The Worship of God

at St. John Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026 | 10:30AM

Welcome!

No matter who you are
or where you are on life's
journey you are welcome here.

Communion elements are all gluten-free and non-alcoholic. Please let an usher know if you prefer to stay seated and/or if you would prefer a pre-packaged portion.

Assistive listening devices are available at the Welcome Table.
Nursery (Room 103) for children under 6 with parents/guardians only. No staff provided.
Offering plates are in the front and back of the Church.
Sign Language Interpretation is available in the front.
Restrooms are through the single doors in the front.
The people rise in body or spirit at this sign:
The people's responses are in **bold print**.
Masks are optional.

Allen Fluent, preacher; Lonnie Fields, liturgist; Brandon Stroup, director of music, piano.

MUSIC AS WE GATHER AND LIGHT THE CANDLES — Adeline Palm, acolyte

No, Not One - arranged by Faye Lopez

WELCOME & CHURCH MATTERS — Allen Fluent

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here.
Jesus didn't reject people. Neither do we.

You are invited to visit the Welcome Table in the back by the red banner.
Please fill out the INFORMATION CARD on the back of the pew in front of you and place it in an offering plate at the front or back as you leave.

MEDITATIVE MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP — Allen Fluent

I looked and heard the voice of angels,
thousands and thousands around God's throne, singing:
Worthy is the lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!
Then I heard every creature on earth and under the earth, and in the sea, singing:
To the one who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!

OPENING HYMN, 42 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Allen Fluent

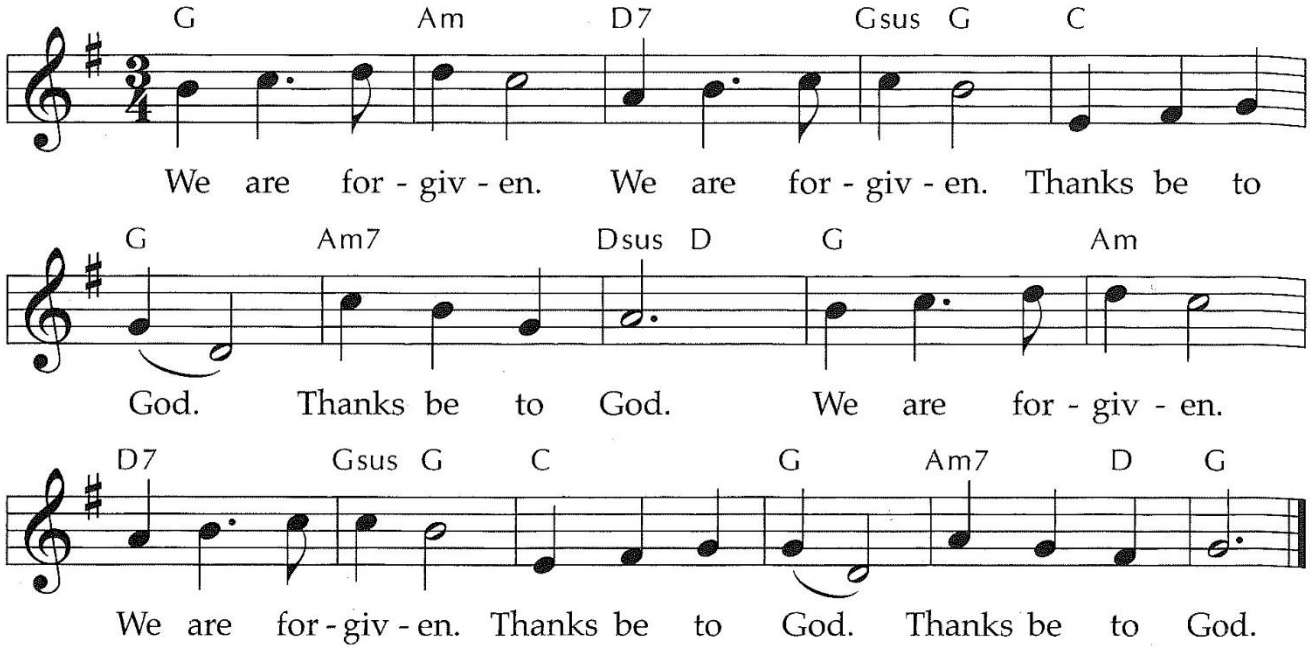
Let us confess our sin, trusting in God's grace.

Holy God, in the light of your glory we see the evil we have done, the suffering we have caused, the good we have refused, and the truth we have denied. Heal us of our sin, wash us in your mercy, and feed us with your grace, so that we may follow your way and tell the good news of the Gospel. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Rise up from the dust! Cast off the shroud of sorrow and put on the joy of God.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN RESPONSE *We Are Forgiven*



PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

(With a word, a smile, a handshake, an embrace, greet one another with the peace of Christ.)

MINISTRY OF MUSIC Brandon Stroup

Jesus Walks Along our Shoreline - words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

NEW TESTAMENT READING: REVELATION 5:11-14

(Page 248 – New Testament section of the pew Bible) Lonnie Fields

Here ends the reading inspired by God.
May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 21:1-19

(Page 115 – New Testament section of the pew Bible) Allen Fluent

Here ends the reading inspired by God.
May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *"WORTHY IS THE LAMB WHO WAS SLAIN"* Allen Fluent

HYMN, 172 *Jesus Call Us, o'er the Tumult*

AN AFFIRMATION Lonnie Fields

I believe in God, maker and re-maker of everything that is, in whom there is always more, and more to come. By God's wonder, work and will, even the dead find life.

I believe in Jesus Christ, maker and re-maker of tables and tales, in whom welcome is wide, feasting is free, and stories speak only of love. By his words, his weeping, and his wounds, even the lost are found.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, maker and re-maker of imagination, who sees over the horizon, beyond the end. By her urgency and fire, even the truth gets told.

Therefore, I believe that everything that dies can be reborn, all hidden things can come to light, all broken things can be remade, the empty larder can be filled, all promises gone stale and hard can taste like bread again.

And I believe that the old, old Story can be re-told to thrill sad hearts like rediscovered love; and even lost and frightened lambs like me can be retrieved, restored to courage, and declare the truth that makes the tyrants tumble and the captives free. This I believe. God help my unbelief.

AN INVITATION TO THE OFFERING Lonnie Fields

The offering in the early church was the bringing forth of the food for the fellowship meal. Now, like then, the offering of our gifts is for the nourishment of all. Let us celebrate all that we have to share.

(Offering plates are in the front and back of the Sanctuary. QR code to give online.)

Prayer of Dedication

God, we lay our gifts before you, made sacred by being shared and used in faithfulness and care. Amen.

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn, 349, v 1, 2 & 3 — *I Come with Joy*

Invitation — Allen Fluent

Eucharistic Prayer and Prayers of the People

God of abundant grace, **hear our prayer**.

The Lord's Prayer

Loving and beloved One, eternally present in our midst, may we know your sacred truth, and seek the goodness you desire for all the creatures of the earth. We ask for what we need to sustain us each day, and we pray that we may learn to share the rest. Teach us to forgive, so that we may learn to accept your forgiveness. And let us not be tempted by the anxious days to come. For the power of your love will rule our hearts forever. Amen

Words of Institution — Allen Fluent

Communion Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving — Allen Fluent

Communion Hymn, 349, v 4 & 5 — *I Come with Joy*

Benediction — Allen Fluent

Parting Music

'Will You Come and Follow Me – arranged by C.E. Walz

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Stay Connected at St. John Church!
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