

# First English Lutheran Church

1311 E. 18<sup>th</sup> St.

Spencer, IA 51301

10:45 a.m. Confirmation – Communion Service

Paul E. Kaldahl, Pastor

Easter V

May 3, 2026

Kristin Kaldahl, Organist

Phone: 712-262-5598

## Before the Service...

On this Confirmation Sunday, God reminds us that Jesus has claimed us to be His own. We are the sheep of His pasture, led by the Good Shepherd, who has redeemed us by His blood. Since God has loved us, so also we love each other. Love is the fruit of faith that flows from God's promise of grace. This morning, we rejoice with the confirmation class, as we receive the grace that God offers to us through Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.

## PRELUDE

**HYMN** – LSB #657 “A Mighty Fortress”

## WELCOME

## EASTER ACCLAMATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

P: Christ has risen from the dead! Alleluia!

**C: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor. Alleluia!**

P: He has made Him ruler over the works of His hands;

**C: He has put everything under His feet. He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

## CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTION

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? (Psalm 130:3-4)

**C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.**

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.

*(A moment of silence for private confession)*

P: 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.

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

P: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## INTROIT — Psalm 119:89–93

P: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**C: Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.**

P: Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

**C: By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants.**

P: If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

**C: I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.**

**ALL: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

## HYMN – LSB #912 “Christ Is Our Cornerstone”

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: He is risen!

**C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen. He is risen. Alleluia!**

## FIRST LESSON – Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60 ESV

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. <sup>2</sup>And 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. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, 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. <sup>4</sup>But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to

the ministry of the word.” <sup>5</sup>And 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. <sup>6</sup>These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup>And 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. <sup>8</sup>And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup>Then 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.

Acts 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, ... <sup>51</sup>“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>52</sup>Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, <sup>53</sup>you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” <sup>54</sup>Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup>But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” <sup>57</sup>But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup>Then 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. <sup>59</sup>And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>And 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.

## **SECOND LESSON** – 1 Peter 2:2-10 <sup>ESV</sup>

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup>As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup>you 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. <sup>6</sup>For 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.” <sup>7</sup>So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” <sup>8</sup>and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup>But 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. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

P: He is risen!

**C: He is risen, indeed!**

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

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL** – John 14:1-14 <sup>ESV</sup>

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In 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? <sup>3</sup>And 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. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” <sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus 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’? <sup>10</sup>Do 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. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>“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. <sup>13</sup>Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

*(After the reading ...)*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

P: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

**C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

## **HYMN** – LSB #575 “My Hope Is Built On”

## **SERMON**

**OFFERING** *(hymn is sung during the offering)*

**OFFERING HYMN** – LSB #804 “O Worship the King”

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Lord Jesus Christ, you are the vine and we are the branches. Transform us by your gracious claim upon us so that our wills may be knit to your will.

**C: Lord make us love what You command and desire what you promise.**

**2026 Confirmation Class**

***Cade Kenneth Chalstrom  
Emily Alexis Holt  
Eli Charles Norgaard***

***Skye KellyAnn Glackin  
Julia Lea Kaiser  
Hannah Alexis Stickrod***

P: For the Church, built on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ and made of precious stones gathered by the Holy Spirit, that it may be courageous in proclaiming the Gospel of salvation in all parts of the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord make us love what You command and desire what you promise.**

P: Lord, renew us so that our union with you may find expression in all that we say and so as we attempt to live out our faith believing in your name, and loving one another as you have commanded.

**C: Lord make us love what You command and desire what you promise.**

P: Lord, since your love is for all people, inspire us with zeal for the missionary activity of your Church, that we not rest until the good news of your love has come to all for whom you died.

**C: Lord make us love what You command and desire what you promise.**

P: Lord, help us to be your hands reaching out to those of this parish family who are in any need: comfort those who grieve, restore those who are sick in body or soul. We especially pray for *(Local petitions)*. Help us to serve, love and care for all who are in need.

**C: Lord make us love what You command and desire what you promise.**

P: Bless our confirmands this day and continue to bless them with Your Holy Spirit so that He might guide and direct them to eternal life.

**C: Lord make us love what You command and desire what you promise.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**CONFIRMATION HYMN** (Tune LSB #908)

- 1. **Arm these Thy soldiers, mighty Lord,  
With shield of faith and Spirit's sword,  
Forth to the battle may they go  
And boldly fight against the Foe.**
- 2. **With banner of the Cross unfurled  
They overcome the evil world  
And so at last receive from Thee;  
The palm and crown of victory.**
- 3. **Oh, grant us so to use Thy grace;  
That we may see Thy glorious face;  
And ever with the heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!**

P: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."

You have been baptized and you have been taught the faith according to our Lord's bidding. The fulfillment of his bidding we now celebrate with thankful hearts, rejoicing to confess the faith into which you were baptized and which you yourselves will now confess before the Church.

Jesus said: "Whoever confesses me before men, I will also confess him before my Father in heaven. But he that denies me before men, I will deny him before my Father in heaven."

Lift up your hearts therefore to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what, in the name of the Lord, as a minister of his Church, I now shall ask you.

*(P = Pastor ---- R = Confirmands ---- C = Congregation)*

P: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts which God gave you in your Baptism?

**R: I do.**

P: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

**R: I do.**

P: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

**R: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

**R: Yes, I believe 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.**

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**R: Yes, 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**

P: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

**R: I do so intend with the help of God.**

P: Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from them, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

**R: I do.**

P: Do you desire to be a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation?

**R: I do.**

P: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the divine Word, to be faithful in the use of God's Word and sacraments, which are his means of grace, and in faith, word, and action to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

**R: I do so intend with the help of God.**

*(The catechumens, in turn, give their right hand and kneel. The pastor lays his hands upon the head of each one and gives the following blessing. A confirmation text is then given to each.)*

**P: \_\_\_\_\_, God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you his Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God.**

*(After all catechumens have received the blessing and text of Holy Scripture, the pastor continues)*

P: Upon this your profession and promise I invite and welcome you, as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation, to share with us in all the gifts our Lord has for his Church and to live them out continually in his worship and service.

**C: Amen**

**CREEDAL HYMN** – LSB #953 “We All Believe in One True God”

### **PRAYER FOR THE CONFIRMANDS**

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty God, heavenly Father, confirm the work you have begun in these young people. Grant that they may remain in the fellowship of your church and in the faith of your Gospel. Keep them so that no false teaching, no selfish desires, and no idolatrous

worship of this world may lead them away from You and the truth they have confessed. Give them joy in obeying Your Word. Grant that they may always know You more intimately, love You more fervently, and serve You more faithfully in word and deed, for the up-building of Your people and the glory of Your Holy name; through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: The almighty and most merciful God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you.

**C: Amen**

*(The pastor dismisses the newly confirmed)*

### **RENEWAL OF THE PROMISE OF ALLEGIANCE**

P: As the family of Christ, we also profess our God-given faith by renewing our confirmation vows:

**C: By the power of the Holy Spirit, I joyfully confess Jesus Christ to be my Savior and Lord. Grateful for His patient love and depending on His help and grace, I do this day renew my promise to conform all my life to the rule of the divine word, to walk as it becometh the Gospel of Christ, and to remain true to the Triune God even unto death. Amen.**

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

**LORD'S PRAYER** *(prayed by all)*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

LSB #941 "We Praise You and Acknowledge You"

LSB #540 "Christ, the Word of God Incarnate"

LSB #803 "Joyful, Joyful"

LSB #645 "Built on the Rock"

### **Thanksgiving Prayer**

P: From Your bounty, gracious Father, You have fed us again with the body and blood of our Savior. Accept, we pray, our thanks for the gift of life that comes through Him. Through this meal, we pray, strengthen us that we may remain firm on the foundation of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### **BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you, The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** – LSB #816 “From All that Dwell”

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/POSTLUDE**

**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.

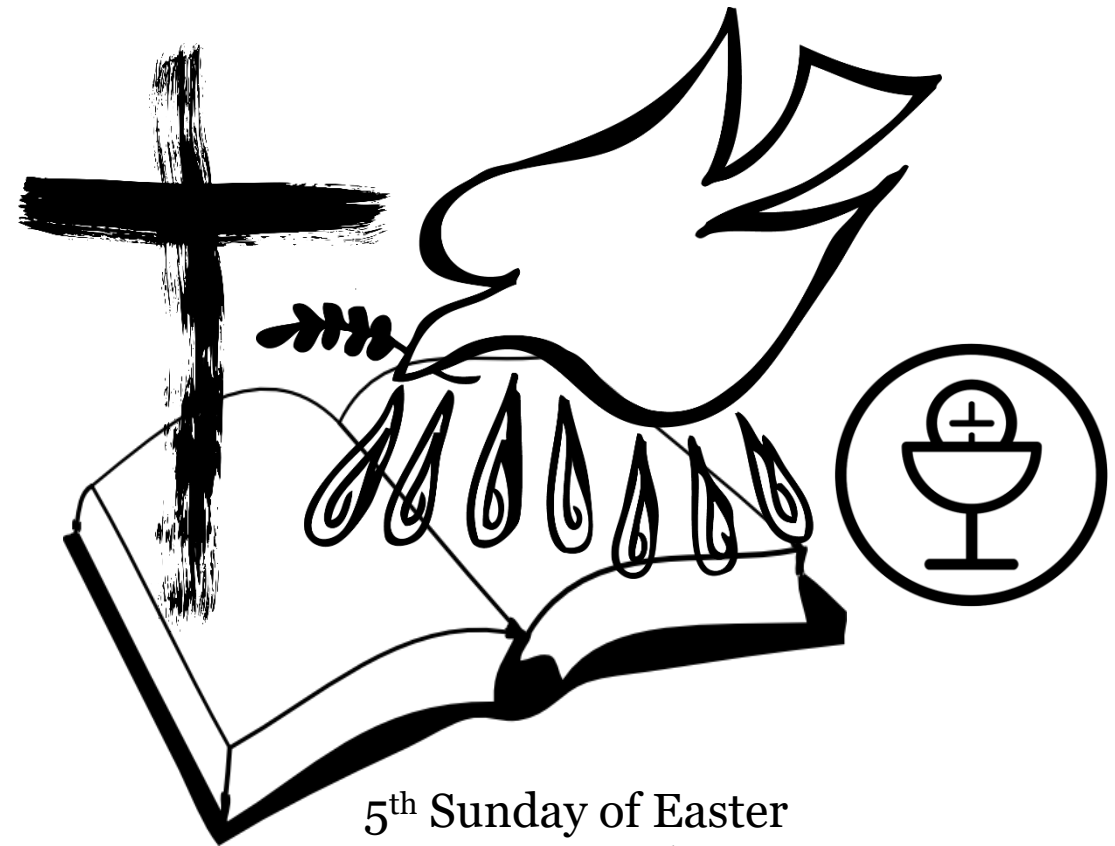
For those who prefer, the cup in the center of the communion tray is grape juice with a drop of wine. If you do not feel secure taking the individual cup from the tray, please hold out your hand to indicate your concern and the cup will be handed to you. We invite small children to accompany their parents,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

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Spencer, Iowa 51301



5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
May 3, 2026  
10:45 Confirmation Communion Service

[www.spencer-church.com](http://www.spencer-church.com)  
Rev. Paul E. Kaldahl, Pastor