

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BRISTOL, CT**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION  
May 17, 2026 9:30 a.m.**

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

**+GATHERING+**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.*

**WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

**Lord, You Give the Great Commission**

**ELW 579**

**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.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

**Come Let Us Join...**

**ELW p. 204 bottom (vs. 1 & 4)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Let us pray.*

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**+WORD+**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

**First Reading:**

*Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.*

A reading from Acts, Chapter 1.

<sup>6</sup> When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

*Acts 1: 6-14*

**Choir Anthem**

"Be Still, My Soul"

by Hopp & Stuempfle

**Second Reading**

*Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.*

A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Peter, Chapters 4 & 5.

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

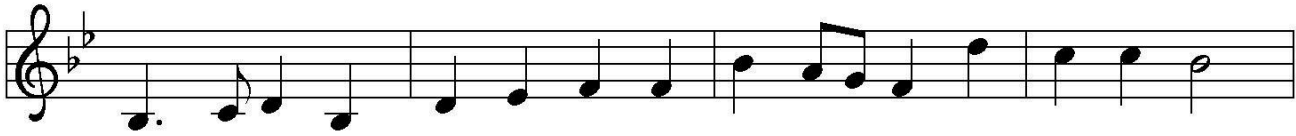
<sup>5:6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

*1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 205



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.

**Gospel**

*On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.*

The holy Gospel according to John, Chapter 17. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus had spoken these words to his disciples, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

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

*John 17: 1-11*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** (aimed toward Grades K thru 6<sup>th</sup>, but those younger are welcomed with an accompanying adult).

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**A Hymn Of Glory Let Us Sing!**

**ELW 393**

**L: APOSTLES' CREED**

*Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.*

**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.**

*(Please be seated)*

## **L: 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.

*A brief silence.*

O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our healer, we continue to pray for those on our prayer list. In addition we lift up to your care these loved ones and concerns that we name aloud or in our hearts before you now...*(time is allowed for additions)*. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Now may we lift up praise and thanksgiving for Restored Health, Life Celebrations and God Sightings for which we are joyful...*(time is allowed for responses)*. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment, and accompany us in our prayers during these times. 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.**

## **SHARE THE PEACE**

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

**+MEAL+**

*God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**GIFTS ARE RECEIVED** - *In gratitude for all God has given, you are invited to share a portion as the offering plates are passed at this time. Thank You!*

**Offerings towards our Ministries are also welcomed by scanning this code with your phone camera.**



**SONG OF GRATITUDE**

**Create in Me a Clean Heart**

**ELW 186**

**L: OFFERING PRAYER**

*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, Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

ELW p. 206

Dialogue

ELW p. 206

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p. 207

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

p. 208 right column

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*At Faith **all** are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to fill in along the rail from the center to the sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive bread (or gluten-free wafers upon request) and wine (or white grape juice) in pre-filled glasses. Empty glasses can be placed in baskets provided as you return by the side aisles to your seat for silent meditation. If you need communion brought to you, please notify the usher.*

*(if you are giving a reminder at the end of the service, please move to the pew behind the lectern as the altar is cleared after communion distribution)*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

**Here Is Bread**

**ELW 483**

**L: POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

*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, Amen.**

**+SENDING+**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**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.**

**REMINDERS**

*(If you are giving a reminder, come to the pew behind the lectern as the altar is cleared).*

**SENDING HYMN**

**Go, My Children, with My Blessing**

**ELW 543**

**DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

**WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, May 17, 2026****Presiding Minister:** Pastor Chris Dion**Music Director:** Helen Glatthaar

Assisting Minister: Keith Clark

Lector: Melissa Gamache

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Donna Ropp, Rosemarie Tessman, Cookie Capsalors, Sandy Milke

Altar Guild: Kristen, Connor &amp; Emily Pratt.

Communion Assistants: Melissa Gamache and Brian Biernat

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**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR****Sunday, May 17, 2026 Ascension Sunday**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Elevated Coffee Time and Brief Congregational Conversation

10:30 a.m. May Day Celebration "Bunco"

**Tuesday, May 19, 2026**

12:00 p.m. Bristol Garden Club at Luna's Banquet Hall

**Wednesday, May 20, 2026**

5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:00 p.m. Voice Choir – Chapel

**Thursday, May 21, 2026**

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

**Saturday, May 23, 2026**

10:00 a.m. Fitness Class

**Sunday, May 24, 2026 Pentecost Sunday (*please wear red to add to our festivities*)**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Time

1:00 p.m. Lutheran Hiking Club's "Springtime Stroll" at West Hartford Reservoir

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

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Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

Email: churchoffice@FaithBristolCT.org

Pastor Chris Dion, phone: 860.989.3507

<p>Faith In Action...Attendance and Offering for the week of May 10, 2026  Facebook 4...YouTube 9...In Person 80...Total 93 ...Offering \$4080.39  May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Corrected) Offering \$4156.65  Steeple Restoration Fund Received To Date...\$2795.00</p>
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