

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 3, 2026 - 11:15am

Pre-service Music

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 203

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

Psalm 124:8

- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Psalm 130:3

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession of Sins

- C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

(Silence for prayerful confession)

Absolution

Song:

"Here I Am to Worship"
by Tim Hughes

**Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see, Beauty that made
This heart adore You, Hope of a life spent with You**

Chorus: So here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God, You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me

King of all days, Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above, Humbly You came
To the earth You created, All for love's sake became poor

(Chorus)

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

(Chorus)

Song:

"Offering"
by Paul Baloche

(Verse): The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love
There is no shadow in Your presence
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne
Before the Holy One of heaven
It's only by Your blood
And it's only through Your mercy
Lord I come

(Chorus): I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due
O Lord I bring an offering to You

I bring an offering to You

(Verse), (Chorus), (Chorus)

O Lord I bring an offering to You. O Lord I bring an offering to You.

Prayer Time Concluded with Our Lord's Prayer

☩ 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.

Welcome

Pastor Randy Bard

Children's Time

Pastor Tim Eden

First Reading

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

²And Stephen said:

“Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And

falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

- A** Christ has risen from the dead.
- C** **God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor.**
- A** He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;
- C** **He has put all things under his feet. Amen.**

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies 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.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel Reading

John 14:1-7

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. 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, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to 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 had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles’ Creed

G **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Sermon: Number Increasing... Minus One

Pastor Tim Eden

Our Offerings to the Lord

(Members & guests please fill out the attendance card found in the pew and place it in the offering plate. E-Giving available online at www.blcbcs.org)

The Service of Holy Communion

Preface Prayer

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth,

C For You have shown us mercy beyond what we could ever imagine. You gave for us Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We thank You for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to remember our Redeemer and receive Him Who comes to us in His body and blood. Amen.

Pastor Speaks the Words of Institution

The Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you. Amen and Amen.

The Congregation shares "The Peace of the Lord".

Distribution of the Sacrament and Songs:

"You Are My All in All"

by Dennis L. Jernigan

Chorus: Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name. *(Repeat)*

You are my strength when I am weak, You are the Treasure that I seek

You are my All in All.

Seeking You as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool.

You are my All in All. *(Chorus)*

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, rising again I bless Your name.

You are my All in All.

When I fall down You pick me up; When I am dry, You fill my cup.

You are my All in All. *(Chorus)*

Worthy is Your name.

“Way Maker”

By Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu

**(Verse 1): You are here moving in our midst
I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place
I worship You I worship You**

**(Verse 1): You are here moving in our midst
I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place
I worship You I worship You**

**(Chorus): You are, Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are
You are, Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are**

**(Verse 2): You are here touching ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You
You are here healing ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You**

**(Verse 3): You are here turning lives around
I worship You I worship You
You are here mending ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You**

**(Chorus): You are, Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are
You are, Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are**

**That is who You are, That is who You are
That is who You are, That is who You are**

**That is who You are, That is who You are
That is who You are, That is who You are**

**Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are
You are, Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are**

**(Bridge): Even when I don't see it You're working
Even when I don't feel it You're working
You never stop You never stop working
You never stop You never stop working**

**Even when I don't see it You're working
Even when I don't feel it You're working
You never stop You never stop working
You never stop You never stop working**

**Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are
You are, Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are**

**That is who You are, That is who You are
That is who You are, That is who You are**

**That is who You are, That is who You are
That is who You are, That is who You are**

Benediction

Closing Song:

"The Blessing"

by Kari Jobe, Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, and Steven Furtick

**The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His
Face toward you
And give you peace**

(Repeat Verse)

**Amen, amen, amen.
Amen, amen, amen.**

(Repeat Verse and Amens)

**Amen, amen, amen.
Amen, amen, amen.**

**May his favor
Be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family
And your children
And their children
And their children**

**May his presence
Go before you
And behind you
And beside you
All around you
And within you
He is with you
He is with you**

**In the morning
In the evening
In your coming
And your going
In your weeping
And rejoicing
He is for you
He is for you**

**Amen, amen, amen.
Amen, amen, amen.**

**Amen, amen, amen.
Amen, amen, amen.**

Announcements

Acknowledgments

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