



**GOOD
SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

7800 W. McCarthy Rd,
Palos Heights, IL
60463
708-448-4170

May 3, 2026

**Fifth Sunday
of Easter**

**9:00 am
Service of Holy
Communion**

**11:00 am
Service of the
Word**

The Pastor:
Rev. Chris
Buresh

The Associate
Pastor:
Rev. Andrew Bell

The Intern:
Immanuel
Karunakaran
The Director of
Children's &
Family Ministry:
Lori Puttkammer

The Pastor
Emeritus:
Rev. Dr. Wayne
A. Basch

**IN MY
FATHER'S
HOUSE
THERE ARE MANY
DWELLING
PLACES**

JOHN 14:2

Welcome

Welcome, one and all.

Let us join in the prayer of the psalmist: “May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. May those who love your salvation say evermore, ‘God is great!’” (Psalm 70:4). It is good that we are here. Let us praise God together.

Stirring Up a Life With Meaning

When Winston Churchill once dined at a prestigious London restaurant, he tasted his soup and promptly sent it back to the kitchen. “It has no theme,” he complained.

A good soup, he insisted, should have a theme. The same can be said of many things that matter: a good book, a meaningful concert, a memorable film, a powerful sermon, a beautiful work of art.

It is also true of a good life.

Joan of Arc, the French martyr, declared, “God must be served first.” That was her theme. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that he desired to know nothing among them except Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 2:2). That was his theme. Again and again, we see that every truly devoted Christian lives with a central, guiding focus — an overriding theme.

That realization invites a personal question: What is ours?

Pastor and psychologist Dr. Curtis Nigh offers this challenge: “If the heart does not have a noble or goodly theme, then it develops an anti-theme.” In other words, if we do not intentionally shape our lives around what is good and holy, something lesser will quietly take its place.

To be a Christian is to embrace a compelling, Christ-centered theme. It shapes our priorities, our decisions, our relationships and our hope. It is not simply an idea we admire — it is the heartbeat of a life lived for God.



GATHERING

The Prelude: "How Great Thou Art" Jesse

The Children's Message (11:00 am): "The Sweetened Heart"

+The Opening Hymn: "THE RISEN CHRIST"

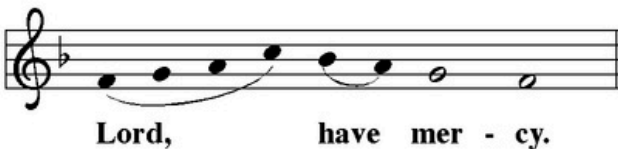
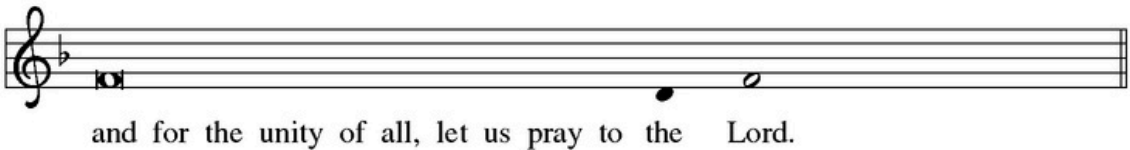
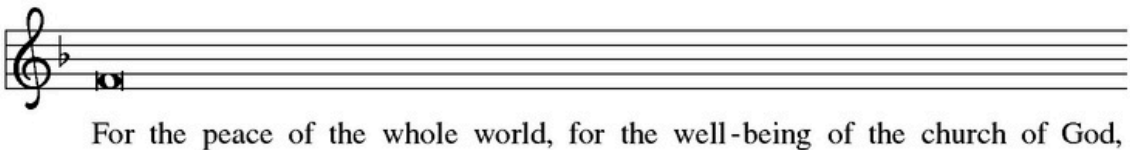
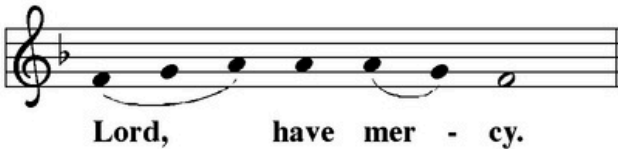
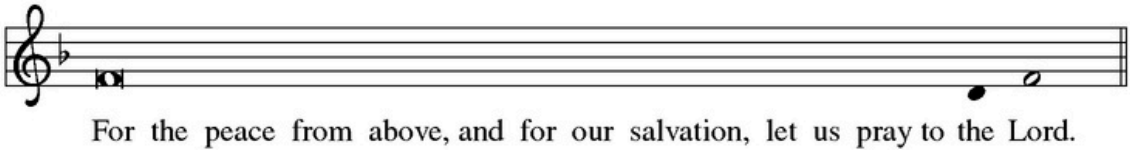
No. 390

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.**

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The Service of Holy Communion - 9 am

+ The Kyrie:



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

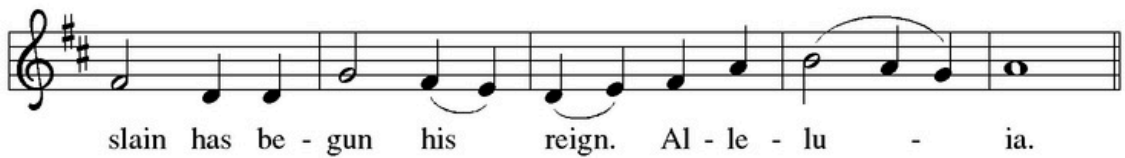
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



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



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

The Service of the Word - 11 am



Today we joyfully participate in celebrating a baptism. Join in the baptismal liturgy as it is found on page 227 in the front of your hymnal.

+ The Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. When our hearts are troubled, keep us open to your grace. Teach us to love one another, follow his commandments, and share his risen life with the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

+ The Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones let yourselves be

WORD

built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For 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.”

⁷This 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. ⁹But 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. ¹⁰Once 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 Anthem (9:00): ***“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” Black***
(11:00): ***“My Song Is Christ” Ijames***

Gospel: John 14:1-14

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

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus 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?’ ¹⁰Do you not

WORD

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."

L: This is the Word of God, the Word of life.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon: "**Do Not Let Your Heart Be Small**"

+The Hymn of the Day: "OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY" No. 533

+The Nicene Creed (9 am only)

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 here and in Coronationville on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire all who lead to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of majesty, you bring forth all creation. Protect it from pollution and climate disasters. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of mercy, you call governments and agencies to serve peace and justice. Guide leaders to act with compassion and raise up advocates for those seeking refuge and care. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of well-being, you comfort those in distress, grieve with the grieving, and provide for all in need (*especially*). Strengthen caregivers to be your healing hands. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, you gather us as your people for support and witness. Be present with those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of eternal life, you have prepared a place for your people, so we are never separated from you. We give thanks for the faithful departed who bore witness to your work 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.**

+ Sharing the Peace of Christ (9 am only)

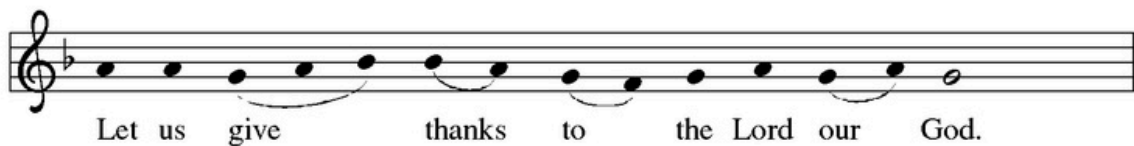
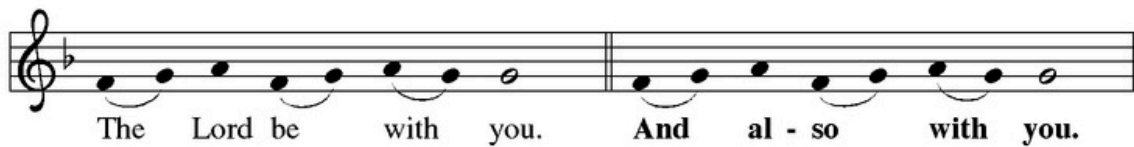
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The Voluntary: *"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"* Denton

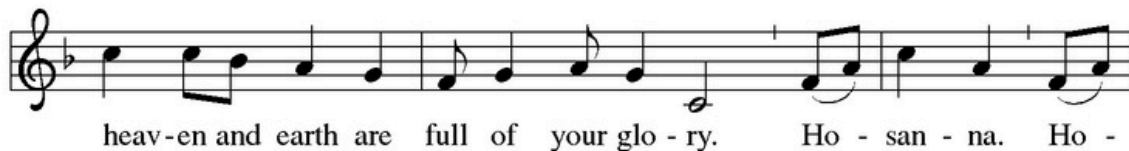
Service of Holy Communion - 9 am

MEAL

+The Great Thanksgiving:



+The Preface is sung by the pastor.



san-na. 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.

+The Words of Institution are spoken by the pastor.

+The Lord's Prayer

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.

THE COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

Please use this time for quiet reflection on the tremendous gifts of love and forgiveness that Jesus offers to all.


+ The Prayer after Communion




Service of the Word - 11 am

+The Canticle of Thanksgiving:

Refrain




Sal - va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -



ev - er and ev - er. 1 Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O



God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O



Rul - er of all the na-tions. Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and



sing the glo - ry of your name? *Refrain* Sal - va-tion be-longs to our



God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.



2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and

bless-ed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All
 praise and thanks to you, ho - ly God! *Refrain* Sal - va-tion be-longs to our
 God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

- + The Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Word
- + The Lord's Prayer



SENDING

- +The Benediction
- +The Dismissal is spoken by the pastor.
 Response: **Thanks be to God**
- +Sending Hymn: "IN PEACE AND JOY I NOW DEPART" No. 440
- The Postlude: "*Praise and Glory*" Schram

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SERVING TODAY:

The Organist - *Beth Ridderhoff*

The Director of the Adult Choir - *Aaron Basch*

The Director of the Carillon Choir - *Michelle Podewell*

The Readers - 9:00 - *Rich Jelinek*

11:00 - *Diane Sweeney*

The Acolytes - 9:00 - *Grace Castor and Ron Krapf*

11:00 - *Lukas Bort and Ben Schmitt*

Today's chancel flowers are given by this year's confirmation class and their families as these 9 young people celebrate their Confirmation with their church family. The flowers are also given by Pastor Andrew and Angela Bell in celebration of their 20th wedding anniversary.



Our Mission Statement

A caring fellowship of all God's people empowered by grace to proclaim the gospel and lovingly serve as Jesus teaches.

Our Vision Statement

Transforming lives by making the hope of God real through bold faith, service, outreach, discipleship and helping all people discover their God-given value.

Core Values

Encouraging each other in our lifelong journey of faith through our core values of:

-Drawing nearer to God

-Prioritizing Love over Judgment

-Practicing Grace

-Welcoming All

-Generously Serving

-Fostering Community

Our intercessions include:

The hospitalized: Jamie Ekhart (Northwestern)

The Holy Baptism: *Bennett Michael Petrusevski*, son of Nicholas and Brittney (nee Johnson). Born: October 7, 2025. The Sponsors: Faith Petrusevski and Noah Petrusevski.

Our Confirmands: *Noah Payne Bergmann, Lukas Robert Bort, Vivienne Rose Pegorin, Garrett Andrew Pempek, Emma Margaret Sage, Tate Christian Spencer, Eloise Ada Wagner, Jack Henry Wiltgen, and Grace Lillian Wolcott*

These young people will affirm their baptism today at the 2 pm Confirmation service. Please join us in welcoming them as adults into the Good Shepherd family.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to ALL the volunteers that helped with the Garage Sale, as well as the MANY donors and shoppers. We couldn't have done it without you! The Garage Sale was a huge success!

Thank you to all who came out to "spring clean" our church gardens. We are ready for flower planting! Dates are: Wednesday, May 13 at 5:00 pm and Saturday, May 16 at 9:00 am. (Note: rain dates are May 21 and 23.) Bring your garden gloves and shovel and let's plant our favorite flowers around the church and make our gardens beautiful together! Upcoming dates will be scheduled to gather and conquer the weeds and continue to make our gardens beautiful.

The spring blood drive is scheduled for Sunday, May 17 in the Life Center. Sign up in the narthex today to give the gift of life!

Attention 6th - 12th Graders! Join us for 2nd Sundays on May 17 at 6:30 pm at the Center in Palos Park. We'll be learning about and walking the Prayer Labyrinth, followed by stopping by the Plush Horse for Ice Cream.

Attention Graduates or Parents of Graduates! Please let the office know of any high school or college graduates. We need this information by Wednesday, May 20 to get it in the next newsletter. Thanks for your help!

Attention Acolytes! Don't forget to sign up to acolyte for the upcoming months. You can sign up online or on the bulletin board. ***And just a reminder that service times change to 8:30 and 10:00 beginning Sunday, May 24.*** Thank you for your help in worship!

VBS ANNOUNCEMENTS

VBS Registration begins today! Know your child's t-shirt size for registration. The fee is \$15 per child. Visit the table by the main office.

Planning for Rainforest Falls VBS is underway! We NEED volunteers to run a successful week of Vacation Bible School. Please check the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board to see where you may like to help. Service hours can be earned. VBS is July 6-10.

If you would be willing to donate any of the following items for VBS, it would be greatly appreciated. **Items include:** pkgs. of baby wipes, paper towels, empty gallon WATER jugs with caps, rolls of clear packaging tape, zipper close baggies (snack and sandwich sizes), paper drink cold cups (8 or 9 oz. size), parchment baking paper, paper cupcake liners and napkins.

Please also help us gather empty paper towel cardboard tubes for a VBS craft. We will need over 150, so please save them and bring them to Mrs. Lori's office.

COME

MEET

TANGO

AT VBS



The calendar for the week of May 3

SUN	9:00 am 10:30 am 11:00 am 11:00 am 2:00 pm	Service of Holy Communion/ <i>Online Service</i> Cherub Choir Service of the Word Sunday School Confirmation Service
MON	4:00 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm	"Just a Quick Word" - YouTube/Facebook Junior Choir "Body & Soul"
TUE	9:30 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Faith, Prayer & Joy Group Bible Study Discovering the Bible Deacons' Meeting
WED	1:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Gamers Adult Choir Chancel Guild Meeting
THU	6:30 pm	Carillon Choir
SAT	3:15 pm	Bowling League
SUN	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 11:00 am 11:00 am 11:00 am	JUNIOR CHOIR MUSICAL Service of the Word/ <i>Online Service</i> Puppets Cherub Choir Confirmand's First Communion Service of Holy Communion Sunday School

Pictures may be taken at our service to use on our updated website.
Please contact us if you desire we not use any photograph including your image.

**SPECIAL UPCOMING
SERVICES:**



CONFIRMATION SERVICE
This Afternoon - 2:00 PM

FIRST COMMUNION SERVICE
Sunday, May 10 - 11:00 AM

MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY
Sunday, May 17 - 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

PENTECOST SUNDAY
Sunday, May 24 - 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM

PRAYER LIST

Members of the Congregation

Myrna Brejcha	Lynn Evers
Myrna Bronson	Liam Garr
Jamie Ekhart	Tom Kozlowski
Chris Yazumbek	Jim Srbeny
Christine Ricca	Larri Lyn Rauch
Carol Miller	Bill Innocenti
Judy Oster	

Friends of the Congregation

Dana and Ryan Cowhey	Chuck Singleton
Margaret Kruse	Karunakaran Balraj
Christina Carroll	Jason Dzlezic
Joe Grzych	Roland Lyon
Dave Kosvick	Laura Nicholson
Jason Julien	Bill Kimball
Julius Ragel	Walter Smola
Adrienne Manley	Arlene Guard
Ron Warnke	Brian O'Connell
Craig Chismarick	Tom Elsner
Marilyn Veselack	Debra Casey
Carol Margaret Miller	Laura Reynolds
Jim Peele	Ronald Held
Unicy Karunakaran	Joe Kaderabek
Ken Karlson	Louise Sims
Walter Kroll	Jason Randall Glugla
Dorothy Koopman	Tim Hennessey
Trent Wiltshire	Katy Peterman
Gail Orris	Erin Olson
Dolores Wrzesinski	Dave Furtak
Mary Kirkner	Dale Koch
Kaylee Wynn	Maryanne Campbell
Andre Swanson	Alex Gersic
Sara Bogosh	Silvia Guijarro

Please let us know if there is someone you need added or removed from the prayer list by contacting the church office by 9 am on Friday. Thank You!