

I AM THE

way

THE

truth

AND
THE

life

NO ONE COMES TO
THE FATHER EXCEPT
THROUGH ME

JOHN 14:6

*New Life Ev. Lutheran Church
Lake Zurich, IL*

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

*Vacancy Pastor Steve Radunzel / Pastor Thomas Schultz
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**Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026**

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the lower level of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the fellowship hall after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon. The service is also simulcast on the church's Facebook page.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

Before Service Prayer:

Almighty God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, is the way, and the truth, and the life. We bless You for His saving work and for the comfort that He brings to troubled hearts. Help us to be faithful to Him to death and so to receive life eternal. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Today's Service: "Service of the Word" NPH reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #11327771.

Today's Theme:

*What Difference Does It Make?
He Lives To Be The Only Way To Heaven*

Without the resurrection of Jesus, I would have to wonder if he wasn't just a human being. If my last view of him is a criminal crucified on a cross, he would look like someone to be rejected. He couldn't even help himself, much less anyone else!

But he lives, and it makes a difference. He is the only way to heaven. This gospel message is the most inclusive message in the world. The benefits of the resurrection of Jesus are meant for every man, woman, and child who has ever lived.

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: CW 914 "Christ is Our Cornerstone" (CW93 528)

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 27:1; 147:11; 104:24a, 31a; Isaiah 2:5b

P: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

C: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

P: The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him,

C: in those who hope in His steadfast love.

P: O Lord, how manifold are Your works!

C: In wisdom have You made them all.

P: May the glory of the Lord endure forever.

C: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Confession and Absolution

P: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

C: O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.

P: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C: Amen.

P: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Pastor: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six lines of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The final line of music ends with a double bar line.

The Greeting

P: The Lord be with you!

C: **And also with you!**

The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Acts 4:8-12 – St. Peter explains that Jesus is the only person in whom salvation is found.

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ Jesus is

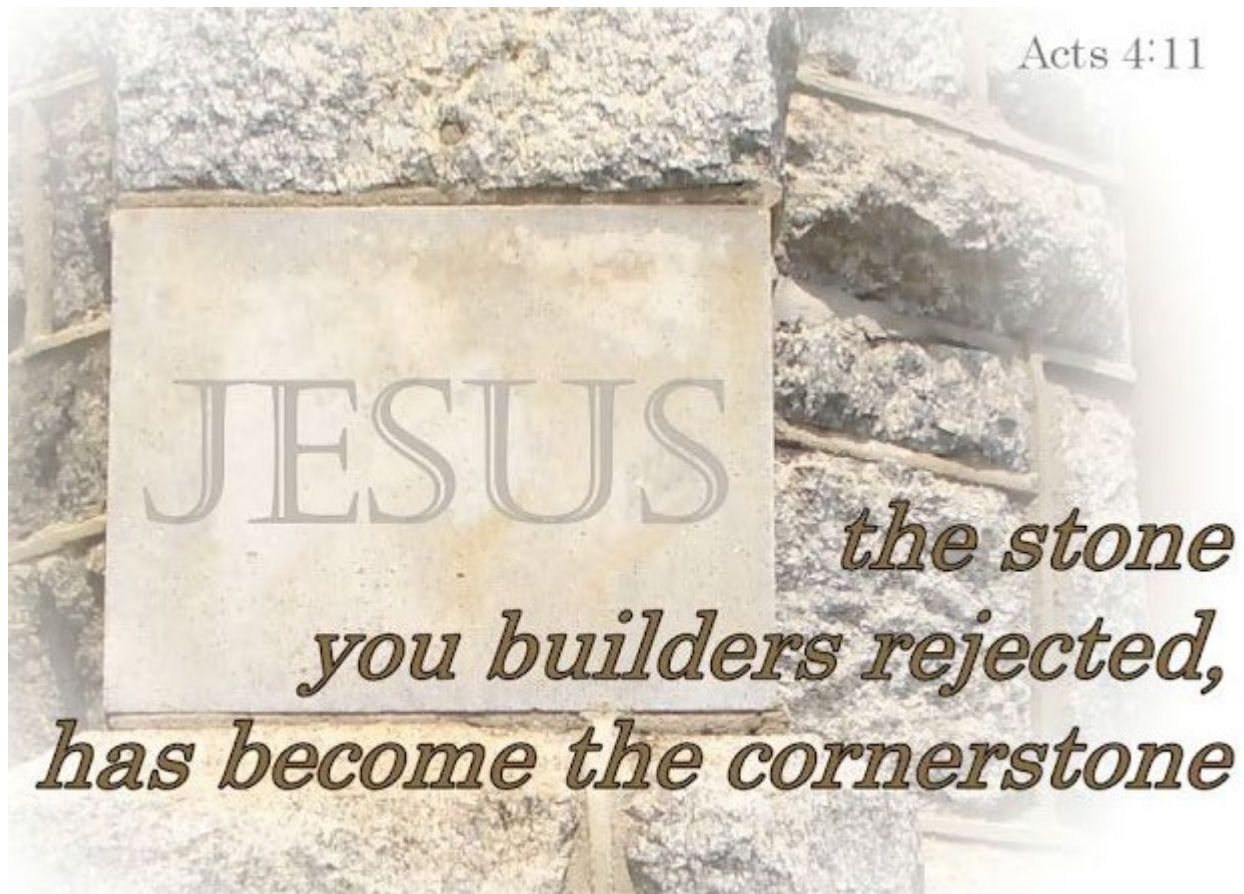
“the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone.”^[a]

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

(NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!



Psalm 118

Refrain

This is the day the Lord has made, let us re-
joyce and be glad! This is the day the
Lord has made, let us re-joyce and be glad!

Psalm tone

The LORD is my strength and my song;*
he has become my salvation.

The LORD's right hand is lifted high;*
the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!

I will not die but live,*
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

Refrain

I will give you thanks, for you answered me;*
you have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;*
the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;*
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

The Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:4-10 – People stumble over the claim that Jesus is the only way to heaven. But that truth is the cornerstone on which Christ builds his Church.

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house^[a] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”^[b]

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”^[c]

⁸ and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”^[d]

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

(NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the fourteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

The Gospel Lesson: **John 14:1-11** – Jesus teaches that the only way to draw near to God the Father is through God the Son.

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”

⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

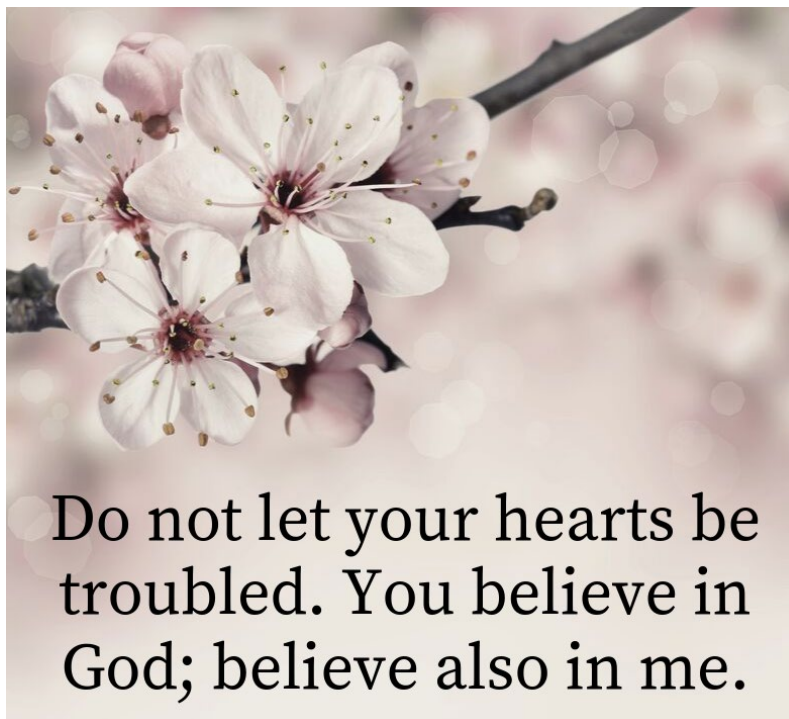
⁹ Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. (NIV 2011)

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: **CW 698** “Seek Where You May to Find a Way” (CW93 395)



The Sermon John 14:1-11 – *If You Know Jesus, You Know God – and the Way*

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Offering

The ushers will gather the offering which will then be placed on the Lord's Altar. Offerings can also be given electronically by using your smart phone and the QR code which takes you to the donation part of New Life's website.



Prayer or the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, through the power of Christ's resurrection You adopt all who believe in Him. Receive us as Your newborn children and nourish our faith through the pure spiritual milk of Your Word, that we may dwell in Your presence forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Send laborers into Your harvest, Lord. Preserve Your ministers among us devoted to Your Word and to prayer. Give many servants to Your Church, that neither the preaching nor the care of Your people may fall into neglect or disregard. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful Lord, help parents to raise up their children to know You as their help and hope, that they may not put their trust in princes in whom there is no salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy God, Your power brought all things into being and still preserves what You have made. Bless our president; the Congress of the United States; our governor; and all elected and appointed civil servants. Lead them to honor You and Your purpose, establishing order and justice, encouraging virtue, and protecting all life. Give them wisdom and moderation to lead for the well-being of the nation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Father of glory, Your Son declared Himself to be the way, the truth and the life. Bless all who have requested our prayers. May Christ Himself be their way of salvation, their truth amid doubt and their life amid death. Grant them a sure and steadfast hope in the good news that He has prepared a place for them with You, where pain and sickness are no more and all things are made new. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, we thank and praise You for Your servant Stephen, whom Your Son has received into His glory. May we imitate him in faith and love to speak Your truth with boldness, forgiving those who sin against us as Christ forgave His persecutors from the cross. When our last hour comes, let us fall asleep in Him and be born into eternal life, for the sake of Him who was born into our flesh to redeem it, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C: Amen.

Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

Closing Collect

P: Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage and a hope that cannot be extinguished, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us, Your love supporting us and Your Son abiding with us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: **CW 816** "I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus" (CW93 446)

The Announcements

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Daugherty/Dundore

Today— Fifth Sunday of Easter Divine Service at 9:30 AM
Fellowship at 10:30 AM
Adult Bible Study and Sunday School at 10:45 AM
Branch Connection Spring Banquet at Noon
Zoom Confirmation Class at 5:00 PM

Tuesday—Church Council Meeting at 6:30 PM

Next Sunday— Mother's Day Breakfast at 8:30 AM
Sixth Sunday of Easter Communion Service at 9:30 AM
Fellowship at 10:30 AM
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM
Zoom Confirmation Class at 5:00 PM

HYMN PRACTICE

Next Sunday (May 10th), the church congregation will sing the hymn "Christ Begins" (hymn 385 in the blue hymnal). It is a beautiful hymn about Christ's ministry. The tune can be a bit tricky at first, so if anyone would like to practice it, you may do so immediately following today's church service – it will only take about 5-10 minutes at most.

SPRING BANQUET

The Ladies Branch Connection Spring Banquet is today at noon. There will be a luncheon followed by a craft activity. All women and girls are invited. We hope to see you there!

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

The Church Council cordially invites all mothers (and everyone else) to attend a delicious Mother's Day Breakfast on Sunday, May 10th at 8:30 AM. Be sure to invite mom family members and friends as well!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Radunzel is beginning a new Bible study on First and Second Thessalonians today, so it is a great time to join the class and learn more about God's Word. The class meets in the upstairs Café area around 10:45 AM.

NEW LANDSCAPING COMPANY

Spring has arrived and our church grounds are alive with verdant greens and other spring colors. Fred Starck's granddaughter's husband's company, JM Hardscapes, is now providing landscaping services for the church. The company provides a wide range of helpful services. For more information, call John Matlachowski at JM Hardscapes – 847-532-1637.

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AVAILABLE

Finding it difficult to read small print? Could your eyes appreciate a break? Four copies of the large print version of the hymnal are now available for use. These will be located on the table to your left as you enter the chapel. Pick one up or ask an usher for one to use during the service. Please return it after the service. These were purchased with the remaining donations for the 2021 Christian Worship hymnals and resource books. If you would like a copy for home use, they can be purchased through Northwestern Publishing House.

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET

Volunteers are needed to provide something to eat and drink after Sunday services. Fellowship snacks do not need to be “fancy” or a huge spread of food – just some cookies or a coffee cake would be great. We are thankful for anything that is provided! A sign-up sheet is posted in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider signing up for a slot. The sheet covers the months of April through June.

VACANCY

During the vacancy Pastor Steven Radunzel will be here on Sundays and Pastor Tom Schultz will cover any ministry needs that arise during the week.