living God

The assembly stands.

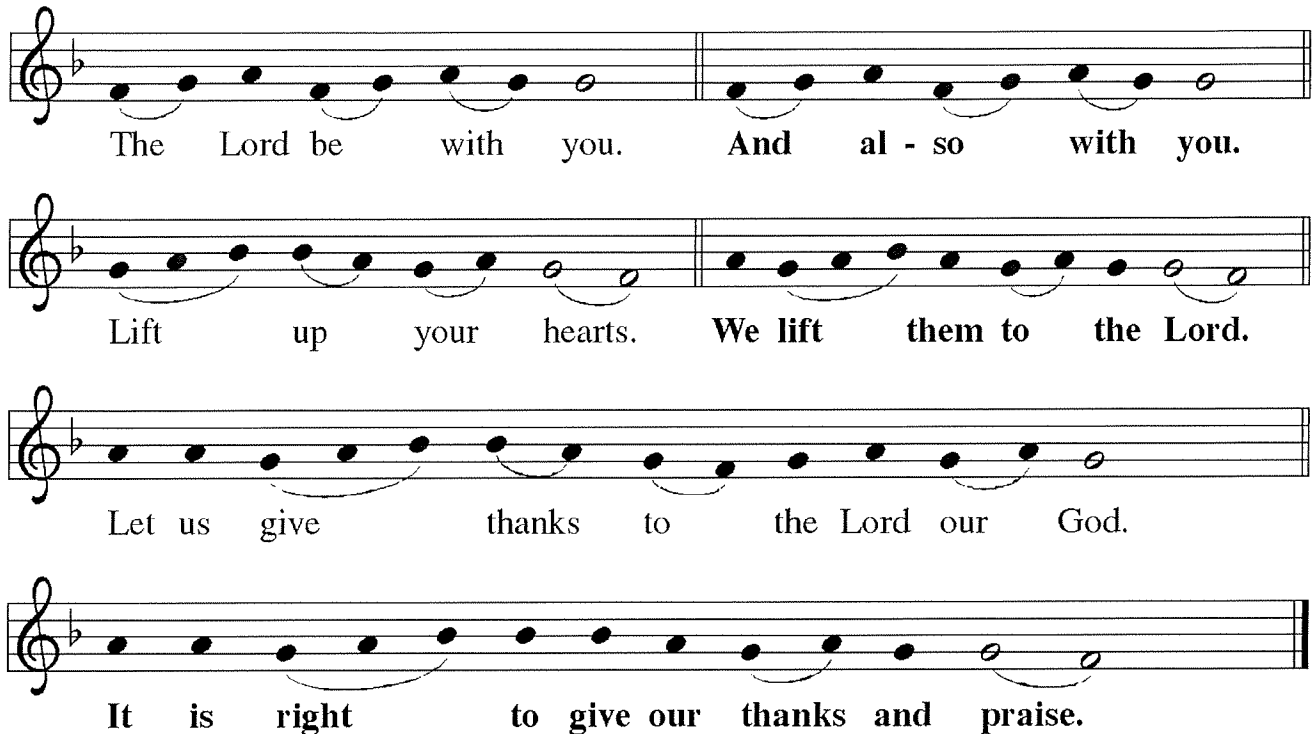
OFFERING PRAYER

AM: 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,

C: Amen.

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.

PREFACE

PM: 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:

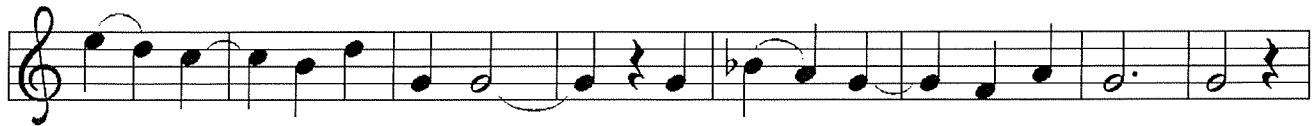
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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, 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PM: 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

C: 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.

LAMB OF GOD

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.

The assembly is seated.

Communion is distributed in two manners

✚ You may commune in your pews.

Individual communion kits are available at the Narthex doors.

The presiding minister will share a blessing,
all communing in-place will commune together.

✚ You may come to the Table, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

A basket is available for disposal of your individual communion cups.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

PM: Come to the table of new life.
Receive the risen Lord.

COMMUNION SONG

I Received the Living God

ELW # 477

Refrain

I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

The Cantor will sing the verses.

TABLE BLESSING

PM: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AM: 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,

C: Amen.

SENDING

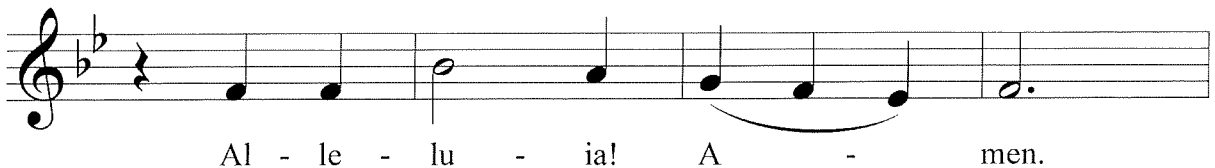
CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

PM: We pray together:

**C: Oh God,
your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure.
We are grateful for your goodness
and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future.
Bless our community of faith, bless the changes that are before us,
bless our pastoral leaders who will shepherd us
through this time of transition.
We thank you for the wisdom you show us.
Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry and our future.
Receive our prayer, O God, through Jesus Christ,
our strength and salvation. Amen.**

BLESSING

PM: 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.





1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;
 2 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice, Praise him, ran - somed of the earth.
 3 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom - y halls of death Christ, the con - quer - or, has gone,
 Praise him in a no - bler song, cher - u - bim of heav'n - ly birth.
 Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:



bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.
 Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o - bey.
 Glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

DISMISSAL

PM: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

AM: Go in peace.

PM: In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

FRED TIL BOD

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives

Keith Kolander

Contact Us



First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore Street
Tiffin, Ohio 44883
419-447-1323

www.firstlutherantiffin.com
firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com

Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild	Donna Brueggemeier & Deb Hohman
Cantor:	Elijah Shiley
Soloist:	Aaron Wilson
Facebook Camera	The Rosses
Host	Janet Zirger
Reader:	Rick Greene
Worship Assistant	Rick Greene
Director of Music:	Curtis L. King
Minister:	Pastor Christian Dittmar

Emergency Contacts

Interim Pastor

Pastor Mark Schuring
(740) 360-2306
theskipster55@gmail.com

PASTOR MARK SCHURING	740 360-2306
LINDA WARREN	419 618-5207
RICK GREENE	419 937-7378
CURTIS L. KING	419 937-7142
GLORIA STACY	419 934-3023
RICK SHOLL	419 939-3436

Our Mission Statement

“God is among us!”
“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel,
forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”

Events in Review



If you have a prayer request for today, please raise your hand during announcements and a host will give you a green card to fill out.



We will be honoring our graduating seniors on June 14th. If you know of anyone we should include, please contact Diane Greene.

Next Week

<u>Sunday</u>	May 3
10:00AM	Easter 5 Service
<u>Monday</u>	May 4
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
<u>Tuesday</u>	May 5
	Election Day
<u>Wednesday</u>	May 6
6:00PM	Worship & Music Mtg
<u>Thursday</u>	May 7
<u>Friday</u>	May 8

<u>Sunday</u>	May 10
10:00 AM	Mother's Day
<u>Monday</u>	May 11
10:00 AM	Bible Study at Willows
<u>Tuesday</u>	May 12
12:00-5PM	Blood Mobile
<u>Wednesday</u>	May 13
9:00AM	Piece Corp.
6:00PM	Property Committee Mtg
<u>Thursday</u>	May 14
<u>Friday</u>	May 15
<u>Saturday</u>	May 16



On May 19th Jean Covert will be celebrating her 100th Birthday. To help her celebrate we are asking for everyone to send her a birthday card.

Her address is
Jean Covert

410 Fair Lane, Willows Apt #407
Tiffin, Ohio 44883



Thank you to Aaron Wilson for blessing us with a wonderful solo today

LAWN MOWER OF THE WEEK

May 7—Pete Myers

May 14—John Kobelt



Geranium order forms for Pentecost are available on the hallway table.

Please sign up by
May 17th