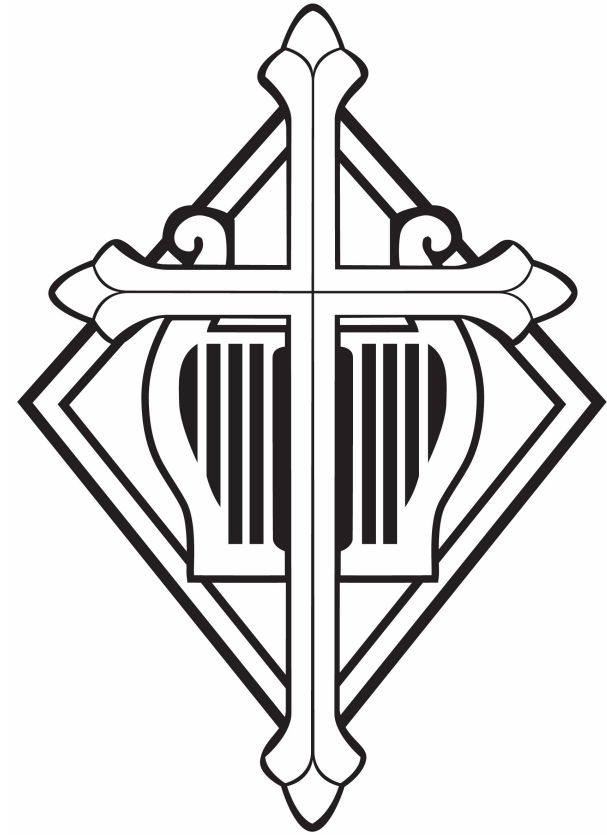


Old Testament Connections

The period of the Judges has been called the *Dark Age* of Israel. God still loved His people and in order to prevent them from falling too far, He caused these heathen neighbors to oppress His own nation. Times of adversity turned the Israelites to their loving Father. In order to save them and restore times of prosperity, during this 300-year-long era God raised up a series of Judges. Some of the best known were Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson and the last and greatest of all, Samuel. Gideon was one of the earlier judges, during whose lifetime Israel was oppressed by the Midianites, who were descendants of Abraham not by Sarah but by his second wife Keturah (following the death of Sarah); these sons of Abraham always lived apart from Isaac and his descendants. The Midianites were those to whom Joseph was sold by his brothers. Gideon grew up in the midst of idolatrous worship, his own family having an altar dedicated to Baal and a pole dedicated to the goddess Asherah (Judges 6:25). His hesitant, reluctant obedience of God shows how sin, unchecked, takes an ever greater hold on individuals and entire communities. Instead of speaking God's Word and promises from generation to generation, parents may leave a legacy of unbelief and false worship. Yet Gideon's deliverance of the Israelites through an army of only 300 also is a preview of His victory on the cross, "for the message of the cross is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1:18). (From "Old Testament History: A Survey of the Old Testament" by Arthur W. Klinck, Concordia Publishing House, 1938; and other Lutheran sources.)

Parkland Ev. Lutheran Church
CANTATE | FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Sing! Worship



May 3, 2026 – 9:30 AM | Rite I (p. 41)

You may find the "Prayers for Worship" on page 40 helpful for your preparation for the Divine Service.

I. THE SERVICE OF PREPARATION

* Indicates the congregation may stand.

1. The Opening Prayer p. 41

*2. The Entrance Hymn

#56 - Ye Lands, to the Lord

*3. The Confession of Sin p. 41 *Form II*

*4. The Kyrie Eleison p. 42-43

*5. The Absolution p. 43 *Form II*

*6. The Gloria in Excelsis Deo p. 44-45

*7. The Salutation & *8. The Collect of the Day p. 45

Let us pray: O God, You make the minds of the faithful to be of one will: Grant unto Your people that they may love what You command and desire what You promise; that among the manifold changes of this world our hearts may always be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. ♪ C: Amen.

II. THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

10. Gradual (*Sung responsively, a cappella*)



P: The LORD is my `strength and my song/
And He has become `my Salvation.

C: **The Right Hand of the LORD `is exalted;/**
The Right Hand of the LORD `does valiantly.

P: Christ, having been raised from the dead, `dies no more./
Death no longer has domin`ion over Him.

C: **Alleluia! Christ, our Passover is sa`crificed for us./**
Therefore let us keep the feast. `Alleluia!

***29. The Collect of Thanksgiving** p. 56

***30. The Benediction** p. 56 - 57

31. The Closing Hymn

#51 - All People That on Earth Do Dwell

32. The Closing Prayer p. 57

✠ *The Light of Christ goes with us into the world* ✠
to shine through our vocations.

✠ ✠ ✠

11. The Epistle: James 1:16-21

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ^(ESV)

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Alleluia Hymn

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

***12. The Holy Gospel: St. John 16:5-15**

[Jesus said:] "But now I am going to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see Me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is Mine; therefore I said that He will take what is Mine and declare it to you." ^(ESV)

P: This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

♪ **C: God be praised for His glad tidings.**

***13. The Nicene Creed** p. 47

14. The Chief Hymn

#379 - Jesus, Jesus, Only Jesus
stanzas 1-4

15. The Sermon: Judges 7:1-7; 16-21

Rev. Matthew Lehne

Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the spring of Harod. And the camp of Midian was north of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

The Lord said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over Me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.' Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.'" Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained.

And the Lord said to Gideon, "The people are still too many. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' shall go with you, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' shall not go." So he brought the people down to the water. And the Lord said to Gideon, "Every one who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set by himself. Likewise, every one who kneels down to drink." And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men, but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink water. And the Lord said to Gideon, "With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home." ...

And he divided the 300 men into three companies and put trumpets into the hands of all of them and empty jars, with torches inside the jars. And he said to them, "Look at me, and do likewise. When I come to the outskirts of the camp, do as I do. When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then blow the trumpets also on every side of all the camp and shout, 'For the Lord and for Gideon.'"

So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just set the watch. And they blew the trumpets and smashed the jars that were in their hands. Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the jars. They held in their left hands

the torches, and in their right hands the trumpets to blow. And they cried out, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" Every man stood in his place around the camp, and all the army ran. They cried out and fled. (ESV)

The Chief Hymn

#379 - Jesus, Jesus, Only Jesus
stanza 5

***16. The Prayer of the Church** p. 48-49

***17. The Apostolic Benediction** p. 49

18. The Offering & The Offering Hymn

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee
Gladly, freely, of Thine own.

With the sunshine of Thy goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by Thee, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive. (#459:2)

III. THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Those who commune today have informed the pastors prior to the service. If you are not a Lutheran in our fellowship (ELS/WELS) and would like to commune with us in the future, please speak with one of the pastors.

22. The Exhortation p. 52

***19. The Preface** p. 50 & ***20. Proper Preface** p. 51

The appropriate Seasonal Preface can be found on pages 74-75.

***21. The Sanctus** p. 51f & ***23. The Lord's Prayer** p. 53

***24. The Words of Institution** p. 54 & ***25. The Agnus Dei** p. 55

26. The Distribution & Hymns & 27. The Dismissal p. 56

#378 - Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice
stanzas 1,5 - Sunday School Choir
stanzas 6-10 - Congregation

#310 - At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
stanzas 1-4

#327 - O Lord, We Praise Thee