

*Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Seventh Sunday of Easter,
May 17, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.*



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

“Christ lag in Todes Banden” by J.S. Bach Eric Dickey

Hymn

“God, We Gather As Your People”

ACS 1038



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

Refrain

Oh, may our hearts and minds be o-pened, fling the church doors o-pen

wide. May there be room e-nough for ev-'ry-one in - side.

For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -

long. May that wel - come be our song.

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.**

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,

all of cre - a - tion sings for joy

to the God of life and love and

free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -

er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:

Now is the feast of the Lamb once

slain, whose blood has freed and u -

nit - ed us to be one great

To refrain

peo - ple of God.

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and

might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ

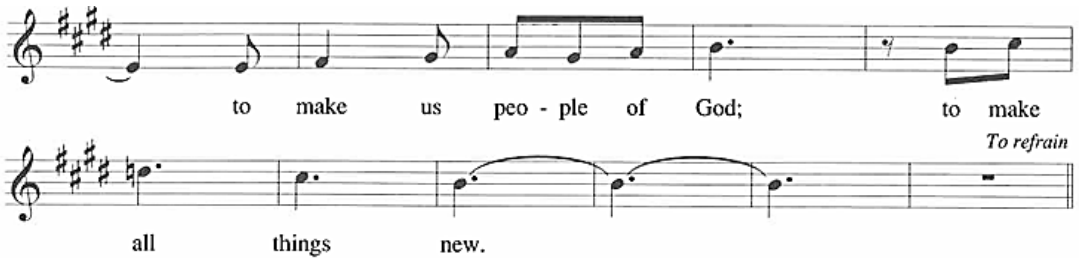
To refrain

for ev - er.

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us,



Prayer of the Day

P 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

Childrens Sermon (10:00 a.m. Josie Hartbarger will lead)

Anthem (10:00 a.m.)

“Bring Him Home”

Mark Sarkan, Solo

THE READINGS

The First Reading Acts 1:6-14

⁶ When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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.”

⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ 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.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

L The Word of the Lord **C** Thanks be to God!

The Second Reading 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

The Holy Gospel John 17:1-11

P The Holy Gospel according....C Glory to you, O Lord!

¹ 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, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ "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. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ 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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord! **C Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

“What Comes Next?”

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

ELW 392

VS 3 High Voices, VS 4 Low Voices

(8:00 a.m.) The Nicene Creed

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

(10:00 a.m.)

L I present Evan Ackerman, Anna Bond, Jillian Dewitz, and Jett Jenkins, who desire to make a public profession of their baptism.

Confirmands process forward

P Let us pray:

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

CAmen

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

R I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

R I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

R I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father almighty?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C 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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C 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**

P You have made a public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to

hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

R *I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

P People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

C **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P Let us pray:

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

The ministers lay hands on the head of each confirmand, along with their families, as they are blessed individually:

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her/his faith, guide her/his life, empower her/him in her/his serving, give her/him patience in suffering, and bring her/him to everlasting life.

C **Amen**

The confirmands turn and face the congregation.

A Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

C **We rejoice with you in our shared life in Christ, bound together by the promise at the waters. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

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.

AM 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.**

AM 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.**

AM Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick, *especially Tom Jennings, Larry Battles, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O’Konski, Luke Holtz, Ron Hetherwick, Jake Cope, Virginia Dillon, Staci, Greg Urbanski, Matt Jurrus, Tom Druschel, Phyllis Sturgeon, Jeff Bucher, Albert Preston, Pastor Ray Gottschling, Baby Elliot, David Atkinson, Maurice Atkinson, Karen Meyer, Rich Rison, Ginny Krueger, Kathryn Whitacre, Judy Mock, Nancy Atkins, Eric Dickey, Emily, Jordan Schultz, Pastor Ron Heinz...* and all others whom we remember in silence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM 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.**

AM O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give. Merciful God, **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. **Amen.**

THE MEAL

We practice open communion, which means all baptized believers are welcome to receive the Sacrament. However, if you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate by crossing your arms. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it and gluten-free wafers if needed. Ushers will dismiss you by row.

Sharing of the Peace

P The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C** **And also with you!**
Share an expression of peace with your neighbor please.

Our Tithes and Offerings *Bring your gifts to the Altar, or you may offer gifts in the tray located in the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

Offertory

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the
 One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

The Words of Institution

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. Jesus said, 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. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray... **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.**

Communion Hymns

“Lamb of God”

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 you break the chains of ha - tred and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

“I Come with Joy”

ELW 482

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM 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.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The 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. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Thine the Amen”

ELW 826

VS 3 High Voices, VS 4 Low Voices

Dismissal

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

AM And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

“Making Jesus Known”

Welcome to Community of Christ! We welcome YOU to worship with us at one of our TWO worship services. Join us at **8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m.** in person or on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing you, and as always, **BRING A FRIEND!!!!**

Thursday Bible Study Opens Up the Book of Acts Join us for our current series in our Thursday afternoon Bible Study, as we take a deep dive into the New Testament book of Acts to learn the story of the early church and how the band of rag-tag fishermen and tax collectors from Galilee grew into a movement that reached outward to the very heart of the Roman Empire and became a “found family” of Jewish and Gentile people, rich and poor, enslaved and free, women and men, and lived through the growing pains of that outreach to change the world. Join us weekly on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Bible Study/Council Room as we work through the book of Acts and let it spark our own ways of living out our faith and sharing the good news of Jesus in the world around us. Remember, too, that we’ll continue to share video catch-up sessions on our social media (see the church Facebook page) each week, so that you can know what we’ll be looking at each week in case you miss a week, want to join in, or to share with a friend!

Rooted Youth – School’s Out Celebration! You made it through another school year—come celebrate with us! Join us for a fun-filled evening featuring: *Cornhole Tournament *Volleyball *Campfire *S’mores *Cookout **Date:** May 28, **Time:** 6:00–10:00 PM, **Who:** Students in grades 6–12, **Location:** Providence Lutheran Church 8131 Airport Hwy., Holland, OH, **RSVP:** Text *SCHOOLSOUT* to (567) 522-0525. We hope you’ll join us as we celebrate the end of the school year together!

Cherry Fest! WE NEED YOU to get your walking shoes on! The 43rd annual Whitehouse Cherry Fest is coming up, and we'd love for you to join the Outreach Committee in walking in the parade on **Saturday, June 13th**. The 1-mile stroll lines up on Oakbrook Dr at noon, the parade kicks off at 1 p.m., and will take you down Waterville Street to Providence Street and through downtown Whitehouse. Candy for passing out will be provided, just bring your smile! Please sign up on the sheet located at the kiosk; the exact meeting spot at Oakbrook will be determined closer to parade day.

The Ladies will gather for lunch on Friday, May 22, at 11:30 a.m. This month, we'll be meeting at Te'kela in Perrysburg (25481 N. Dixie Hwy). Please sign up on the sheet at the kiosk so we can make reservations. All ladies are invited—feel free to bring a friend! If you have any questions, please contact Becky King at 419-349-7319.

Rooted Youth Event on May 24: Rooted has been invited to join youth from churches across Northwest Ohio for a special evening of connection and worship. The night will include time to hang out together, enjoy snacks, experience modern worship, and hear from a speaker who is close in age to our youth. We will meet at the Community of Christ parking lot at 6:30 p.m. to carpool together to Epworth United Methodist Church and plan to return by 9:30 p.m. Events like this are a wonderful opportunity for our youth to see that they are part of something bigger than just one congregation; they are part of the wider church. Please RSVP by texting Bryce at (567) 522-0525 so we can plan rides accordingly.

Sunday School Ending for the Year, Thank You to Our Teachers - our final Sunday of childhood Sunday School, for this year, will be May 17. As we wrap up another season of learning, growing, and wondering together, I want to take a moment to say thank you to the many volunteers who made this ministry possible week after week. Sunday School doesn't happen without people who are willing to show up, prepare lessons, welcome questions, and create space for children to explore their faith. Through stories, activities, conversations, and care, our teachers help our youngest members discover that they belong in the life of the church and in God's story. Thank you for the time, creativity, patience, and encouragement you share so generously with our children. Your presence matters more than you may ever fully see.

Vacation Bible School – Rainforest Falls!

Get ready for an exciting adventure this summer as we journey through *Rainforest Falls*! Kids are invited to join us for a fun-filled week of faith, games, music, and discovery. We are offering two opportunities to participate: **June 1–5** at Hope UMC, 9:00–11:30 a.m., and **June 22–26** at Providence Lutheran Church, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. All children are welcome, and we would love to have volunteers join us as well! If you're interested in helping, please contact Bryce at brycecyf@gmail.com or (567) 825-3265. Come and be part of this meaningful and joy-filled experience!



Summer Worship Hours begin NEXT Sunday, May 24 @ 9:00 a.m.



As our confirmands affirm their baptism, and each one says “Yes” to the God who first said “YES!” to them at the waters long ago, we offer our celebration with you and our blessing over you: May the living God who has first loved you into being and redeemed you in the cross continue to uphold you all your days, guide you on your path, strengthen you through struggles, and give you peace, now and forever. The Lord bless and keep you, Evan, Anna, Jillian, and Jett Jenkins!



<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Youth Group @ COC	Today, Sunday, May 17, 7:00 p.m.
Quilt Ministry	Tuesday, May 19, 10:00 a.m.
Book Club	Tuesday, May 19, 1:00 p.m.
Risk Management Taskforce Mtg	Wednesday, May 20, 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study	Thursday, May 21, 1:00 p.m.



**Altar Flowers given by Sandy Boehly in celebration
of Austin's 1st Birthday!!! 🎉 🇺🇸**