

Sunday Worship

Sunday, 3 May 2026

Easter 5 A

Greetings and Welcome

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed.

Psalm 31 says: “In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.”

So, come! Let us praise the LORD our God:

the Creator who creates and loves us;

the Redeemer, the risen Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life;

and the Sustainer, the Holy Spirit, who gathers us to become
a chosen people, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation.

Balka wittaberri! (Goreng Goreng)

Balka wittaberri!

בִּקְר טוֹב! [Boqer Tov] (Hebrew)

Boqer Tov! [boker tove] (Hebrew)

καλή μέρα! [Kalí Méra] (Greek)

Kalí méra! [Kalay merra] (Greek)

Goeie dag! (Afrikaans)

Goeie dag!

Goedemorgen! (Dutch)

Goedemorgen! (Dutch)

Buongiorno! (Italian)

Buongiorno! (Italian)

Noa'ia! (Rotuman)

Noa'ia! (Rotuman)

Magandang Umaga! (Filipino)

Magandang Umaga! (Filipino)

Zou San! (Cantonese)

Zou San! [jaow sun] (Cantonese)

Marhaba! (Arabic)

Marhaba! (Arabic)

Parev! (Armenian)

Parev! (Armenian)

G'day! (Australian)

G'day! (Australian)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

As the light of new life shines out from the Empty Tomb,
so may we in this Easter season shine with the light of hope and share the
promise of life.

Acknowledgement of Country

*As we gather in this joyful Easter season to worship God, let us take a moment
to acknowledge the land and all the resources that God has graciously made
available for us:*

For this Land

We give thanks!

For the First People who cared for this land

We give thanks!

For all nations and people who live on this land

We give thanks!

We honour the custodians
of sacred stories,
of dreamings
and the connections
with the deep earth.

*May we work together
for the restoration
of the Land
and Her Peoples.*

Call to Worship

We are God's household, crafted by the Architect of creation:

*our hearts, a shelter for the outcast;
our hands, open to the stranger.*

We are God's people, created in the divine image:

*to tell others of God's love,
to offer mercy as freely as we have received it.*

We are God's children, called to give of ourselves:

*chosen to serve the lost and lonely,
gifted to minister to a hurting world.*

Praise Hymn:

To God Be the Glory

Psalm 31 says, "You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me." To God be the glory for the great things he has done and continues to do for us. So, let us stand and praise God, singing To God Be the Glory.

Prayer of Invocation/Adoration/Thanksgiving/Approach

*Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Let us approach God with our prayer:
let us pray:*

Our Way:

you call us

to celebrate your peace
in a world which worships war;
to celebrate your freedom
in the face of oppression;
to celebrate the seed of faith
planted in the doubts of our hearts.

Our Life:

you would have us

celebrate the safe ground of hope
emerging from the flood of our tears;
celebrate those who love us
in the midst of hurt and hatred;
celebrate our salvation
as we struggle with sin.

Our Truth:

you teach us

to celebrate our new life

in the gift of the Risen Lord;

to celebrate the grace of your heart,

which melts our fears;

to celebrate that all our moments

are cradled in your hands.

Our Way, our Truth, our Life,

God in Community, Holy in One,

Amen!

Praise Time:

How Can I Keep From Singing

When life feels uncertain, and we are surrounded by conflict, burdened by pain or are weary from daily trials and tribulations, we are reminded that Jesus is the rock on which we cling. His sacrifice has brought us out of darkness. We have heard his voice calling us, drawing us to himself and into the light. Take a moment and breathe him in. Let go of last week's struggles, focus your thoughts and open your hearts to be refreshed, renewed and revived. Take another breath... be still... can you hear the endless song echoing through your soul? Listen to the song he gives and let us stand to worship together. How Can I Keep From Singing?

Prayer of Confession

Considered too rough for their smooth plans, the builders cast out the Stone they needed. But God builds salvation on the One who is the foundation of all hope. Let us confess our sins to God and one another, trusting we will not be put to shame.

Let us pray:

God of Love,

hear the brokenness of our lives. We cover our ears so we cannot hear the cries of those in need, or your urging us to respond. We rush together to defend every issue that matters to us, but quickly disperse when you call us to

be your holy people. We shout as loud as we can to cheer on our sports teams, but we can only manage whispers when it comes to sharing the good news.

God of eternity,
forgive us and do not hold our sins against us. We lay the garments of our foolishness at your feet, so you might clothe us in grace and hope. We wish to feed on the spiritual food that flows from your heart so we might be strong enough to follow Jesus as he leads us in the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Silence is kept

Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God. Trust also in Christ, whom God has sent,
for whoever trusts in him will not be put to shame.
Our cry for help has been heard.
Now we are God's people and have received mercy.

Sisters and Brothers,
be at peace

Your sins are forgiven;

Thanks be to God.

The Peace

The Lord gives us strength;
The Lord blesses us with peace;
The Peace of the Risen Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Announcements/Notices

Prayers of Intercession

Our notices are part of our service, so we bring them to God. Our prayers reach beyond ourselves and our congregation. God calls us to care for all

creation, so we join the World Council of Churches' prayer cycle and pray for Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Mongolia.

Include other events or incidents that you will be praying for.

Note: You can find some prayers for this week on my blog, Prayers.

Let us pray for the church, for our community, and for the world.

God of Resurrection,
Christ Jesus, with his whole being
sacrificed himself for the sake of your love for us.
Teach us the joy of giving ourselves to you,
so that we yearn for your presence,
long for your salvation,
and so find you living in us.

God of mission and movement,
You call us not to sit still but to step out:
to serve, to give, to love, and to proclaim.
Bless the activities of our congregation.
Bless us when we are present to someone in need.
May our efforts bear fruit, not for our glory but for Yours,
that in all we do, Your grace may be known.

God of healing,
we thank you for the hope, comfort, and strength you provide in our
vulnerability. Be with all who suffer, offering your Spirit as a presence of
comfort and healing. May they find peace and support in relationships and
communities of safety and trust.

In the silence of our hearts, we raise to you the names of those we know and
remember:

— A moment of silence. Mention names —

We also bring to you those we forgot and those we do not know.

May your Spirit be a comforting and healing presence in their lives.

May they find peace and nurture within relationships and communities of safety and trust.

Open our eyes and give us wisdom to see where we can bring your healing and hope in our relationships, neighbourhoods and communities as your hopeful and compassionate people.

God of the mountains and the steppes,
we hold before You the peoples of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. You are justice, compassion, and peace. Where poverty tightens its grip and power silences the powerless, shape in us generosity, advocacy, and a willingness to listen, so that our lives may ease the burdens others carry. Where loyalties clash and pressures divide, form in us humility and wisdom that we may be people who build peace rather than deepen conflict.

Where land, air, and water are scarred by greed and neglect, turn us toward care, restraint, and responsibility in the choices we make each day. Where Muslims and Christians live side by side, guide us towards relationships marked by respect, honesty, and shared purpose. In every place of oppression and violence, empower us to uphold dignity, speak truth, and act with courage, so that hope and joy flourish in all communities, guided by Your Spirit, as we join the universal church in praying the prayer Jesus taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn/Song:

The Church's One Foundation

Peter reminds us that our hope is secure in Christ, that we are living stones being shaped together into a spiritual home built on Jesus as the cornerstone, and whoever believes in him shall not be put to shame. Let us stand and sing, The Church's One Foundation.

Do not read the titles (black or red text in bold)

Prayer of Illumination

Let us say the prayer of illumination together.

Open our eyes, gracious Lord, as we turn to your word.

We long to know you, to understand life, and to be changed.

Examine us, Lord, by the floodlight of your truth.

Amen.

Scripture

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel Reading: John 14:1-14

Acts 7:55-60

The First reading is from the book of Acts, chapter seven, verses fifty-five to sixty. Listen now for the word of God.

- 7:55 But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
- 7:56 "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"
- 7:57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.
- 7:58 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.
- 7:59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
- 7:60 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.

1 Peter 2:2-10

The Epistle Reading is from the first epistle of Peter, chapter two, verses two to ten. Listen now for the word of God.

- 2:2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation-
- 2:3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

- 2:4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and
- 2:5 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.
- 2:6 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."
- 2:7 To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,"
- 2:8 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.
- 2:9 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 him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- 2:10 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.

For the Word of God in Scripture.

For the Word of God among us.

For the Word of God within us.

Thanks be to God.

John 14:1-14

The Gospel reading is from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, chapter fourteen, verses one to fourteen. Listen now to the Word of God

14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.

14:2 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?

- 14:3 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.
- 14:4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.”
- 14:5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”
- 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- 14:7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”
- 14:8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”
- 14:9 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’?
- 14:10 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.
- 14:11 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.
- 14:12 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.
- 14:13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
- 14:14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Children's Story

Sermon:

Hymn:

O Jesus I have Promised

Affirmation of Faith: Apostles Creed

Let us affirm our faith.

Prayer for Offering

God of generosity,
we offer our gifts so that others may not feel alone, eat alone, live alone or be alone, but may be surrounded by your grace and love through us and the lives we offer them. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Amen.

Communion Song

Yet, Not I But Through Christ In Me

As we come to the table, we remember that our hope and salvation are not found in our own strength, but in Christ who lives and works within us. In humility and gratitude, we centre our hearts on Jesus and the grace that sustains us. Let us prepare to receive this gift as we sing together. Yet, Not I, But Through Christ In Me.

Communion

Invitation

Christ our Lord invites us to his table, where we find the way, the truth, and the life. Do not let your hearts be troubled. Come, for God has made a place for you here. Here we are formed as living stones in Christ, and entrust our lives into his hands.

Narrative Of The Institution Of The Lord's Supper

Hear the words of the institution of this sacrament, as recorded by Matthew, in chapter 26 (this is from the Message Translation):

During the meal, Jesus took and blessed the bread ..., broke it, and gave it to his disciples:

Take, eat.

This is my body.

... Taking the cup and thanking God, he gave it to them:

Drink this, all of you.

This is my blood,

God's new covenant, poured out for many people
for the forgiveness of sins.

"I will not be drinking wine from this cup again until that new day when I drink with you in the kingdom of my Father."

And so, according to our Saviour's command, we set this bread and this cup apart for the holy supper, remembering his call that we must not let familiarity breed contempt, and we come to God with our prayers of thanksgiving.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God of every way be with you.

And also with you.

Lift your hearts to the One who is the Truth for God's own people.

We offer them to the One who warms them with love.

Sing praises to God, who is our Life.

Glad songs are offered to the One who provides us with shelter.

God of constructions,

you made a way through chaos,

the Word echoing on mountaintops

and whispering in valleys.

The Spirit, teaching songs to the stars

and breathing life into those created

in your image as your precious children.

You longed to cradle us in your lap,
breastfeeding us with grace and hope,
but we slipped out of your grasp,
covering our ears as you called us
to come back home to you.

Prophets came to remind us that
you would not put us to shame,
psalmists sang to us of your longing
to cut the net of sin and death and set us free,
but, together, we rushed
into the open arms of temptation.

Then you sent Jesus, so that
in knowing and believing in him,
we would know and believe in you.

With those who have nothing
and with those who give everything away,
we lift our voices to you:

*Holy, holy, holy are you, God who pulls us to safety.
All creation kneels down to worship you.
Hosanna in the highest!*

*Blessed is the One who shows us the Truth.
Hosanna in the highest!*

God of life,
once, we were nobodies, alone and hopeless,
but by your mercy, we are now a family,
gathered in your love around this Table,
where the Spirit sanctifies the bread and cup.
You lean over to serve us the bread,
enveloping us in your grace
so we might go to be your people.
You offer us the cup of hope,

which can heal our troubled hearts
and strengthen us to serve our world.

And when the Way leads us home to you,
when your Life gathers us with our siblings
around the Table which is prepared by your Truth,
we will sing glad songs of praise to you forever,
God in Community, Holy in One.

Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

... Christ is the bread of joy, who shares food with sinners

... Christ is the cup of life, who revives the faint-hearted.

Let us receive what we are;
Let us become what we receive.

The body of Christ.

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray:

We thank You, God, our Creator, for Word and Sacrament, through which we receive Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. Prepare us a place in Your Fellowship, and shape us to reveal Your works, so our lives may reflect Your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn After Communion:

We Shall Stand

Like Stephen, who trusted God to the very end, we are sent out as witnesses to Christ in the world. Built on the cornerstone and strengthened by the Spirit, we go in courage and hope. As we leave, let us stand together in faith and proclaim the victory of our Risen Lord.

Blessing

You are a chosen race,
a royal priesthood,
a holy nation.

So, go out as God's own people
to proclaim the mighty acts of God in Christ.

And may God be your rock and your refuge;
May Christ Jesus take you to himself and be with you always;
And may the Holy Spirit open heaven wide before you,
so that you might see the glory of God in all the things of earth.

Amen.

Blessing Song

For You Deep Stillness