

First English Lutheran Church

1311 East 18th Street

Spencer, Iowa 51301

8:00 am Communion Service

Paul E. Kaldahl, Pastor

Kristin Kaldahl, Organist

www.spencer-church.com

Easter 5

May 3, 2026

Phone: 262-5598

Prelude, Ringing of the Bell

Opening Hymn - LSB # 465 "Now All the Vault of Heaven"

Welcome; Order of Worship – Divine Service 3 - LSB pg. 184

Invocation; Confession of Sins

Introit

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the godly!

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.

O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored
me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the
morning.

Gloria Patri; Kyrie – pg. 186

Gloria in Excelsis – pg. 187

Collect and Responses – pg. 189

P: O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant
that we may love what You have commanded and desire what
You promise, that among the many changes of this world our
hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus
Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Old Testament – Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60 Now 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.

7:2 And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of
glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in
Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, ⁵¹"You 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Epistle – 1 Peter 2:2-10 Like 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

(please rise)

Alleluia – pg. 190

Holy Gospel - John 14:1-14 "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." ⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you

so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do 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 authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. ¹²"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

(Responses on pg. 190-191)

Sermon Hymn - LSB # 481 "Scatter the Darkness"

Sermon

Nicene Creed – pg. 191 (Or inside back cover of hymnal)

Offertory - "Create in Me..." pg. 192-193

Offering

Prayers

Preface to Holy Communion - page 194

Proper Preface

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore, with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus – "Holy, Holy, Holy" pg. 195

Lord's Prayer – pg. 196 (Or inside back cover)

Words of Institution – pg. 197

Pax Domini – pg. 197

Agnus Dei – pg. 198
(please be seated)

Distribution of Holy Communion

Hymns - AGPS # 155 “Let All Things Now Living”
LSB # 540 “Christ, the Word of God Incarnate”
LSB # 803 “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”
AGPS # 122 “How Majestic is Your Name”

Nunc Dimittis – pg. 199

Thanksgiving – pg. 200-201

Benedicamus and Benediction – pg. 201-202

Closing Hymn - LSB # 808 “O Sing to the Lord”

Announcements and Postlude

† † † **HOLY COMMUNION** † † †

Dear Visitors and Friends: Our practice of close communion is the historic practice of the church. Through it we practice love and fidelity to God’s Word, prompting us to care for all of God’s people in this unique way. Please understand that our communion practice does not deny that the members of other denominations are Christians! Rather, it bows the knee to the Bible’s deep concern for doctrinal truth (Romans 16:17). When we commune together, God unites all who commune, not only in saving faith, but also in truth, regarding what the scripture teaches about the Lord’s Supper. In 1 Corinthians 11 Paul tells us that this expression of unity must be honest and truthful.

For this reason, the congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of “Close Communion.” ***If you desire to receive the Lord’s Supper and are not a communicant member of First English Lutheran Church or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning.*** Rather, we invite you to ask the pastor about how you might become a communicant member of our congregation.

It is our sincere prayer that our careful administration of the Lord’s Supper will not be a hindrance to our fellowship with you this morning, but instead that it would lead you to appreciate the high regard we have for Christ and His Word concerning this precious gift. **Thank you for understanding, and God bless you!**

If you are a member of the LCMS, please follow the four steps of preparation for Holy Communion. You can find those preparation instructions on the white cards on the back of the pew in front of you. When you attend Holy Communion, please register by filling out one of the white cards and pass them to the inner aisle during the offering so that the ushers can collect it.

For those who prefer, the cup in the center of the communion tray is grape juice with a drop of wine. If you do not feel secure taking the individual cup from the tray, please hold out your hand to indicate your concern and the cup will be handed to you. We invite small children to accompany their parents, if they desire to receive a blessing from the Pastor.

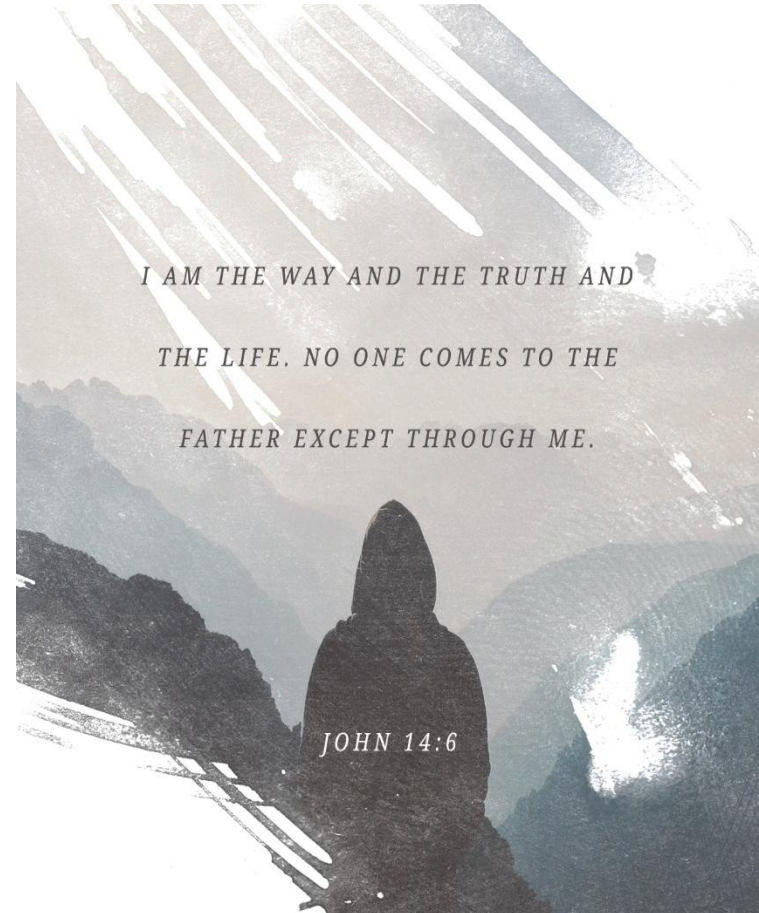
† † **VISITORS AND MEMBERS** † †

Sometime during the service, we ask that everyone fill out one of the cards found in the pew racks so that we might have a record of your worship with us today. For our visitors we ask that you please sign our Guest Register on the table next to the front door as you leave. We are pleased to have you join us this morning as we praise our great God and encourage you to visit us again when possible.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

8:00 a.m. Communion Service



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Rev. Paul E. Kaldahl, Jr., Pastor