

# COMMUNION

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER [TRADITIONAL]

### COMMUNION VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek

### 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.**

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**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, Ame**

### BENEDICTION

### HYMN #389 — *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing!*

[VERSES 1, 2, 5]

### DISMISSAL

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

### POSTLUDE — Jill Sousek



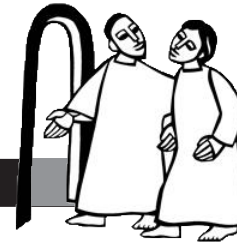
**“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.”**

John 14:1 NRSV

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

MAY 3, 2026

## WELCOME TO ZION



### PRELUDE — Jill Sousek

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ Congratulations, Cooper!

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

*The sign of the cross ☩ may be made in remembrance of Baptism.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for Your word: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in Christ's righteousness. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

### HYMN #645 — *Christ is Made The Sure Foundation*



## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **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. Amen.**

*I'm Gonna Let It Shine!* ~ ZION CHOIR [10:30 AM]

## WORD

### FIRST READING — *Acts 7:55-60*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son-of-Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged Stephen out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 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.

### SECOND READING — *1 Peter 2:2-10*

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation — if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to the Lord, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and 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. For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in it will not be put to shame.” To you then who believe, it is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” 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. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called you out of darkness into the marvelous light of God. 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.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL — *John 14:1-14*

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 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? 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. And you know the way to the place where I am going. Thomas said to Jesus, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know and have seen my Father.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 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’? 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 it is the Father who dwells in me who does these works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. 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. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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

### CHILDRENS’ SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford

### THE SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford

### HYMN #758 — *You Are the Way*

### APOSTLES’ CREED

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** ... In the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### THE OFFERING

### OFFERING VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek