

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Penn Hills, Pennsylvania

May 18, 2025 ♦ 9:30 am

Welcome to Worship at Zion!

Following the Liturgy:

- You are invited to speak the responses in **bold type**.
 - **ELW #**: a hymn from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (red hymnal).
 - **ACS #**: a hymn from *All Creation Sings* (purple hymnal supplement).
- Hymn numbers are in the upper outside corners of the pages.

Holy Communion

All who believe and are baptized are welcome at the table Jesus Christ sets for us. You will be dismissed pew by pew by an usher to come forward to the bottom of the chancel steps. As you come forward, take a glass from the trays in front of the first pews: empty glasses for wine or a filled glass with grape juice. You will then receive a piece of bread and then the assisting minister will distribute the wine. If you would like gluten-free bread or wish to only receive a blessing, please tell the pastor when you come forward. For those in need of mobility assistance, please let the ushers know, and communion will be brought to you in your pew.

Restrooms are located at the rear corner of the sanctuary.

The Prayground on the rear balcony side of the church is a space specially designed for children and families in worship. Toys, books, and coloring materials are available there for your use.

Hearing Assistive Technology is available for those who need it. Please see an usher or tech minister at the desk at the back of the sanctuary.

Introduction to the Day: **Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year C**

Easter lasts for several more weeks. The three readings continue the unfolding of the meaning of the resurrection: the loving community formed by God's love and baptized with the water of life includes those who had been previously deemed unacceptable. All things are being made new, for the resurrection continues through the power of the Spirit. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

Cover image: *Group Hug* by Carol Aust. Copyright © Carol Aust. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.

Gathering

Prelude

Thanksgiving for Baptism

The assembly stands.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks. Response:

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness,
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love
and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters
that give us our very lives in you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.
Amen.

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

Canticle of Praise: This is the Feast

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless-ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

Refrain
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

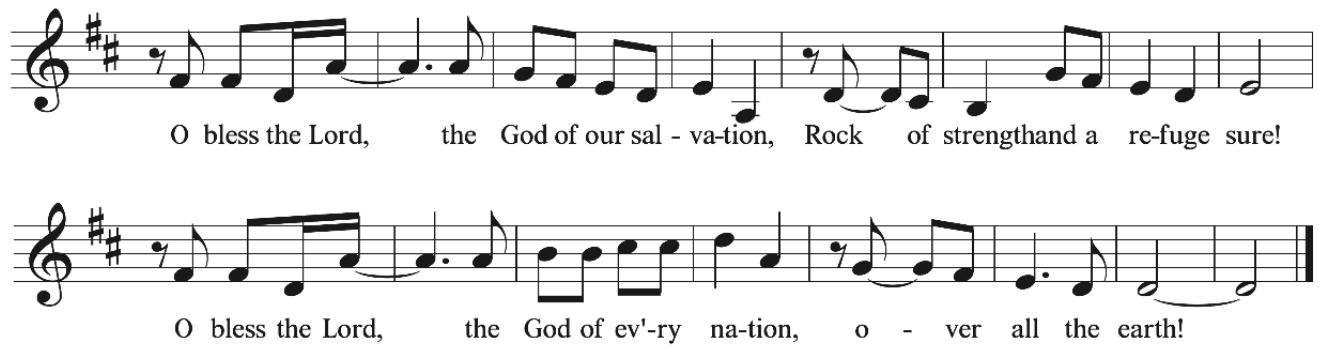
Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 148

setting by John Michaels

The refrain is introduced by the choir and repeated by all.



Verses are sung by the choir. All repeat the refrain where indicated.

1. O bless the Lord, highest heavens above! Bless the Lord! Glorify his name!
Sun in the day, moon and stars in the night, worship and praise! **Refrain**
2. Let all the earth sing with joy to the Lord, all the seas, creatures of the deep!
Mountains and hills, birds and beasts in the fields, worship and praise!
Refrain
3. Let all the nations on earth bless the Lord, for the Lord governs all the world!
Let all the rulers on earth bless the Lord! Worship and praise! **Refrain**
4. Let all the people on earth bless the Lord! Young and old, glorify his name!
Let ev'ry voice sing with joy to the Lord: "Glory and praise!" **Refrain**

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Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



The verse is sung by the choir, then all repeat the refrain.

Everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.
(John 13:35)

Gospel: John 13:31–35

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: I Come with Joy

ELW 482

The assembly stands to sing.

Stanza 1 – all

Stanza 2 – pulpit side

Stanza 3 – lectern side

Stanza 4 – choir

Stanza 5 – all

Nicene Creed

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Response: Your mercy is great.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.

Announcements

Meal

Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Offering Anthem: Peace I Leave With You

Jeffrey Blersch

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives, give I to you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Lo, I am with you forever and ever.

Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

For I will not leave you comfortless; I will come again.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives, give I to you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Lo, I am with you forever and ever.

My peace I give; my peace I leave with you.”

~ *John 14:18, 27, Matthew 28:20b (adapted)*

Offering Hymn: Where Charity and Love Prevail (*stanzas 1-2*)

ELW 359

Offering Prayer

Response: **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the season.

The assembly responds:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The presiding minister continues with the eucharistic prayer:

Holy God...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

With this bread and cup...all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God...sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God...in your holy church, now and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
**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

When we eat this bread, we share the Body of Christ.
When we drink this cup, we share the Blood of Christ.
**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

The assembly is seated. (See communion instructions on page 2).

The following songs are sung during communion as time allows.

Ubi caritas et amor **ELW 642**

Beloved, God's Chosen **ELW 648**

Once all have returned to their places, the assembly stands.

Prayer after Communion

Response: **Amen.**

Sending

Blessing

Response: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!

ELW 377

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.
Go in the peace of the risen Christ.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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	Worship Leaders	
	Today	Next Week (May 25)
Presiding Minister & Preacher	Rev. Richard Neumann	Rev. Richard Neumann
Assisting Minister	Rhonda Pope	Rhonda Pope
Organist & Choir Director	Andrew Sabol	Andrew Sabol
Musicians	Zion Church Choir	
Ushers	Mike Patchen Ray Rall	Mike Patchen Ray Rall
Altar Guild	Brenda Wolfe Reid Wolfe	Debbie Rall Charlotte Murray
Tech Ministers	Tom Felmley Alex Fitzroy	Tom Felmley Alex Fitzroy
Communion Bread	Sue Baumann	Chrissa Clark
Offering Count	Tony Lamorte Chrissa Clark	Sue Clydesdale

Today at Zion

The Sanctuary Candle is given today in honor of Adam Pierce's birthday from Cindy Pierce.



Sharing Talents - Building Faith Community: A wonderful way to grow our faith community at Zion is by sharing our time and talents with one another. We can learn more about each other as we spend time together in a fun activity, learning something new or sharing some special gift or skill we may have.

Our first venture will be learning how to paint an easy landscape in acrylics, led by our own Laura Patchen. Laura has spent years developing her artistic talent and is willing to show us how to create our own “masterpieces” or at least, a small painting we can take home with us! It will be a nice way to learn something new and also get an opportunity to socialize with one another in a casual setting.

We will meet after church **TODAY, Sunday, May 18th, at 11:15 am** in the Chapel. Take some time for refreshments in the Gathering Space first if you like. All the materials will be provided. The session should last no longer than an hour and a half.

Good Shepherd Ministry: This week our cards are for Elouise Brooky, Nancy Fabel, Wanda Kojcsa, Jean Pletcher, and Sandra Short. Please take a moment to sign the cards and share a smile with those unable to join us for worship. Also, remember them in your prayers this week.

Last Sunday School/Confirmation: Today is the last day of Sunday School/Confirmation for the summer break. See you in the fall!

Last Sunday for Choir: Today is the last Sunday our choir will sing before their summer break! Please take a moment to thank them for their music and for the sacrifice of time and effort

ULLA 2025 – If you are still thinking about donating to ULLA, this is the last week to do so. Please consider supporting one of the many organizations supported with ULLA funds. Extra cards are on the table in the Narthex. Thank you to everyone who has donated!

Upcoming Events/Important Dates

Zion Book Club: We will meet on Monday, May 19th at 1:00pm in the Gerhard Lounge to discuss the book, “The Reading List” by Sara Nisha Adama. Everyone welcome!

Bible Study: Diane Santoriello is leading our new Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons! The topic is “Psalms.” We meet at 1:00 pm in the Gerhard Lounge and over Zoom. Everyone welcome!

Annual Committee Reports: Please submit your annual report to Julie no later than

May 23rd. Also, please remember to sign your report. Thank you.

Annual Congregation Meeting: Our annual Congregation meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 8th** immediately after worship.

Pickup Choir – Sunday, June 8: Join us to sing for Pentecost Sunday. All ages and skill levels welcome! We will meet at 8:30 am in the sanctuary to rehearse the music for the day.

Announcements

Recognition of all 2025 Graduates: If you are graduating from high school, college, graduate school, etc., please notify Julie at our Church office (julie@zionpennhills.org) or 412-242-2626 with your date of graduation, degree, and name of school by **May 18** for inclusion in our Zion Newsletter and Prayers of Intercession.

Thank you to Parish Life for the carnations given out on Mother’s Day. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated, as are your efforts weekly for fellowship in the Gathering Space.

Zion Long-Range Planning Task Force: We presented our vision documents to the Zion Council in March. The Council accepted the suggestions as a package but suggested some editorial corrections before sharing them. Unfortunately, these changes have not yet been implemented due to Easter and some members' travel requirements. We know this has been a long time coming, and we thank you for your patience. We will offer some briefing session dates in June.

Hospitality Hour: If you would like to volunteer to bring some goodies for Sunday after worship hospitality, there is a calendar in the Gathering space to sign up. Thank you!

Food Pantry: Thank you to all who helped with our May Food Pantry. We served 150 households!

Pastor Neumann Office Coverage: Pastor Neumann's office days are Monday: 10-2; Wednesday: 11-3; and Thursday: 1-5. If you need to meet with him after those hours, the best way to reach him is on his cell phone. Here are other ways to get in touch with him:

Cell: 412-401-5720 Home: 412-822-7652

Email: manyneumanns@gmail.com

Finances

Zion Lutheran Church Budgeted Finances as of April 30, 2025

Offering Income: \$69,639.52

Other Income:* \$24,379.00

Total Income: \$94,018.52

Total Expense: \$97,082.80

Net: \$(3,064.28)

*Thomas Child Care and Learning Center and other groups who use our facilities.

WE PRAY FOR...

We are concerned with maintaining a current Prayer List. If you see a name on this list that can be taken off or wish to add a name, please contact Julie in the church office. If you or someone you know (who is not on the prayer list) is in need of a pastoral visit, please call the church office and let them know. Thank you.

Rehab Facility:

Evelyn Lamm (Concordia, Monroeville, Room 117)

Nancy Fabel (Rosebrook Living Facility, Sarver, PA, Room 116)

Paul and Mary Lou Feathers (Presbyterian Homes, Oakmont, Room 204)

Memory Care Facility:

Don Cook (Redstone Highlands in Murrysville, Room 0046)

Prayers Requested for:

Jenny Fabrizi

Elouise Brooky

Sandra Short

John Carter

Ken Wagner

Marion Ertel

Wayne Stumpf

Elaina Yoon (daughter-in-love of Kathy Gaberson)

Nancy Miller (friend of Kathy Gaberson)

Barb Kelly (cousin of Bob Page)

Sue Z. (friend of Annette Felmley)

Greg Felmley (brother of Tom)

John Mainarich (son-in-law of Pat Pope)

Shelly Clarke (friend of Kara Albrecht)

Audri Erfort (cousin of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio)

Maggie Watson (daughter of Kathy Kraf)

Michael Gerdich (friend of Rhonda Pope)

Josh Cummings (nephew of Tony Lamorte)

Sophia Bauserman and family (friends of Kathy Gaberson)

David Uptagraffe (friend of Audri Erfort)

John Hayes (friend of Tom & Annette)

Richard Sabol (father of Andrew Sabol)

Gary Bunch (husband of Cheryl Bunch)
Mike Walsh (friend of Kathy Gaberson)
Katie Ritenour (cousin of Debbie Marks)
Sandy Hutchins (friend of Diane Santoriello)
Darnell Pope (brother of Sandra Short)
Steve Bell (brother of Rhonda Pope)
Chris Vuocolo (nephew of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio)
Beth Rall
Denise Capobianco (friend of Sandra Short)

This Week at Zion

Sunday, May 18: <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Last Sunday School/Confirmation
	11:15 am	Sharing Talents (<i>Chapel</i>)
	2-5 pm	EAYC Recital & Reception (<i>Sanctuary & Parish Hall</i>)
Monday-Friday:	6:30-8:30 am	Thomas Learning Academy
	2:30-6:00 pm	Before/After School Program
Monday, May 19:	1:00 pm	Zion Book Club (<i>G. Lounge</i>)
Tuesday, May 20:	7am-8pm	Election Day (<i>Community room</i>)
Wednesday, May 21:	1:00 pm	Bible Study (<i>G. Lounge & Zoom</i>)

Zion Lutheran Church, Penn Hills

Rev. Richard Neumann, *Transitional Interim Pastor*
Mr. Andrew Sabol, *Director of Music Ministries*
Mrs. Julie Nieser, *Administrative Secretary*
Rev. William L. Hauser, *Pastor Emeritus*
Dr. Stanley E. Yoder, *Cantor Emeritus*

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