

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY  
Mills River, North Carolina

The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 3, 2026

Sacred Place +++ Sacred Space



Please observe silence after the Altar candles are lit


PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *The Church of Christ in Every Age*  
Tune Arr. Verlene Schermer

PRELUDE *My Savior's Love* Mary McDonald  
*A bell rings three times; the people stand.*

*Hymns and service music are found in the blue 1982 Hymnals (H) and the purple Glory to God hymnals (GTG) They are in the racks under the chairs.*

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE HYMN *H# 518 Christ is made the sure foundation*



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and  
2 All that ded - i - cat - ed ci - ty, dear - ly loved of  
3 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of  
4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,  
God on high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion  
Hosts, to - day; with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness  
thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in  
hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est  
with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.  
Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.  
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way,  
in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

*LEVAS #13 My Lord, What a Morning*

Refrain

My Lord, what a morn-ing, My Lord what a morn-ing, O  
my Lord, what a morn - ing, When the stars be - gin to fall.  
3. You'll hear the Chris - tian shout, To wake the na - tions un - der - ground.  
To Refrain  
Look - ing to my God's right hand, When the stars be - gin to fall.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **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, O 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>Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your lovingkindness save me.

### SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and

precious in God's sight, and 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. 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." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," 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. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 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.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

**SEQUENCE HYMN**

*GTG# 634 To God be the Glory*

To God be the glory; great things he has done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory: great things he has done!

Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer and higher and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. *Refrain*

**GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**

*Deacon*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.

*People*            Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus told his disciples,] “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 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? 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. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 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’? 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. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. 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. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**THE SERMON**    *Rev. Tammy Bales*

### **THE NICENE CREED**

**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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Brothers and sisters, grace to you and peace from Jesus Christ. The Lord has redeemed us; let us rejoice and be glad, saying, "You are our God; ... and we thank you."

*Celebrant* Receive these prayers, O God, and transform us through them, that we may have eyes to see and hearts to understand not only what you do on our behalf, but what you call us to do so that your realm will come to fruition in glory. **Amen.**

### THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

**GATHERING** *GTG #614 Come into God's Presence*

Come into God's presence singing "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."

Come into God's presence singing "Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord."

Praise the Lord together singing "Worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb."

Praise the Lord together singing "Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God."

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

#### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

**OFFERTORY** *We Come to You for Healing Lord* *Mary McDonald*

## PRESENTATION HYMN

### *GTG# 608 Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all  
people here below; praise Holy Spirit ever -  
more; praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.  
*People*            And also with you.  
*Celebrant*        Lift up your hearts.  
*People*            We lift them to the Lord.  
*Celebrant*        Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*            It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## SANCTUS

*S 128 Holy, holy, holy*

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring

us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

#### FRACTION ANTHEM

*S 154 Christ our Passover*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### COMMUNION INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*(The bread and wine are given to the people. Please indicate that you would prefer a gluten-free wafer by placing your hands with palms together when you come up to receive Communion.)*

COMMUNION HYMN

GTG# 250 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what is holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at last a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION HYMN *H# 484 Praise the Lord through every nation*

1 Praise the Lord through ev - ery na - tion; his ho - ly  
 2 Je - sus, Lord, our Cap - tain glo - rious, o'er sin, and  
 arm hath wrought sal - va - tion; ex - alt him on his  
 death, and hell vic - to - rious, wis - dom and might to  
 Fa - ther's throne. Praise your King, ye Chris - tian le -  
 thee be - long; we con - fess, pro - claim, a - dore

gions, who now pre - pares in heaven - ly re -  
thee; we bow the knee, we fall be - fore

gions un - fail - ing man - sions for his own: with  
thee; thy love hence - forth shall be our song. The

voice and min - strel - sy ex - tol his ma - jes -  
cross mean-while we bear, the crown ere-long to

ty: Al - le - lu - ia! His praise shall sound all  
wear: Al - le - lu - ia! Thy reign ex - tend world

na - ture round, and hymns on ev - ery tongue a - bound.  
with - out end; let praise from all to thee a - scend.

## DISMISSAL/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Gentle Yoga with Kelly, Fri. 9am, May 8, 15, 22, and 29  
Women's Group, Sat. May 9, 10:00 am  
Choir Practice, Sun. May 17, 9:30 am  
Vestry Meeting, Sun. May 17, 12:15pm  
Grill and Chill, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 5:00 pm at the Heck's

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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