

Saint Peter's Lutheran Church

May 3, 2026

2570 St. Peter's Church Road, Salisbury, NC 28146

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Fifth Sunday of Easter May 3, 2026

* Indicates to stand as you are able. P=Pastor, C=Congregation, A=Assisting Minister, L=Lector

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

***C: 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 (*local waters may be named*). 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.**

*P: 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.**

*P: 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 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631

APOSTOLIC 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.**

KYRIE SETTING 10

p. 203

CANTICLE OF PRAISE SETTING 10 Glory Be To God v. 1

p. 204

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P: 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.**

GOD SPEAKS TO US

L: First Reading

Acts 7:55-60

L: A reading from Acts the 7th chapter:

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**

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

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 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 Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

L: A reading from 1 Peter the 2nd chapter:

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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*P: The Holy Gospel According to St. John the 14th chapter.

*C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14

*P: [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 our Lord. ***C: Praise to you, O Christ**

Children’s Sermon

The Sermon

Pastor Sue Lynn White

HYMN OF THE DAY Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds ELW 367

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

*A: Let us profess our faith using the words of the 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, 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,

***C: 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,

***C: 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,

***C: 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. We especially pray for Guy & Betty Puckett, Jim & Phyllis Cornelison, Jerry Sides, Ernie & Linda Cooper, Phil & Carol Boyette, Brenda H. Trexler, Judy Peeler, Lynn DeBerry, Marcia Ritchie, Jean Holshouser, Phyllis Trexler, Sue Misenheimer, Thelma Barger, Buddy Waller, Ronnie Pierce, Bobby Lambirth, Mary Miller, Barbara & Frank King, friends of St. Peter's, and those we hold in our hearts or speak aloud now... *(pause)*. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God,

***C: 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,

***C: receive our prayer.**

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.**

PEACE

*P: The peace of Christ be with you always. ***C: And also with you.**

*P: Let us share the peace with one another.

THE OFFERING

Anthem

Offering Hymn

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 182

OFFERING PRAYER

*A: Let us pray. 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.**

MEAL

PREFACE DIALOGUE

*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:

***C: Holy, Holy, Holy**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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

***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.

LAMB OF GOD

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION BLESSING

*P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. Amen.

POST COMMUNION HYMN

ELW 207

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
 ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
 Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
 shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*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.**

SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

BLESSING

*P: 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.

*C: **Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen

ELW 377

THE DISMISSAL

*A: Rooted in the love of Christ;

*C: **We grow in grace and joyfully branch into a broken world!**

*P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

*C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**