

PLATTVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 5475 Bell Road
 Minooka, Illinois 60447
 COME, LET US WORSHIP THE LORD!

May 3, 2026
 9:15 a.m.
 Fifth Sunday
 of Easter

Prelude / Bell Ringing

Announcements

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

p.94

Synod Authorized
Minister (SAM)

*The OPENING HYMN

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

#413

Mike Bjerum

*The APOSTOLIC GREETING

p.98

*The KYRIE

p.98

*The HYMN OF PRAISE

p.101

Ministers

PRAYER AND PRAISE

All Members

*The PRAYER OF THE DAY

Celebrate insert

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Pianist

The FIRST LESSON Acts 7:55-60

Audrey Bjerum

The PSALM Psalm 31

The SECOND LESSON 1 Peter 2:2-10

The GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lector

*The HOLY GOSPEL John 14:1-14

June Saidat and
 Evelyn Fischer

SERMON

*The HYMN OF THE DAY

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

#504

*The NICENE CREED

p.104

Head Ushers

The PRAYERS

Darrell Hansen

SHARING THE PEACE

Bob Bols

The OFFERING

Bruce Knudson

*The OFFERTORY

#184

*The OFFERTORY PRAYER

Create in Me –

Insert in pew

*The GREAT THANKSGIVING

Church Office
 475-7220

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

p.108

*The LORD's PRAYER p.112

The Distribution of Communion

*The POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

"I Come With Joy"

#482

*The POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BACK INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF LIFE

*The BENEDICTION

*The CLOSING HYMN

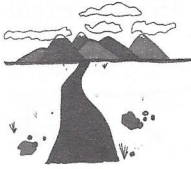
"Here I Am Lord"

#574

*The CHIMES/POSTLUDE

Depart to serve

*Congregation will stand



Celebrate

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026

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.

Prayer of the Day

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.**

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.

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!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then 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.



In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend my spir - it.

In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be ¹ put to shame;
deliver me ¹ in your righteousness.

²**Incline your ¹ ear to me;**
make haste to de- ¹ liver me.

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag ¹ and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead ¹ me and guide me.

⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly ¹ set for me,**
for you are my tow- ¹ er of strength. R

⁵Into your hands I com- ¹ mend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, ¹ God of truth.

¹⁵**My times are ¹ in your hand;**
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who ¹ persecute me.

¹⁶Let your face shine up- ¹ on your servant;
save me in your ¹ steadfast love. **R**

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.

Like 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 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,"

⁸and

"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.

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.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "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 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. ¹¹Believe 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. ¹²Very 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. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

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 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*). 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.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (commemoration of Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387) Psalm 102:1-17. **Tuesday** Proverbs 3:5-12. **Wednesday** John 8:31-38. **Thursday** Psalm 66:8-20. **Friday** (commemoration of Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416; Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303) Genesis 7:1-24. **Saturday** (commemoration of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760) John 14:27-29. **Sixth Sunday of Easter** Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21.

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ITEM014642 Tracks 1 and 2

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PARISH CALENDAR

Today 9:15 a.m. Worship with communion. First Communion for Alaria Blair Freeman, daughter of Katie and Kevin Freeman

Flowers on the altar today are dedicated to the glory of God in honor of Alaria Blair Freeman's First Communion

Monday, May 11th 7:00 pm – Church council

Wednesday, May 13th 9:30 am – Quilting

Tuesday, May 19th 9:30 am – Grace Circle at church

Please be sure to check out May's newsletter. In honor of Memorial Day, there is a biography about Andrew Ragness, one of our veterans buried in our cemetery who has a memorial in our church window, located on the north and right side of the altar. On the bulletin board there is a brief article and picture from a 100+ year old newspaper. (from Morris Daily Herald). Unfortunately the software would not let me cut and paste the picture into our newsletter. Thank you to Janelle Bols for doing the research on this!

Vacation Bible School – Passport to Peru, June 15-19. Time and other details soon to follow.

Baby kits: Garage sale season is upon us; it's a good time to look for items for our Lutheran World Relief baby kits. Items needed:
(sizes between 6-24 months)

- 2 lightweight cotton t-shirts (no onesies)
- 2 long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers (w/o feet)
- 2 receiving blankets, medium weight cotton or flannel
- 4 flat fold cloth diapers
- 1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt w/ hood (or include baby hat)
- 2 pair of socks
- 1 hand towel, dark color
- 2 or 3 bar size bars of gentle soap
- 2 diaper pins or large safety pins

Want to hear and sing your favorite hymn? There is a box in the entryway – fill out a sheet with what you want to hear.

April 26th offering: Current \$592.00 Mission \$120.00
Bldg Fund \$110.00

Thank you for your support

Love, Love, Love

That's what it's all about! Jesus loves.

Jesus' love is a constant in scripture. From his humble birth to his teachings, parables, healing miracles, feeding of the multitudes, power over creation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus loves.

Some people wanted the Messiah to take a much different approach. They thought their savior would come as a strong military leader, but Jesus did not start a violent overthrow of the Roman Empire. He just could not and would not do anything in conflict with love. He gave himself up and loved until the very end. In his last breath on the cross, he forgave everyone involved in crucifying him. This is the depth of the amazing love of God shown to us in Christ Jesus.

Stephen, "a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5), strove to live as Jesus lived and to love as Jesus loved. As he was being stoned to death, Stephen shouted, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (7:60).

Following Jesus was not easy for Stephen and other early Christians. It is not easy today. But in today's gospel reading, Jesus assures his followers—then and now—of three things. First, the great doors to a place with God will be open to us, in a house with many rooms. Second, he is the way, truth, and life, and by knowing him, we come to know God the Father. Third, we can ask him for anything. These are promises of Jesus' continuing care for us, for people of every time and place, and for all creation.

Jesus loves.