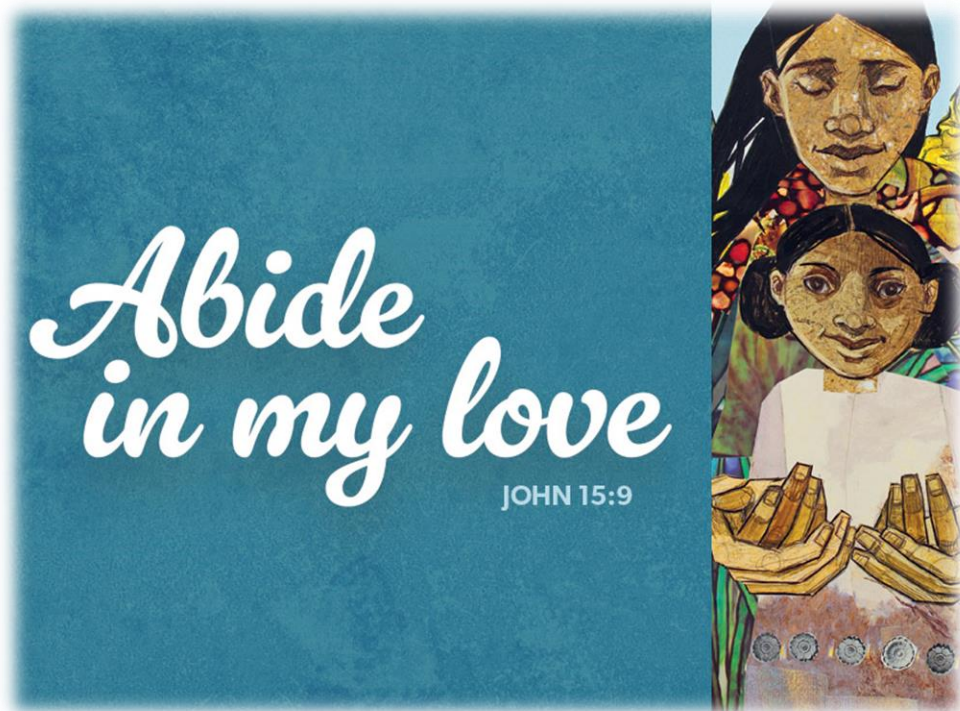




**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION  
FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MAY 5, 2024  
8:30 AM**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE IN **BOLD** TYPE



PRELUDE

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

arr. Lloyd Larson

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“The King of Love my Shepherd Is”  
*Mary Hinson and Andrea Wiegand, flutes*

Mack Wilberg

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (*Stand*)

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of Baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of Baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of Baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world’s need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

**Amen.**



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -  
 2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be  
 3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and  
 4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.  
 free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,  
 shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.  
 wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we  
 that they nev - er have a rea - son to  
 May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your  
 As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.  
 doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.  
 love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.  
 join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



*Refrain*  
 Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

APOSTOLIC 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

**“Now the Feast and Celebration”**

*Refrain*



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



*Refrain*  
freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and



*Refrain*  
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of



*Refrain*  
God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray together.

**O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

CHILDREN'S WORD TIME

FIRST LESSON

Acts 10:44-48

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

(Choir sings refrain first, then the congregation joins the refrain, and all bold verses)

Refrain



<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, you have made | known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing. R**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD | with the harp,  
with the harp and the | voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound | of the horn  
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,  
the world and those who | dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers | clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness  
and the peo- | ples with equity. **R**

SECOND LESSON

1 John 5:1-6

*A reading from first John.*

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Stand*)

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:9-17

*The Holy Gospel according to John, from the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.***

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

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

SERMON (*Sit*)

Pastor Gregg Hoffman



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has  
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he  
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



## NICENE CREED

With the whole church, 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  $\text{✝}$  resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*Stand*)

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another, especially those we lift before you now, whether silently or aloud. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*At this time in our worship, we invite you to share the Peace of Christ with others.*

*Feel free to share the peace with others nearby, or, if you are alone, give someone a call after worship!*

OFFERING (*Sit*)

<https://onrealm.org/gracerockhill/-/give/now>

ANTHEM

“One Thing Remains”

Brian Johnson, Jeremy Riddle,  
and Christa Black

OFFERTORY RESPONSE (*Stand*)

“As the Grains of Wheat”

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. 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 God thanks and praise.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

## PREFACE

It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation, and so, with the church on earth, all creation, and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody features eighth and quarter notes, with some rests and a final double bar line. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was handed over,  
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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**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.**

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All God's children are welcome to the table by God's grace.*

*Please notify the Pastor if you would prefer gluten-free bread.*

*Communion is received by the Pastor placing the sacrament in your outstretched hand.*

*You are then invited to dip the wafer into the wine.*

*Those who are not receiving Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.*

## LAMB OF GOD (Sit)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:  
you break the chains of ha - tred and fear:  
you are the way of jus - tice and peace:  
you are the way of mer - cy and love:

mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Al - le lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, for the Lord God Al-mighty

5  
reigns. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

9  
for the Lord God Al-might-y reigns. Al - le - lu - ia Ho -

13  
ly, ho - ly are You, Lord, God Al-might - y. Wor-thy is the

17  
Lamb, wor-thy is the Lamb, You are ho - ly, ho - ly are You

21  
Lord God Al - might - y. Wor-thy is the Lamb, wor-thy is the Lamb, A -

25  
men.

My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like You; \_\_\_ All of my days

5 I want to praise \_\_\_ the won - ders of Your might - y love.

9 My Com - fort, my Shel - ter. Tow - er of ref - uge and strength, Let ev - 'ry breath,

13 all that I am, \_\_\_ nev - er cease to wor - ship You.

17 Shout to the Lord, all the earth, \_\_\_ let us sing Pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise \_\_\_ to the King!

21 Moun - tains bow down and the seas \_\_\_ will roar at the sound \_\_\_ of Your Name \_\_\_

25 I sing for joy at the work \_\_\_ of Your hands, For - ev - er I'll love You, for - ev - er I'll stand;

29 Noth - ing com - pares \_\_\_ to the prom - ise I have in You!



POST-COMMUNION BLESSING (*Stand*)

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

**Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE SENDING OF HOME COMMUNION

BLESSING

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope

✠ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Risen One send us out, and walks with us on the way.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

"I'll Praise My Maker while I've Breath"

Robert Powell

Presiding Ministers	<i>The Rev. Gregg Hoffman The Rev. Rachel Hoffman</i>
Director of Music	<i>Dr. Jeremy Mims</i>
Sanctuary Candle	<i>Ron Elisa Gordon, to the Glory of God and in memory of our parents, Rev. Charles &amp; Jean Mertz and Ervin &amp; Dorothy Gordon.</i>
Altar Flowers	<i>Kathy Schwandt in honor of Kerstin Schwandt's birthday</i>
Greeters	<i>Members of Grace</i>
Ushers	<i>Eddie Hinson and Walker Stockley</i>
Acolyte	<i>Aiden Stegall</i>
Crucifer	<i>Mary Vettorel</i>
Lector	<i>Frances Stockley</i>
Petitioner	<i>Veronica Sams</i>
Communion Asst	<i>Mary Vettorel</i>
Audio/Visual	<i>Craig Allen and Ivy Grinnage</i>

For more information check out the latest Enews (found on the homepage of our website) for updates on Grace's Ministry and ways you can take part.

If there is a way we can support you, please let us know!

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