

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

**Please stand as you are comfortable*

· UMH ~ United Methodist Hymnal (hard cover hymnal)

· FWS ~ The Faith We Sing (soft cover hymnal)

Announcements and greetings

*The assembly responds or joins in unison when our text is **bold**.*

Centering Words:

Extol the one who lifts us up and upholds us when we are discouraged. Give thanks to God who turns mourning into dancing.

Prelude

Berceuse, op. 31 no. 19

Vierne

Call to worship:

Give thanks to God's holy name.

We praise God for the joyous gift of a new day.

Praise the one who upholds us when we are discouraged.

God lifts our souls from despair.

Praise God who hears our cries and answers our prayers.

We believe God is working to make us whole.

*Opening Hymn

And Can It Be that I Should Gain

· UMH # 363

1.

And can it be that I should gain

An interest in the Savior's blood?

Died He for me, who caused His pain?

For me, who Him to death pursued?

Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me?

Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me!

2.

'Tis mystery all! Th'Immortal dies!

Who can explore His strange design?

In vain the firstborn seraph tries

To sound the depths of love divine!

'Tis mercy all! let earth adore, Let angel minds inquire no more.

'Tis mercy all! let earth adore, Let angel minds inquire no more.

3.

He left His Father's throne above,

So free, so infinite His grace;

Emptied Himself of all but love,

And bled for Adam's helpless race;

'Tis mercy all, immense and free; For, O my God, it found out me.

'Tis mercy all, immense and free; For, O my God, it found out me.

4.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay

Fast bound in sin and nature's night;

Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,

**I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth and followed Thee.**

5.

**No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head, And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 363

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739

Music: Thomas Campbell, 1835

Opening Prayer: In Unison

Come to us as a light from heaven, O God. Pierce the shadows of doubt and despair, anger and scorn, that we allow to rule in our lives. Turn us from ways that deny your rule among us. Awaken us from dull routines to worship that is alive with awe and wonder, spontaneity, and joy. Surprise us with a presence we cannot avoid, a summons we dare not evade, a mission we may not escape. We are gathered by the love of Christ, that we may feed others as we have been fed. Amen.

New Testament Reading: **Acts 9:1-6**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalter: **Psalm 30** Responsively with Sung Response

·UMH page 762

Musical Response:

**For the night weeping may tarry;
with the morning light comes joy.**

¹ I will extol you, O Lord, for you have lifted me up,
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

² **O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you healed me.**

³ O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the pit.

Musical Response

⁴ Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.

⁵ **Surely the Lord's anger is but for a moment;
the Lord's favor is for a lifetime.**

Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

⁶ **As for me, I said in my prosperity,
"I shall never be moved."**

⁷ By your favor, O Lord,
you had established me as a strong mountain;
you hid your face;

I was dismayed.

Musical Response

8 To you, O Lord, I cried,
and to the Lord I made supplication:

9 **“What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the pit?**

Will the dust praise you?

Will it tell of your faithfulness?

10 **Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me!
O Lord, be my helper!”**

11 You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have lossed my sackcloth
and girded me with gladness,

12 that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Musical Response

Special Music

By the rivers of Babylon, BWV 653

Bach

New Testament Reading: **Revelation 5:11-14**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Reading: **John 21:1-19**

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Hymn of Preparation

Whom Shall I Send?

♫ UMH # 582

1.

**Whom shall I send? our Maker cries; And many when they hear God's voice,
Are sure where their vocation lies; But many shrink from such a choice.**

2.

**For who can serve a God so pure, Or claim to speak in such a name,
While doubt makes every step unsure, And self confuses every aim?**

3.

**And yet, believing, God who calls Knows what we are and still may be,
Our past defeats, our future falls, We dare to answer: Lord, send me!**

4.

**Those who are called God purifies, And daily gives us strength to bend
Our thoughts, our skills, our energies, And life itself to this one end.**

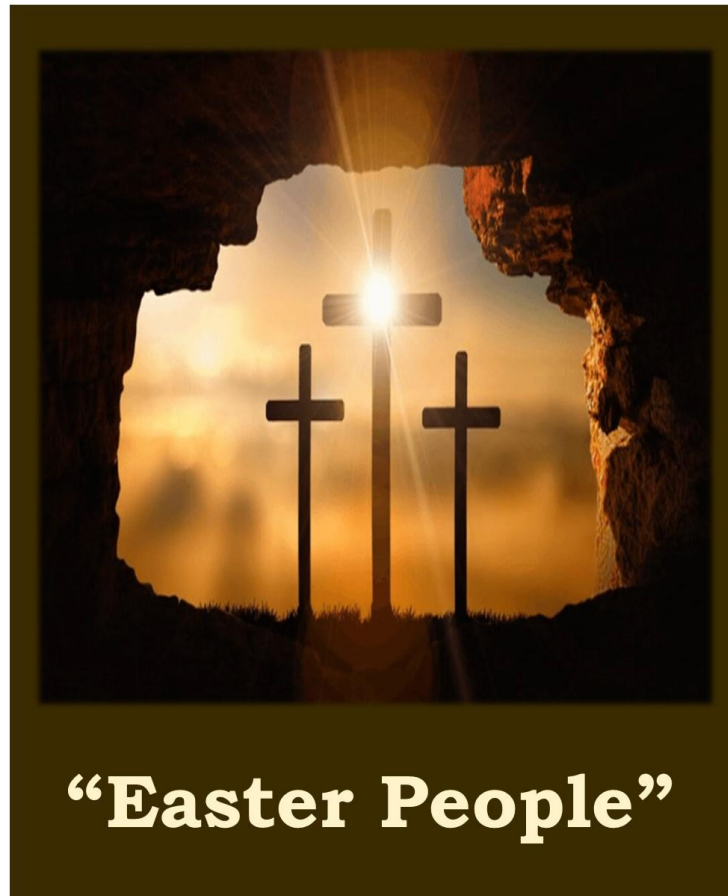
The United Methodist Hymnal Number 582

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1970

Music: Grenoble Antiphoner, 1753; adapt. by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906; harm. by Basil Harwood, 1908

Words © 1971 Hope Publishing Co.

Used by permission CCLI 673591



“Easter People”

Hymn of Response

Amazing Grace

[♯] UMH # 378

1.

**Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.**

2.

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**

3.

**Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

4.

**The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

5.

**Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease:
I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace.**

6.

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession: In unison

Loving God, we admit to attitudes that exclude rather than embrace. We prefer to associate with others who think and act as we do. We turn away from those who are different from us. We identify some as enemies to be avoided or even destroyed. Forgive us, God, for seeking to limit your family. Awaken us to the limits of our understanding and the narrowness of our dealings. Show us the better ways intend and make us bold to respond, we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Let us pause for a moment of quiet confession.

Words of assurance:

God is claiming you as a beloved servant. Warm to the community that surrounds you. You are forgiven, claimed, and sent.

Invitation to the Offering:

Our offerings involve all who give. They empower those who serve. They express our praise and thanksgiving while witnessing to the reign of love in our midst.

Please submit your offering as you feel led by placing it in the plates on the altar railing, or text your gift to 833-756-0325, or on our website: www.elyriafirstumc.org.

Offertory

"Vexilla Regis" from Stations of the Cross

Liszt

Offertory Prayer: In Unison

We bring our offerings to feed your lambs and tend your sheep, gracious God. Let them provide outreach to the world and opportunities for growth within this congregation. Help us focus on what is important, that we may work together to make a difference in the world. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Christ Is Risen

[♯] UMH # 307

1.

Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.

In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

2.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.

Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.

Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

3.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.

Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.

Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"

God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 307

Words: Brian Wren, 1964

Music: Polish carol, arr. by Edith M. G. Reed, 1926

Words © 1986 Hope Publishing Co.

Used by permission CCLI 673591

Please be seated for closing announcements and the Benediction.

Benediction: Responsively

Rise and go where God directs you.

We will reach out to our neighbors with love.

Be alert to the needs of people you meet.

We will listen with compassion to those who suffer.

Blessed are those who believe without seeing or trust without proof.

We will follow where Christ leads us. Amen!

Postlude

Allegro con brio from Organ Sonata IV

Mendelssohn

Worship Participants

Preaching: Dr. Liz Piatt

Liturgist: Kim Foster

Media: David Wilm

Musicians: Kingsley Wood, Jack Roberts, and the Chancel Choir

Sound room: Neal Hubbard

Ushers and Greeters: Bill Buga, Roger and Janice McFrederick, and Mike Zahnke

Today's altar flowers are sponsored to honor our faithful music ministry: Kingsley, Jack, and the Chancel Choir.

If you are interested in joining our church family, or if you have any pastoral needs or prayer concerns, please call the church office at 440.322.6622.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035 440.322.6622

www.elyriafirstumc.org

An equal opportunity provider

Berceuse, op. 31 no. 19 by J.S. Bach. ***The Prayer*** by Carole Bayer Sager and David Foster. ***"Vexilla Regis" from Stations of the Cross*** by Franz Liszt. ***Allegro con brio from Organ Sonata IV*** by Felix Mendelssohn All songs are performed under license # 73591.

Third Street Review



May 18, 2025

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone: 440.322.6622

Email: church@elyriafirstumc.org

May Mission focus:

Golden Cross Sunday

Our May mission focus centers on continuing community mission efforts. Golden Cross raises awareness and support for health and welfare ministries for individuals of all ages and stages of life within the conference. Financial gifts will help support health and welfare ministries such as hospitals, community-service organizations, retirement communities, and agencies that serve persons with disabilities, children, youth, and families. On Golden Cross Sunday, God works through our prayers and support in acts of mercy to bless the lives of individuals of all ages and at all stages of life. Donations will be collected all month and can be made by cash, checks (indicate **Golden Cross** on the memo line) or online.

Scholarship Awards

The scholarship committee has received all of the applications for this year. We thank all those who applied and blessings upon the committee as they pray and discern the next steps. The 2025 First United Methodist Church Scholarships will be **awarded on Sunday, June 8th**.

Free Clothing Store

The Free Clothing Store is a labor of love! We thank all those who donated to the clothing store! And a special thank you to those who volunteer! We are now collecting **SPRING AND SUMMER clothing**. The store will be open on **Saturday, May 24th 10 am-12 pm**, please contact the church office at 440.322.6622 with questions or to volunteer.

Free Hygiene Store

Being open to the community and filling in the gap for many families is a blessing! We are grateful for your continued support of this much needed ministry. Our needs for May include:

- **Cleaning Supplies** (glass, bathroom, and toilet bowl cleaners)
- **Paper towels & Toilet paper**
- **Kids Toothbrush and toothpaste**
- **Shampoo & Conditioner** (dry shampoo too)
- **Body Lotion**
- **Laundry & Dish Soap**
- **Women's and men's Body wash, Deodorant, and Razors**
- **Baby wash and lotion**

Please place these items in the box located on the main level. Join us on **Saturday, May 24th from 10 am-12 pm!**

WEOL Update

We are making progress with WEOL! The technical staff with WEOL are working with us to utilize innovative solutions to get us back on the air. Thank you to Neal Hubbard who, with the pastor, has been diligently working with WEOL staff. We thank you for your patience and we

are moving forward in conversations with the new owners of WEOL about continuity of service.

Legacy of Generosity

Leaving a legacy of generosity to your church is one of the greatest gifts one can give. We are blessed to be the beneficiaries of a multi-million dollar gift left from the Dorothy Zahars estate. God has shown us favor and the investment committee is working together to ensure faithful stewardship is in place. The money received will be invested in a similar fashion as the endowment fund. Although there are no restrictions, it is our intention to use only the income from this gift, as invested, to meet the annual needs of our church, giving us a continued source of funds for the future of our church.

We are all to continue to do our part in growing our foundation and seeing the fruits of faithful labor. We thank God for the life, love, and legacy of Dorothy Zahars. Members of the Finance committee are available after church to answer any questions.

Community Breakfast

We are grateful for our faithful volunteers and those who cheerfully give to this much needed ministry. We are always in need of ***plastic bags and cutlery*** that are used weekly. Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping us serve in this vital ministry. If you want to donate plastic bags and cutlery, please bring them, and drop them in the donation box located on the main level.

Happy Tuesdays

Tuesdays are our time for fellowship, fun and lunch! Our traditional **Happy Hour** has concluded for the summer. We will resume the lunches in September on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays at noon in the Fellowship Hall**. On the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays**, we will continue to gather as **BYOL-Bring Your Own Lunch** with fun and fellowship supplied!

Happy Hour ~ returns in September

BYOL ~ May 20th

Open Sponsorship Dates

Altar Flower dates:

May 25; June 8, 22, and 29

Cost \$22

Please call the church office at 440.322.6622 to reserve your special date!

Scripture readings for the week:

Sunday, May 18: **Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35**

Monday, May 19: **Psalm 133; 1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42; Acts 11:19-26**

Tuesday, May 20: **Psalm 133; 2 Samuel 1:4-27; Acts 11:27-30**

Wednesday, May 21: **Psalm 133; Leviticus 19:9-18; Luke 10:25-28**

Thursday, May 22: **Psalm 67; Proverbs 2:1-5; Acts 15:36-41**

Friday, May 23: **Psalm 67; Proverbs 2:6-8; Acts 16:1-8**

Saturday, May 24: **Psalm 67; Proverbs 2:9-15; Luke 19:1-10**

Sunday, May 25: **Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5;**

John 14:23-29; John 5:1-9