

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla  
Worship Service for the Fifth Sunday of Easter**

*May 7, 2023*

**Pre-Service Music**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

**Introit #301:**

*Let Us Build a House (All are Welcome)*

**Call to Worship**

We come together as the church;

**not a building of wood or stone, but a spiritual house.**

We will be the living stones that shout praise even when others are silent.

**God redeems us, joins us together, and builds us up.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**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 of the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #301:**

*All Are Welcome vs. 3, 4, 5*

(please stand)

**Call to Confession**

Jesus taught us mercy,

**by praying for the forgiveness of those who killed him.**

This miraculous grace assures us that no matter what we have done,  
and no matter the words we have left unsaid,

**We can come to Christ with our honest confession.**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Christ, our way, our truth, our life, you have shown us the way, so clearly and fully. You have not simply told us how to live, you have shown us. But we still don't get it. We do not believe all you have said to us; we do not trust**

**the way you have shown us. Help us, O God. Forgive us. Open our ears to your truth, open our eyes to your way. Amen**

**Declaration of Pardon**

Beloved, believe the good news.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Jesus prepares a place for us, Jesus brings us close to him,  
Jesus answers us even in our unbelief.

**We are God's own people. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Glory to God #582:**

**Anthem:** *Remember Me*

**Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.**

**Prayers of the People**

*Worship leader will lead the prayers.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world,  
and all in need.

God of life, strengthen your church to proclaim your gospel even in times of trouble. As we remember Stephen, we give thanks for diaconal ministry. Bless all deacons and strengthen them for their bridge-building ministry between church and world.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

**Dedication of Tithes and Offerings**

(please stand)

**Offering #708:** *We Give Thee but Thine Own vs. 1 and 2*

### **Prayer of Dedication:**

**God of good gifts, receive these and all of our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Through the grace of God we have gifts in abundance and share them to support the work of the church in this place. Amen.**

### **Scriptures for the Day**

**First Lesson:** Acts 7:55 - 60

**Epistle Lesson:** 1 Peter 2:2 - 10

**Gospel Lesson:** John 14: 1 - 14

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** *The Journey, The Destination*

Jonathan Kimball

**Communion Hymn #500:** *Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread (seated)*

### **Invitation to the Table and Prayer of Thanksgiving**

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!  
People will come from north and south, from east and west,  
to sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, blessed it, and broke it and gave it to them.

Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust in him to share the feast that he has prepared.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right and our great delight to praise you, O God.

We thank you for your steadfast love in spite of our human sin. We join with the heavenly choirs and the faithful of every time and place to sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, while eating with his disciples, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said: Take, eat. This is my body. Then took a cup and after giving thanks he gave it to them saying, "Drink from it all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising  
you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

According to Christ's commandment:

**We remember his death,  
we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen**

Let us pray:

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the  
power and the glory, forever. Amen**

### **Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.

Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches.

Come to me and never be hungry;

believe in me and never thirst.  
The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.** *(take the communion)*

### **Prayer After Communion**

**Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn #543:** *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me* v. 1, 2, 4, 5 (please stand)

**Benediction:** (remain standing)

God bless you and keep you, Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen**

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord.**

### **Postlude**

*Congregational Meeting to follow the postlude.*

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Jeff Sandquist and William Owen. Worship led by Maudanne Pursley and sermon provided by Jonathan Kimball.*

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