



Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2025

New Hope Lutheran Church (406) 315-1203
3125 5th Ave S. Great Falls, MT www.newhopegf.org

*A congregation of the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Our mission: Sharing our faith in Christ by serving all with respectful compassion.*

GATHERING

Gathering Music: *There Is a Green Hill Far Away* Charles Gounod/ arr. Lani Smith

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Words of Welcome

Prelude: *Let There Be Joy*

Beatrice A. Miller

L: In the name of the + One who was, who is, and who is to come. C: Amen.

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

L: 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.

C: **Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one.**

L: 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.

C: **Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one.**

L: 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.

C: **Baptized into you, O Living One, make us one as you are one.**

L: 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. C: Amen.

1. All creatures worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright; sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear, make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
3. Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong;
Drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, so rich in care, praise God in colors bright and rare:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
4. All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain or sorrow grieve: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears; still make your song amid the
tears: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
5. And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom, fair is the night that leads us
home: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
6. O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: The grace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. (refrain)
2. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. (refrain)

L: Let us all pray: **C: Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

1st Reading: Acts 9:1-6

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

A responsive reading of Psalm 30

L: I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

C: O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

L: O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

C: Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

L: For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

C: As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."

L: By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

C: To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication:

L: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?"

C: Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!"

L: You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

C: so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

2nd Reading: Revelation 5:11-14

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation:

ELW p.188

Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel: John 21:1-19

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

L: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

Sermon

Rev. Tammy Bull

Hymn: Blessing and Honor

ELW #854

1. Blessing and honor and glory and pow'r,
wisdom and riches and strength evermore,
be to the Lamb who our battle has won,
whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne;
whose are the kingdom, the crown and the throne!
2. Let all the heavens sound forth Jesus' name;
let all the earth sing his glory and fame.
Ocean and mountain, stream, forest, and flow'r
echo his praises and tell of his pow'r;
echo his praises and tell of his pow'r.
3. Ever ascending the song and the joy,
ever descending the love from on high;
blessing and honor and glory and praise –
this is the theme of the hymns that we raise;
this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.

4. Give we the glory and praise to the Lamb!
Take we the robe and the harp and the palm;
sing we the song of the Lamb who was slain,
dying in weakness and rising to reign;
dying in weakness and rising to reign!

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith using the words of 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.

Prayers of the People (petitions end: "God of grace,... **hear our prayer.**")

P: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

MEAL

The Offering (At this time we bring our gifts and offerings to God in gratitude and joy! In response to God's love, we care for others in the name of Jesus. One way we do this is through our partnership with Family Promise of Great Falls. We appreciate your gifts of time, money, energy, and prayer to this work! If you are our guest today – either in person or online – we invite you to join us in caring for God's people and God's world!)

Offertory: *Lord Jesus, Think on Me*

William Daman/arr. James Southbridge

Offertory Response: Lord of Light (v. 1 only)

ELW #688

Lord of light, your name outshining all the stars and suns of space,
Use our talents in your kingdom as the servants of your grace;
Use us to fulfill your purpose in the gift of Christ your Son.
Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.

Offertory Prayer: **C: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, [...] we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p.190

Eucharistic Prayer L: You are indeed holy, [...] now and forever. **C: Amen.**

L: Now, 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.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Lamb of God

ELW p.191

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Hymn during Communion: Now We Join in Celebration

ELW #462

1. Now we join in celebration at our Savior's invitation,
Dressed no more in spirit somber, clothed instead in joy and wonder;
For the Lord of all existence, putting off divine transcendence,
Stoops again in love to meet us, with his very life to feed us.
2. Lord, as round this feast we gather, fill our hearts with holy rapture!
For this bread and cup of blessing are for us the sure possessing
Of your loving deed on Calv'ry, of your living self, our vict'ry,
Pledge of your unfailing presence, foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.
3. Lord, we share in this communion as one fam'ly of God's children,
Reconciled through you, our brother, one in you with God our Father.
Give us grace to live for others, serving all, both friends and strangers,
Seeking justice, love, and mercy till you come in final glory.

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you, comfort you, and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us all pray... **C: Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.**

SENDING

L: May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy! Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever! **C: Amen.**

Hymn: The Church of Christ in Every Age

ELW #729

1. The church of Christ, in ev'ry age beset by change, but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.
2. Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live before they die.

3. Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.
4. For he alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood, and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.
5. We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord; to care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating word.

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen! **C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

L: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Postlude: *Welcome, Happy Morning!*

A.S. Sullivan/ arr. Edward Broughton

Musicians: James Rickley (organ)

Cantor: Victoria Bull

Reader: Holly Hesper

Acolyte:

Communion Assistant:

Streaming Team: Allan Tooley & Neil White Fellowship: Greg & Holly Hesper

Announcements for the week of May 4:

- Mon. 5/5 1st Monday Quilters meet in the Social Hall from 6-8 pm
- Wed. 5/7 WOW! Children's ministry from 6-7 pm (simple supper, Bible story, and activity) in the Social Hall
- Fri. 5/9 Game Night! Bring your favorite game or just show up for fun! Social Hall from 6:30-8 pm

Special Offering for May is Family Promise of Great Falls.

Keeping in Prayer... Rick; Pat; Larry; Jeff & family; Laurie; Pam; Christina; Mari; Beth; Kameron & family; Sumner; Dee; Danny; Triston; MaryAnn; Ann; Arvin; Beth; Arnie, Peggy & Larry; Sandy; Dorothy; Toni; Scott; Haley; Esther; Reta; Elaine.

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