

WE are **Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (elca)**

918 South Litchfield Road, Goodyear, AZ

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Welcome and thank you for coming to worship!

We welcome all visitors this morning to our service of Word and Sacrament. ALL are invited to receive the bread and the wine. Please know that at CELC this common meal is for all who feel moved to receive. This sacrament is God's gift to all, and is not tied to membership, doctrine or creed.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

9:00am

-Service of Word and Sacrament-

The Gathering

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER GREETING

P: Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed.

Christ Lives! Christ Lives indeed!

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 367 "NOW ALL THE VAULT OF HEAVEN RESOUNDS" VS. 1, 2, & 3



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P In the name of ✠ the One
who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

In the waters of baptism,
we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ,
and we are a new creation.
For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God,
who was, who is, and who is to come.

Now breathe upon this water
and awaken your church once more.
Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.
Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End,
our Shepherd and Lamb,
be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving,
now and forever. **Amen.**

PASTORAL GREETING

P The grace of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

[Congregation is seated.]

The Word

FIRST READING: ACTS 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

55 Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" 57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. 58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

¹ In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

² **Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."

SECOND READING: I PETER 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and 5 like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

7 This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

8 and

“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10 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.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“RESUCITO”*

Refrain: Resucito, resucito, resucito, aleluya.
Aleluya, Aleluya, Aleluya, Resucito.

Vs. With him then, die and live with him then,
Rise and sing our hymn then, sing alleluia!

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 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, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

SERMON: REV. KIM STERNER

HYMN OF THE DAY : ELW 671 “SHINE, JESUS, SHINE”

Refrain



Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;



blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.



Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;



send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!



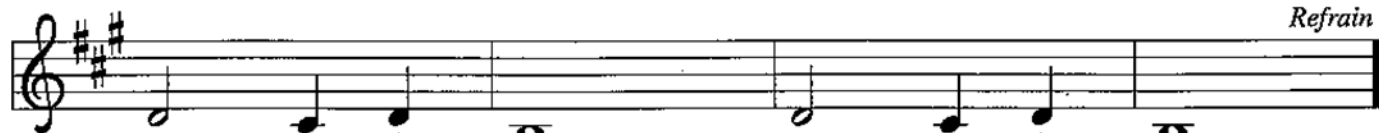
1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, so our fac - es dis -



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,



set us free by the truth you now bring us.
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.



Shine on me, shine on me:
Shine on me, shine on me:

Refrain

PROFESSION OF FAITH

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick (*especially*). Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

P: 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.**

The Meal

OFFERTORY / OFFERTORY MUSIC

“READY THE WAY”

B

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

[THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE] (NUMBER 4)

P

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

Now, Father, we ask you to bless the food we are about to receive, that it would nourish and strengthen us to serve you with our lives until we share that glorious and eternal banquet which you have prepared for us. And as he said a prayer before sharing, let us do so too. **Holy God, gratitude, praise, hearts lifted high, voices full and joyful - these you deserve.**

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks...

Remembering his love for us on the way,
at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

With all your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of grace. Receive the Risen Lord

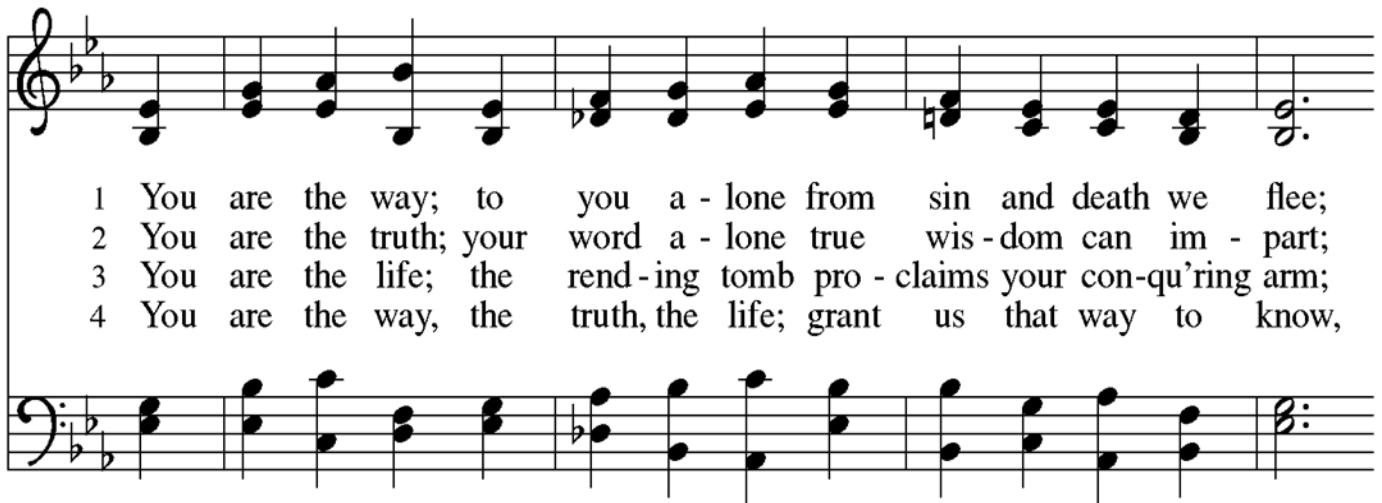
LAMB OF GOD

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

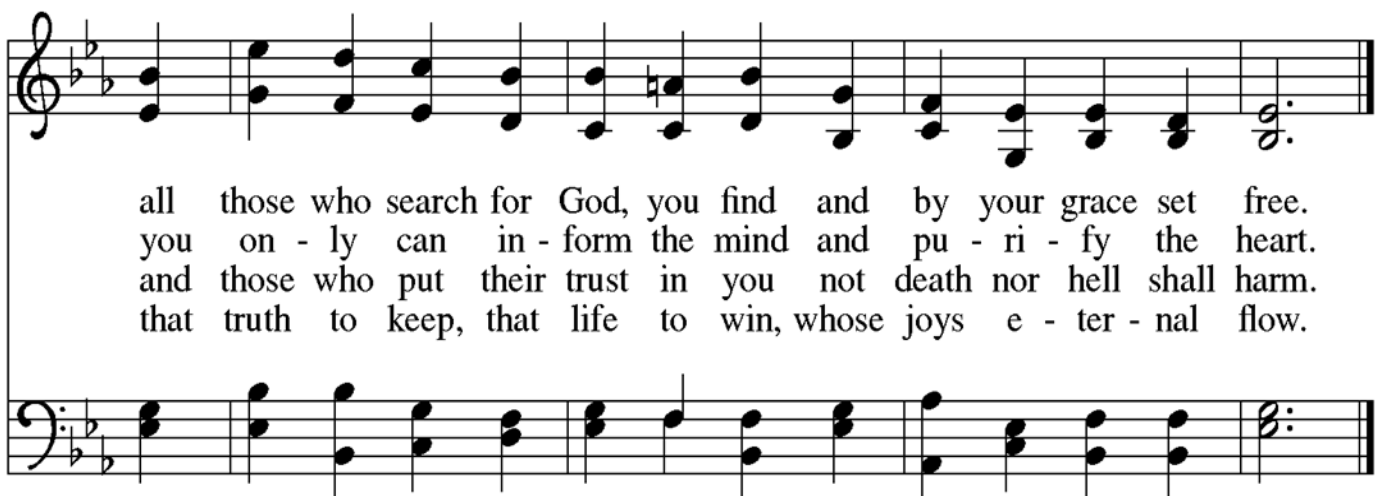
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG: : ELW 758 "YOU ARE THE WAY"



1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

ELW 818 "O MASTER, LET ME WALK WITH YOU"

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

PASTORAL BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

Holy One

through this meal you have made your home among us

and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus, Amen.

The Sending

BENEDICTION:

P God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: ELW 543 *“GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING”*

DISMISSAL:

P God in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."