



## Sunday - May 3, 2026 Fifth Sunday of Easter



*OUR MISSION: God calls us to live and share the amazing love and grace of Jesus Christ with all people.*

*Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. Christ Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes all. May God bless us in Word and Sacrament, music and community in our worship today. The service is complete in this bulletin. The spoken responses are bolded text.*

*We acknowledge that our building of worship is built upon the territory of xučyun (Huichin), the unceded land stewarded by the Ohlone people who speak to their Creator and loved ones in the language of Chochoeny.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

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.

### **PRELUDE**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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.

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.**

**GATHERING HYMN** *When Thomas Heard from Jesus*

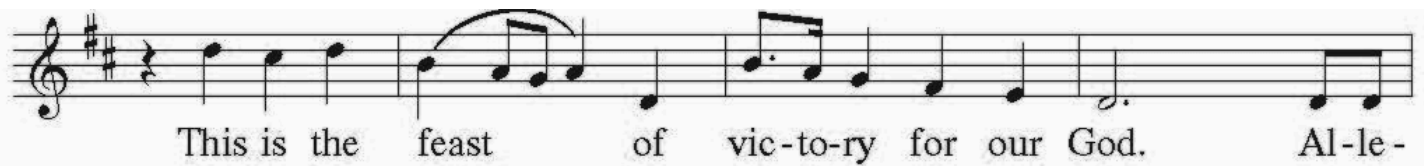
When Thomas heard from Jesus, "Now come and follow me,"  
He surely went with gladness, for there was much to see.  
He witnessed Jesus' teaching and saw his healing touch;  
He found a faith to guide him, a friend he loved so much.

When Jesus spoke of heaven, bold Thomas dared to say,  
"We don't know where you're going! How can we know the way?"  
He wanted understanding of what he could not see.  
Then Jesus reassured him, "The way is here — through me."

When crowds began to murmur and leaders raised their cry,  
Brave Thomas spoke out firmly, "Let's go with him and die."  
He ate at Jesus' table, partaking wine and bread;  
Yet later with the others, he saw the cross and fled.

What joy on Easter evening when many saw the Lord!  
Yet Thomas was not with them and would not trust their word.  
When Christ appeared before him, his doubts were quickly gone;  
He gladly knew that evening the joy of Easter dawn.

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** - *This is the Feast*



1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4. Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5. For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

**FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60**

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

*Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.*

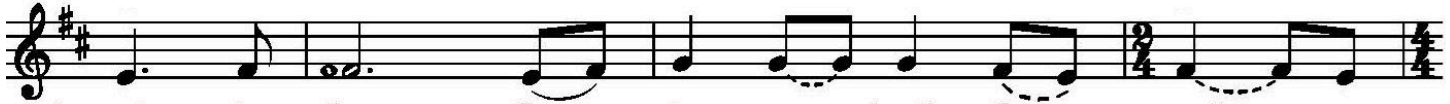
## PSALM 31



Fa - ther, \_\_\_\_\_ I put my life in your hands.



1. In \_\_\_\_\_ you, O Lord, I take ref - uge; \_\_\_\_\_ let me nev - er be  
2. For \_\_\_\_\_ all my foes re - proach me, \_\_\_\_\_ neigh - bors laugh \_\_\_\_\_ and  
3. But my trust is in you, O Lord; I \_\_\_\_\_ say, \_\_\_\_\_ "You  
4. Let your face \_\_\_\_\_ shine on your ser - vant; \_\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_ save me \_\_\_\_\_



1. put to shame. In - to your \_\_\_\_\_ hands I com - mend \_\_\_\_\_ my  
2. friends stand off. I am for - got - ten like dead un - re -  
3. are my God." In - to your \_\_\_\_\_ hands I \_\_\_\_\_ place \_\_\_\_\_ my  
4. in your love. Be stout - heart - ed, and come, \_\_\_\_\_ take



1. spir - it; \_\_\_\_\_ you will re - deem me, faith - ful God. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. mem - bered; \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ am like a dish \_\_\_\_\_ cast down. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. fu - ture; \_\_\_\_\_ from the clutch \_\_\_\_\_ of foes you res - cue me. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. cour - age, \_\_\_\_\_ all you \_\_\_\_\_ who now hope in the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_

*D.C.*

### **SECOND READING:** 1 Peter 2:2-10

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

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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."

<sup>7</sup> 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,"

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

*Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Come let us shout, re-joic - ing. Now let us sing;  
Let's lift our hands be - fore the King!  
Come let us bow be - fore Him. Now let us praise;  
Let's give all glo - ry to His name!  
Hal - le - jah to the King of glo - ry! Hal - le - jah to the Lord of Lords!  
Hal - le - jah to the God of Is - ra - el, for he reigns for - ev - er more!

### **GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**

*The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O God.*

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

through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup> 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’? <sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

**SERMON** MC Miller

**HYMN OF THE DAY- ELW 530: Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather**

[please turn to hymn 530 in the red hymnal]

### **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 resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

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 especially for Karen, Julie, Fred, George G., Maryann H., Evie D., Diane, Carla, Laurie & John P., Helen C., and Scott F. 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.**

*What else do the people of God pray for?*

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.**

**OFFERTORY** *Christ, You Are The Savior*

Christ, you are the Savior, the Way to the Father,  
The Truth we depend on, the Life that we need.  
We trust you, believing! We listen, receiving  
The joy of the gospel by which we are freed.  
Yet, Lord, you remind us: Through mercy you find us,  
By grace you forgive us. The way home is yours!  
We dare not judge others, our sisters and brothers  
Whom you choose to welcome through love's open doors.

With outcast and sinner you sat down to dinner;  
You healed the Samaritans, Gentiles, too.  
The poor knew your caring — the rich, your declaring  
That God welcomes everyone, not just a few.  
A conquering nation brought harsh occupation.  
A soldier came asking; you offered a hand.  
A thief saw your power in his final hour;  
You welcomed him home to God's heavenly land.

O Lord, all around us, your mercies astound us  
As others discover the Way you reveal.  
A man whispers, "Help me!" A woman cries, "Mercy!"  
A doubter discovers your welcome is real.  
O Way to the Father, your mercy is broader  
Than we as your people have often proclaimed.  
May we welcome others as sisters and brothers,  
And treasure the life that we share in your name.

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD AND BLESSING**

**Presider:**

Gracious Lord, You are present with your people in every time and place. In the Word we have heard, you make known your gracious acts through Jesus Christ. In thanksgiving, we offer ourselves to you as witnesses to his resurrection, as we proclaim:

**All:**

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again**

**Presider:**

In the Word proclaimed, you have raised us with Christ to seek the things that are above, where Christ is. As you revealed him to the women at the tomb, so reveal him to us now.

**All:**

**Come and dwell within us, Lord.**

**Presider:**

Send us quickly to tell the good news: that death does not have the last word, that we have been raised to new life with Christ, who goes ahead of us. Make us witnesses to what we have seen and heard, serving with compassion, forgiving as we have been forgiven, and loving as you have first loved us.

**All:**

**Come and send us, Lord.**

**Presider:**

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

**All:**

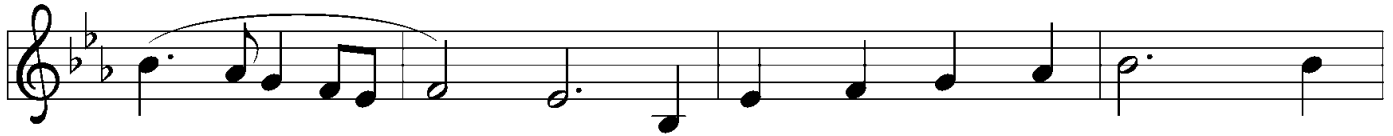
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO RECEIVE A BLESSING**

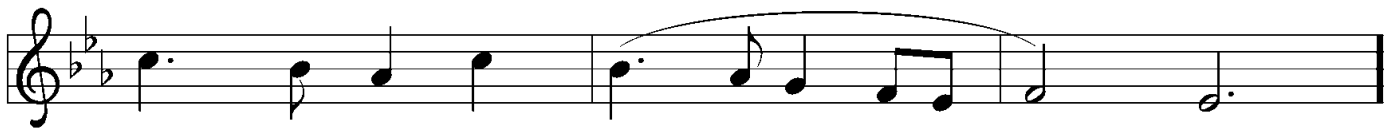
**SENDING HYMN ELW 391: *This Joyful Eastertide***



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and  
2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son  
3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the



sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has  
slum - - ber till trump from east to west shall  
riv - - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my

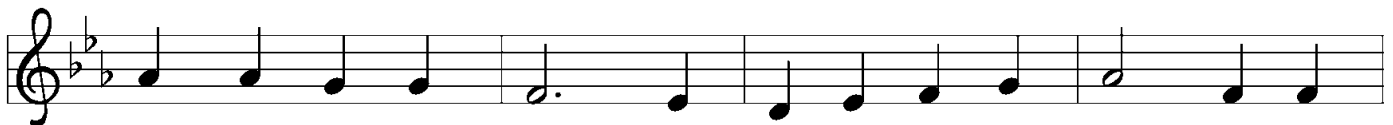


sprung to life this mor - - row.  
wake the dead in num - - ber.  
pass - ing soul de - liv - - er.

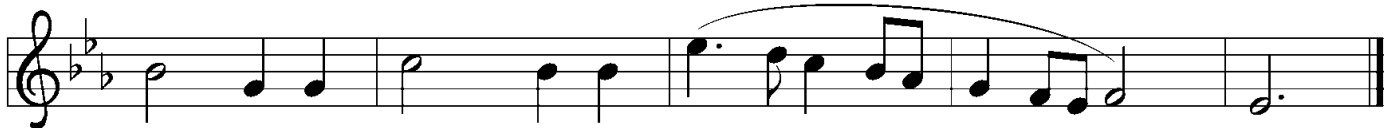
*Refrain*



Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our



faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

**DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bible study today. 11:30 after church. Last one of the school year.

El Cerrito Garage Sale May 16

<p><b><u>Participating in Worship</u></b>  <b>Presiding/Preaching:</b> MC Miller  <b>Minister of Music:</b> Daniel Alley  <b>Guitarists:</b> George Fosselius  <b>Lector:</b> Scott E.  <b>Communion Set-up/Clean-up:</b>  <b>Worship Assistant:</b>  <b>Flowers:</b>  <b>Coffee Hour:</b> Scott E.</p>	<p><b><u>Happening This Week at CLC</u></b></p> <p><b>Today</b>  9 AM Choir Rehearsal  10 AM CLC Worship</p> <p><b>Monday</b>  9 AM- 3:00 PM Senior Center  7 PM- 8:30 PM The Scouts</p> <p><b>Tuesday</b>  7 PM Lady AA Meeting</p> <p><b>Thursday</b>  7 PM Handbell Rehearsal</p> <p><b>Saturday</b>  6 PM Millennium AA Meeting</p> <p><b>Next Sunday</b>  9 AM Choir Rehearsal  10 AM CLC Worship</p>
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**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:**

Julie D. Diane L. Lysle P. Mike S. The Vale Community Robin & Wendy George F. Louise O., Lucas, and El Cerrito High School	Laurie P. Carolina S. Karen H. Fred W. Chad B. TJ B. Carla L. Helen C.	Mark Girija and Mami Jimmy D. Vince Thelma & Mike G. Chris Phil C. Scott F.
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**DON'T FORGET YOUR OFFERING**  
Thank you for your continued financial support of Christ Lutheran. It is very much appreciated. Options for giving include bringing offerings in person, mailing checks, or giving electronically with Tithely. For the latter, simply click the "Giving" tab on the church website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amy Tieku at 510-290-2125

**WORSHIP FROM HOME** Livestream: Facebook.com/clec.org. Bulletins can be found at [christlutheranelcerrito.org/bulletins](http://christlutheranelcerrito.org/bulletins) Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-709536