

**Cross of Christ Lutheran Church**  
**204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN**  
**507-896-3102**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter Worship with Holy Communion**  
**New Member Sunday/Baptism/Noisy Offering Collection/FB**  
**May 3, 2026**



**Monday:** 2:00 Ruth Circle  
**Tuesday:**  
**Wednesday:**  
**Thursday:**  
**Friday:** Pastor's Day Off  
**Saturday:**  
**Sunday:** 9:30 am Sunday Worship Service w/Holy Communion/FB  
10:30 Coffee hr./S.C. Preservation mtg.

*Cross of Christ Mission Statement: As a fellowship of believers, it is our mission to joyfully proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed; inviting people to worship together, nurturing them in the Christian faith, loving one another and serving a world in need.*

## Prelude

## Ringling of the Church Bell

## Announcements

### Gathering Song: ELW #558 “Lord God, We Praise You”

1 Lord God, we praise you, now the night is over,  
active and watchful, standing here before you;  
singing, we offer prayer and meditation;  
thus we adore you.

2 Monarch of all things, fit us for your mansions;  
banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending;  
bring us to heaven, where your saints united  
joy without ending.

3 All-holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,  
Trinity blessed, send us your salvation;  
yours is the glory, gleaming and resounding  
through all creation.

### Reading: Acts 7:55-60

<sup>55</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup> 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. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> 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.

R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

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

<sup>2</sup> **Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

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

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

<sup>16</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.”

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **Gospel: John 14:1-14**

P: The holy Gospel according to John. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> 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? <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place 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 know me, you will know 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 we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup> 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’? <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, 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, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Dana Jackson**

## Hymn of the Day ELW #697 "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

(Refrain)

**Just a closer walk with thee,  
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;  
daily walking close to thee,  
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

1 I am weak but thou art strong:  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
as I walk, let me walk close to thee. **R**

2 Through this world of toil and snares,  
if I falter, Lord, who cares? Who with me  
my burden shares? None but thee,  
dear Lord, none but thee. **R**

3 When my feeble life is o'er,  
time for me will be no more;  
guide me gently, safely o'er  
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. **R**

## The Holy Baptism of Lincoln Niel

God gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ.

Parents and sponsors who do you present to be baptized?

**We present Lincoln Niel.**

Parents called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ? **I do.**

You are entrusted with the responsibilities of bringing **Lincoln Niel** to worship, teaching him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. To teach him how to pray, to read the scriptures, to trust God and to care for others through word and deed. Do you promise to help **Lincoln Niel** to grow in the Christian faith and life? **I do.**

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture your God-child, **Lincoln Niel** in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit? **I do.**

People of God, do you promise to support **Lincoln Niel** and pray for him in his life in Christ? **We do.**

Parents and Sponsors I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the forces that defy God, the devil, the powers of this world that rebel against God and the ways of sin? **I renounce them.**

Along with the congregation let us confess our faith.  
Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.**

### Baptism

**Lincoln Niel**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Congregation:* **You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.**

### Sign of the Cross

**Lincoln Niel**, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

### Candle

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

### Congregational Welcome

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized. C: **We welcome you into the body of Christ.**

### Gift of Quilt

### **Prayers of Intercession:**

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

## Noisy Offering Collection

### Offering Collection

#### Offertory “Let the Vineyards be Fruitful”

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

### Words of Institution

#### The Lord’s Prayer

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

### First Communion: Holdyn Lund

#### Invitation to Communion

*Congregation Response: All are welcome.*

*The Distribution (Please sign the pew pad.)*

**Communion Hymns: 471, 742, 779, 759**

**Sending Song: ELW #389 “Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing” vs 1,4&5**

1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

4 Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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**Thank You for helping with the service today:**

Organist: Gayle Smith

Choir Director: Jake Olson

Reader: Lynn Meyer

Communion: Lynn Meyer, Ellen

Hongerholt, Denise Rostad

Usher: Duane Hegland

**Baptized today is Lincoln Niel, son of K-LaRae Christensen and Devin Williamson.**

Lincoln's sponsors for baptism are Grace Fay & Brady Williamson.

**Announcements**

**Summer Worship Schedule**

8:30am Sunday Morning Worship at the Stone Church followed by coffee hour.

May 24 Memorial Day- September 6 Labor Day

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month Noisy Offering

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month Non-Communion Worship & Caring Collection

June 21 Caring Collection Mac & Cheese, Spaghetti Sauce

July 19 Caring Collection Cereal (please no Cheerios)

August 16 Caring Collection Peanut Butter & Jelly