

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

To reflect God's love through caring service to our church, the community, and the world.

WELCOME STATEMENT

We welcome and encourage the full participation of all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, appearance, or anything else that threatens to divide us. We have all been claimed as God's children, and all are welcome here.

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

-Galatians 3:28

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Presiding Minister—Pastor Kurt Handrich
Organist/Choir Director—Cheryl Licary
AV Assistant—Grant Dusso

Assisting Minister—Betty Dygart
Communion Assistants—Lorie and Linda Becker
Communion Prep—Linda Becker
Lector—Jon Goiffon
Greeters—Darryl and Nancy Schutte
Ushers—Bill Frisbee, Skip Rath, and Mark Sorenson

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.

GATHERING

For personal prayer, you may find it helpful to turn to pages 72-87 (in the front of the hymnal).

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jean Lincoln

Please stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Congregation: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

P: 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.
Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: 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.

C: 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.

C: 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.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Making Their Way—ACS 979



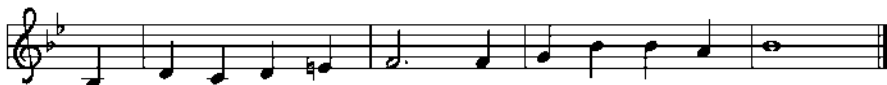
1 Mak - ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have
2 Mak - ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble
3 Mak - ing our way sea - son by sea - son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,
on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,
till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer - ing thanks,
learn - ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,
car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled,



the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.
they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.
to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner. OSB, b. 1939

Music: KOMT NU! MET ZANG!, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenekelank*, 1626

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GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

KYRIE

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the

u-ni-ty of all; for
wa-ter and the word; that you

this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

A: 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.

C: Amen.

WORD

FIRST LESSON: Acts 7:55-60

L: A reading from Acts.

⁵⁵ 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!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ 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. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ 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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

L: We read Psalm 31 responsively:

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

² **Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

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

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

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

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."

SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 2:2-10

L: A reading from First Peter.

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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." ⁷ 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," 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

You Are the Way—ELW 758

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Public domain

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the 14th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹ 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'? ¹⁰ 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. 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."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON *Should I Stay or Should I Go* Pastor Kurt Handrich

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Here I Am, Lord—ELW 574



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte. Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte
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APOSTLES' CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, we join our hearts in prayer.

A brief silence.

A: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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 pray for those we name silently in our hearts.* Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

MEAL

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **and also with you.**

*Please greet one another, as you feel comfortable, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.***

Please be seated.

OFFERING

For online giving, simply scan QR code:

Offering is received as ushers pass the plate down each row. As we sing the Offertory, ushers bring offering forward.



OFFERING ANTHEM

Our Mission Is to Follow Jesus

- Choir*
- 1 Our mission is to follow Jesus, growing in wisdom day by day, learning and trusting God's direction, taking, by faith, the chosen way. Walk by our side and light our soul, Jesus, our Path, our Guide, our Goal.
 - 2 The way of Jesus is obedience, carrying out God's plan on earth, speaking of love and truth and justice, offering hope, new life, rebirth. Help us commit to your control, Jesus, our Path, our Guide, our Goal.
 - 3 Jesus is all-embracing mercy, full of compassion, kindness, care, soothing distress, bestowing wellness, bringing God's peace for all to share. Show us God's will and make us whole, Jesus, our Path, our Guide, our Goal.

Please stand as you are able

OFFERTORY HYMN

4 Min - is - try is a shared vo - ca - tion.
May we stand firm in God's com-mands, blessed with a
heart for serv - ing oth - ers as Je - sus' voice, his
feet, — his hands. Send us to com - fort, ease, — con
sole, Je - sus, our Path, our Guide, our — Goal.

Text: Jayne Southwick Cool © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Tune: PERELLA, Jayne Southwick Cool © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

C: **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of
the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**C: 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 COMMUNION

P: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Communion. The bread is given first, then select either a small cup of red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available; please ask the server. Empty cups are placed in the basket. Children may come forward for a blessing.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray... 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,

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

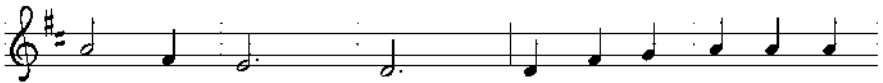
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light—ELW 815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness.
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path. and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race. we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart. Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
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DISMISSAL

A: People of God, go in peace to reflect God's love through caring service to our church, the community, and the world.

C: **We will! Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUNG @ HEART

Join us for a delightful afternoon of food and fellowship on **Thursday, May 14 from 12:00-2:00 pm**. Enjoy a comforting lunch featuring Norwegian meatballs, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, lefse, and ice cream. We're also pleased to welcome a special guest speaker from SMILES (Special Methods in Learning Equine Skills), who will share about their inspiring work providing equine-assisted programs for individuals with special needs. Please sign up on the sheet located on the counter in the Commons by Sunday, May 10.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

New Member Orientation will be held on **Sunday, May 17** after worship, from 10:45 am - 1:30 pm. Lunch provided. We'll either meet in Pastor Anne's office or the chapel. New members will be received during worship the following Sunday, May 24 (Pentecost). If you are interested in discussing membership, please contact Pastor Anne at the church office: 608-362-0716. We'd love to welcome you to the body of Christ here at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

BELOIT SKY CARP GAME

Our Savior's is going to the Beloit Sky Carp on **Friday, July 24 @ 6:05 pm**. Tickets are \$17 each. In order to secure tickets please sign up and pay by Sunday, May 31. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the Commons.

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVESTREAMED

Catch Sunday services (9:30 am) on YouTube.
Links and bulletins: oursaviorsbeloitwi.org/worship.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	May 3	8:30am 9:30am 9:30am 10:30am 10:30am 1:00pm	Choir Worship Kids Connect Coffee Hour Youth Connect Televised Worship (Ch. 992)
Monday	May 4	8:30am	Sewing Bee
Tuesday	May 5	9:00am 6:00pm 6:30pm 6:30pm	Staff Meeting Boy Scouts Anna Circle Worship, Music, and the Arts
Wednesday	May 6	9:00am 12:30pm 5:00pm	Men's Group (Riverside Terrace) P.E.O. Meeting Televised Worship (Ch. 992)
Thursday	May 7	6:00pm	OA
Sunday	May 10	9:30am 9:30am 10:30am 10:30am 1:00pm	Worship Kids Connect Coffee Hour Youth Connect Televised Worship (Ch. 992)

Altar flowers are given today by Ashley and Michele Coldren in celebration of Austin and Ava's May birthdays!

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT OUR SAVIOR'S

It is a joy to have you join us for worship. Wherever you are from, wherever you are in life or on your faith journey, we are glad you are here. Please fill out a Yellow Slip for attendance and prayer requests.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

We have large print bulletins and hearing enhancers for anyone who may need them, please see an usher for assistance.

STAY CONNECTED

749 Bluff Street, Beloit, WI 53511
(608) 362-0716
office@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org

SCRIPTURE

You may want to prepare for next Sunday by studying the scriptures.

- Acts 17:22-31
- Psalm 66:8-20
- 1 Peter 3:13-22
- John 14:15-21

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