

Sunday Worship Service – May 3, 2026

Worship words from various resources – printed and internet – as noted in the footnotes.

Welcome and Announcements

A Moment for Reflection

Opening Prayer ¹

Jesus is the way:

**the challenging way discovered by the disciples,
the way made glorious by the saints, the way we follow.**

Jesus is the truth:

**the truth that has stood the test of time, the truth that has
empowered and encouraged, the truth we make our own.**

Jesus is the life:

**the life that combines commitment with adventure,
the life that is wholly satisfying, the life we have chosen.**

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

We will be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Gathering Hymn *“Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather”* #530

1. **Here, O Lord, your servants gather, hand we link with hand;
looking toward our Savior’s cross, joined in love we stand.
As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray:
Jesus, savior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.**
2. **Many are the tongues we speak, scattered are the lands,
yet our hearts are one in God, one in love’s demands.
E’en in darkness hope appears, calling age and youth:
Jesus, teacher, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.**
3. **Nature’s secrets open wide, changes never cease.
Where, oh where, can weary souls find the source of peace?
Unto all those sore distressed, torn by endless strife:
Jesus, healer, bring your balm, for you are the Life.**
4. **Grant, O God, an age renewed, filled with deathless love;
help us as we work and pray, send us from above
truth and courage, faith and pow’r, needed in our strife:
Jesus, master, be our Way, be our truth, our Life.**

¹ *Opening Prayer* from *Prayers to Share – Year A* © 2004 David Sparks, published by Wood Lake Books, Kelowna, BC.

Thanksgiving for Baptism ²

Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water –
the rain that nourishes animals and plants,
the water for drinking and bathing.

We praise you, O God, for water:

We praise you, O God, for water.

(Pour water into the Baptismal Font)

We praise you, O God, for our water stories –
a flood that cleansed the earth, the sea that drowned the enemy,
a river that healed leprosy.

We praise you, O God, for water:

We praise you, O God, for water.

We remember the waters of Jesus –
baptized in the Jordan River, calming the Sea of Galilee,
drinking from Jacob's Well, healing at the pool of Bethesda,
washing the disciples' feet.

We praise you, O God, for water:

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for this font.

Breathe into this water, wash away the sin of all the baptized,
and birth **Owen Burton** anew into your peace and joy.

We praise you, O God, for baptism:

We praise you, O God, for baptism.

O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.

O God, you are the River, saving us from death.

O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.

We praise you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
today, tomorrow, forever. Amen, and amen:

Amen, and amen.

Sacrament of Baptism

Let us celebrate God's gift of grace given to us in the sacrament of baptism.

In baptism God promises to love us, forgive us, and always be with us.

By water and the Spirit we are called, claimed, and commissioned:

we are called God's own, welcomed as children of God;

and joined to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice.

² from *Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks* by Gail Ramshaw © 2017 Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN. All rights reserved. Reproduced by permission

In the Gospel of Mark we read Jesus' words;

Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it. And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. (Mark 10:14b-16)

The Presentation

Who is it that you present for Baptism?

R We present **Owen Gregory Burton** to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The minister addresses the Sponsors and Parents:

You have brought your child to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

On the strength of God's gracious love for us,

and in communion with the Christian church,

will you, by your words and actions,

encourage and walk with **Owen** in the way of Jesus?

Do you promise to pray for him, and teach him to pray?

Do you promise to nurture him within the

community of the Christian Church?

R We will, with God as our helper.

The minister addresses the congregation:

People of God, do you promise to support **Owen**

and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

We do.

The minister addresses baptismal group:

I ask you to reject sin, acknowledge your faith in Christ Jesus, and profess the faith of the Christian Church.

Trusting in God's love and mercy, do you reject evil,

and all its many forms, and all its empty promises.?

R *I do.*

Trusting in Christ Jesus' grace and love, do you accept his presence in your life as the one who draws you to God?

R *I do.*

With all God's people throughout time and space,

let us together profess our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

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

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

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**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.**

A prayer of Thanksgiving (the minister pours water into the font).

Gracious and Holy God, we thank you for the gift of life, and within it, the gift of water. Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ.

To you be given praise and honour and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The minister addresses the child.

For you, little **Owen**, God made the world out of nothing.
 For you, God called Israel out of Egypt and brought Israel back from Exile.
 For you, little child, Christ came into the world to teach the children.
 For you, Christ died on the cross and rose again.
 For you, God sent the Holy Spirit to give you strength to live as you ought.
 For you, Christ will come again and take us to God.
 Little **Owen**, you know nothing of this.
 But we promise to tell you the story until you make it your own.

Owen Gregory Burton, I baptize you,
 in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Blessing

May God - who has given you new life through water, word and Spirit –
 guide you, inspire you and work within you, all the days of your life. Amen.

Marking with the Sign of the Cross

Owen, child of God, this day you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the sign of the cross. Joined with Jesus you are a child of God, now and forever.

A lighted Candle is given to the Baptized.

Let the light of Christ, which God has placed in your heart, shine through your words and actions from this day forward.

A prayer for the newly baptized:

Gracious God, forever faithful to your promise, we thank you for assuring us again that you will forgive us and receive us as children in Christ. Grant wisdom and love to **Sheila and Gregory** and to us all as we carry out the vows we have just made.

We pray that you will guide **Owen** and our little ones throughout their lives. Enable them to respond in faith to the gospel. Fill them with your Spirit and make their lives fruitful. Give them strength to endure trials. And when Christ returns, let them celebrate with all the people of God your greatness and goodness forever in the joy of your new creation. Amen.

The congregation stands and welcomes the baptized:

Family of God, we now receive **Owen** into Christ's church.

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into our family of faith.

**We promise to love, encourage, and support you,
and to help you know and follow Christ.**

The congregation is invited to share the peace with one another.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise *"Baptized in Water"* #456

1. **Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.**
2. **Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king:
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise we sing.**
3. **Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king:
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praise we sing.**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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. Amen.

Psalm 31:1-5, 14-16

Holy One, in you I have taken refuge;

let me never be put to shame.

You, upholder of true justice, deliver me.

Incline your ear to me; be quick to save me.

Be my rock and my stronghold, a fortress to save me.

For you are my citadel and my rock.

For your name's sake, lead and guide me.

Free me from the trap laid for me, for you are my strength.

Into your hands I entrust my spirit.

Redeem me, O Holy One, my faithful God. (Refrain)

As for me, I trust you, Holy One.

I proclaim, "You are my God!"

My fate is in your hands;

save me from the hands of my enemies

and those who persecute me.

May the light of your face shine upon your servant!

In your faithful love, save me! (Refrain)

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

The author writes to those who are newly baptized. Just as God chose Jesus to be the cornerstone of the new temple, that is, the Church, so Christians are

living stones of the spiritual house of God. A reading from the First Letter of Peter, the second chapter:

Instead, like a newborn baby, desire the pure milk of the word. Nourished by it, you will grow into salvation, since you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Now you are coming to him as to a living stone. Even though this stone was rejected by humans, from God's perspective it is chosen, valuable. You yourselves are being built like living stones into a spiritual temple. You are being made into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Thus it is written in scripture, *Look! I am laying a cornerstone in Zion, chosen, valuable. The person who believes in him will never be shamed.* So God honors you who believe. For those who refuse to believe, though, the stone the builders tossed aside has become the capstone. This is a stone that makes people stumble and a rock that makes them fall. Because they refuse to believe in the word, they stumble. Indeed, this is the end to which they were appointed. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession. You have become this people so that you may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his amazing light. Once you weren't a people, but now you are God's people. Once you hadn't received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Gospel Acclamation "The Living Word"³

**In the beginning was the Word,
the Living Word of God, the Light of Life Unending.**

**You shine in us on ancient starlight,
in our Book of Memories and Future Dreams.**

**Sing we halle, hallelu! You are the Word of Life Eternal.
Holy Wisdom, found within!**

You speak to us and we remember:

**"I am the Book no one can close,
The Story of our time, before all time, together.
I am the Voice that never falters, I, the Echo of Beyond.
I am the Way, the Truth, the Life." The Living Word.**

³ *Gospel Acclamation "The Living Word"* from "Liturgy of the Beloved" © Johnston-Urey Music, All Rights Reserved. Used with Permission.

Gospel Reading: John 14:1-14

The holy gospel according to John, the 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

“Don’t be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. My Father’s house has room to spare. If that weren’t the case, would I have told you that I’m going to prepare a place for you? When I go to prepare a place for you, I will return and take you to be with me so that where I am you will be too. You know the way to the place I’m going.”

Thomas asked, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you have really known me, you will also know the Father. From now on you know him and have seen him.”

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father; that will be enough for us.”

Jesus replied, “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been with you all this time? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I have spoken to you I don’t speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me does his works. Trust me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or at least believe on account of the works themselves. I assure you that whoever believes in me will do the works that I do. They will do even greater works than these because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father can be glorified in the Son. When you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.”

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: The Way, the Truth and the Life

Hymn of the Day “You Are the Way” #758

1. **You are the way; to you alone from sin and death we flee;
all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.**
2. **You are the truth; your word alone true wisdom can impart;
you only can inform the mind and purify the heart.**
3. **You are the life; the rending tomb proclaims your conquering arm;
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.**

4. **You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know, that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.**

Prayers of Intercession ⁴

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. Each petition will end with the phrase "Risen Lord" and the congregational response "fill our hearts with Easter joy."

A brief silence.

Lord, our way, our truth, our life, in you the mystery of eternity is opened and we behold your glory. Inspire your Church with this vision and build it into a spiritual house for you. Give us grace to grow into salvation. Risen Lord, **fill our hearts with Easter joy.**

Lord, our way, our truth, our life, you cast out fear and in trusting in you all people rejoice. Expand the vision of political leaders to embrace respect and dignity for all. Grant that our actions may proclaim life in its fullness. Risen Lord, **fill our hearts with Easter joy.**

Lord, our way, our truth, our life, move between us and unite all people into a community as your beloved children. Strengthen the bonds that make for cohesive living. Called by you, shape us as people of your promise. Risen Lord, **fill our hearts with Easter joy.**

Lord, our way, our truth, our life, in you our troubled hearts are eased and we are enfolded in your love. Hear our prayer for all whom we name before you (*names*). May the light of your countenance give hope and peace. Risen Lord, **fill our hearts with Easter joy.**

Lord, our way, our truth, our life, you prepare a place for us and take us to be with you for ever. Carry to yourself all who have died. Lord Jesus, receive our spirits. Risen Lord, **fill our hearts with Easter joy.**

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.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

⁴ *Prayers of Intercession* from **Intercessions for Years A, B and C** © 2009 Ian Black, published by SPCK, London, UK.

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Offering and Offertory Prayer ⁵

(an Offering plate is placed on the altar)

We bring you our hope at this Easter season, O God,
that compassion will be encouraged, doubts faced, young persons will be supported, the challenged and distressed upheld, and the saving work of Jesus continued.

Bless these hope-filled gifts, O God, and enliven the spirit of our giving. Amen.

Sending Hymn “On Our Way Rejoicing” #537

1. **On our way rejoicing gladly let us go.
 Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe.
 Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy;
 who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?**

Refrain: **On our way rejoicing; as we forward move,
 hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!**

2. **Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing;
 unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring;
 unto God the Spirit bow we and adore,
 on our way rejoicing now and evermore.**

Refrain: **On our way rejoicing; as we forward move,
 hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!**

Commissioning

Believe in Jesus Christ!

Jesus has God’s blessing upon him.

Follow Jesus Christ!

He calls us to risk and adventure.

Be challenged by Jesus Christ!

He inspires us to promote justice and sharing.

Be moved by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ!

The cross measures our willingness to accept faithful responsibility.

⁵ *Offering Prayer and Commissioning* from *Prayers to Share – Year A* © 2004 David Sparks, published by Wood Lake Books, Kelowna, BC.

Blessing

Don't let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God, and in God's son, Jesus Christ,
who is the way, the truth and the life,
and through whom we come to know the Father.

And may the blessing of God,
the grace of Jesus Christ,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit
go with you as you leave this place. Amen.

Benediction Song "*May the Grace of Christ Attend Us*" (#963 Voices United)

**May the grace of Christ attend us, and the love of God surround us,
And the Holy Spirit keep us, now and ever. Amen.**

Sending

Go in peace, inspired by the risen Christ to love and serve.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude – Joshua Hendricksen