

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2023
9:30 am



20300 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116
(440) 331-1773

The Rev. Marissa Harrison
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Website: GoodSoilLutheran.org
Facebook: [goodsoillutheranministries](https://www.facebook.com/goodsoillutheranministries)
Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)
YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayerground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice available upon request.

Key:

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude and Welcome

*In
Thanksgiving
for Baptism,
we recall how
God has joined
us to Christ
through
baptism and
clothes us with
mercy and
forgiveness.*

† Thanksgiving for Baptism

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

*The
thanksgiving
praises God for
all of God's
saving actions
through water*

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,

*and the word,
praying and
trusting that
this assembly
will be
renewed by
the Holy Spirit
in forgiveness,
grace, and
love.*

for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope.
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.
Amen.

† **Gathering Hymn: Sing with All the Saints in Glory** ELW 426

- 1 Sing with all the saints in glory,
sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story,
to the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking,
soon the storms of time shall cease;
in God's likeness we awaken,
knowing everlasting peace.
- 2 Oh, what glory, far exceeding
all that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts for ages pleading
never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it,
there on high our welcome waits.
Ev'ry humble spirit shares it,
Christ has passed the eternal gates.
- 3 Life eternal! heav'n rejoices:
Jesus lives who once was dead.

Shout with joy, O deathless voices!
Child of God, lift up your head!
Life eternal! Oh, what wonders
crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
when, amid earth's closing thunders,
saints shall stand before the throne!

Text: William J. Irons, 1812-1883, alt.

The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

† Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Along with the return of the Alleluia, the Hymn of Praise returns on Easter Sunday to signify the joy of the resurrection.

† Hymn of Praise

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

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

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

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

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

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

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-6, 9-10

To put this reading into context:

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

Hear now the reading:

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like 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. ⁶For 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.”

⁹You 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.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:1-5, 16



¹In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;

deliver me | in your righteousness.

²**Incline your | ear to me;**

make haste to de- | liver me.

³Be 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.

⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,
for you are my tow- | er of strength.**

⁵Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,
 for you have redeemed me, O Lord, | God of truth.
¹⁶Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
 save me in your | steadfast love.”

We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation. We rise, if able, in anticipation of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.

† **Gospel Acclamation: Halle Halle Hallelujah ELW 172**

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

Before and after the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† **Gospel: John 14:1-7, 10b-12**

To put this gospel reading into context:

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

The holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the

place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

^{10b}The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe 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. ¹²Very 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.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Children aged Pre-K through 3rd grade are invited to leave the service after the Children’s Sermon and attend the 1st part of Sunday School instruction (2nd part to resume in classes after worship.)

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

*Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice.
You’re invited to reflect on the following question:*

When have you experienced meaningful examples of the church “being the church” i.e. the Body of Christ in action, continuing the ministry of Jesus as “living stones,” offering a foretaste of that “eternal dwelling” while here on Earth? What has that looked and felt like? What impact did it make?

† Hymn of the Day: God, When You Called Our Church By Grace
(to the tune of “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”)

God, when you called our church by grace,
This land was such a different place.
Yet what you spoke remains the same:
"I'll be with you! Go in my name!"

Your promise is for everyone:
You call us here; your word is true!
We'll be a faithful church for you!

Lord Jesus Christ, our cornerstone,
You meet us here; we're not alone!
Through times of joy, through tears long-wept,
You are God's love, God's promise kept.

Your promise is for everyone:
You love us all, you make us new!
We'll be a loving church for you!

O Holy Spirit, wind and flame,
You send us out in Jesus' name.
You give us gifts that we may share
God's love and justice everywhere.

Your promise is for everyone:
You give us gifts, and work to do!
We'll be a serving church for you!

Lyrics by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

*As the church,
we pray for
those in our
community
and around the
world. The*

† Prayers of Intercession

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

prayers are also responsive, emphasizing our own participation.

Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern:

*+ The Church
+ Creation
+ Nations and leaders
+ Those in need
+ This faith community
+ The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God*

God of life, you build and rebuild your church. Strengthen us as your living stones to proclaim your gospel and share your good news of hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God, your Spirit guides us. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick or suffering in anyway especially Peter, Helen, Andrew, Martha and Jamie, Willie, Char, Marlon, Rich, Dick and Joan, Marie, Anna, Patricia, Jeanette, Archer, the family of Kaethe Buchholz, our siblings in Christ at Trinity Lutheran Lakewood as they prepare for Holy Closure... and all those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. 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.**

A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.

† Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always
And also with you.

The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.

God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code:

Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.



The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.

† Offering Hymn: Alleluia! Jesus is Risen ELW 377 vs 1

1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

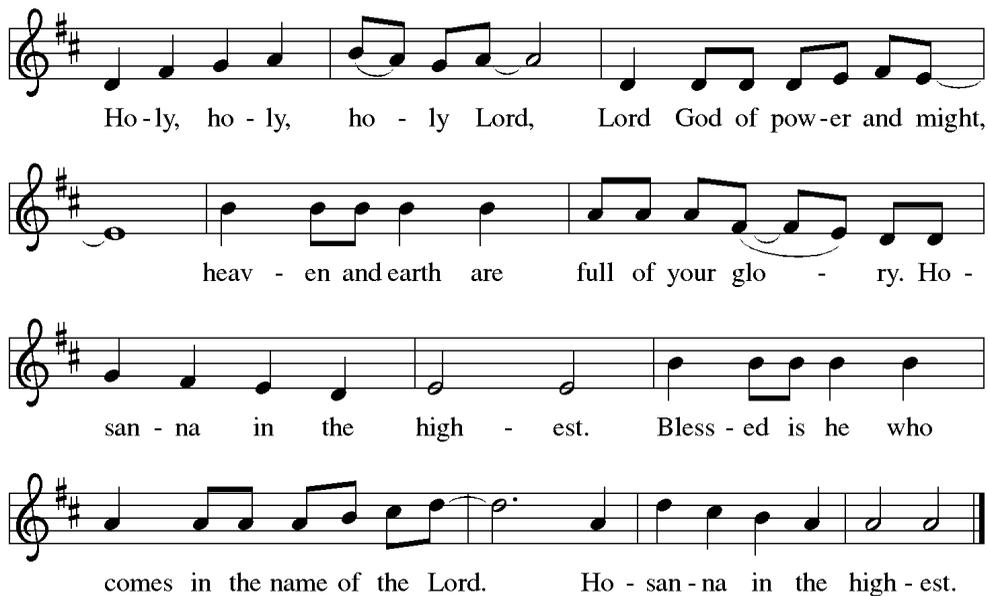
† Offering Prayer

Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

† Great Thanksgiving

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.

† Preface and Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en 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.

	<p>† Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution</p>
<p><i>The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.</i></p>	<p>† Lord's Prayer</p> <p>Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us:</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p>† Invitation to the Table</p> <p>Come, see, and experience the Risen Christ, and God's great love poured out for you. Amen.</p>
<p><i>We will continue to observe standing processional communion throughout the season of Easter—standing is considered "the posture of resurrection." Another way for us to embody the resurrection of Jesus!</i></p>	<p>Communion</p> <p><i>Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. Children are welcome to come to the Lord's table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian's preference.</i></p> <p><i>When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."</i></p> <p><i>Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding down the center aisle single file to the front. We will be observing standing processional communion, rather than kneeling at the rail. Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.</i></p>

Communion Hymn: I Received the Living God ELW 477

Refrain

I received the living God,
and my heart is full of joy.
I received the living God,
and my heart is full of joy.

- 1 Jesus said: I am the bread,
kneaded long to give you life;
you who will partake of me
need not ever fear to die. *Refrain*
- 2 Jesus said: I am the way,
and my Father longs for you;
so I come to bring you home
to be one with us anew. *Refrain*
- 3 Jesus said: I am the truth;
come and follow close to me.
You will know me in your heart,
and my word shall make you free. *Refrain*
- 4 Jesus said: I am the life,
far from whom no thing can grow,
but receive this living bread,
and my Spirit you shall know. *Refrain*

Text: Anonymous

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

† Blessing

The God of all,
who raised † Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

*Through the
sending hymn
we are sent out
into the world
to follow Jesus.*

† Sending Hymn: Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation ELW 645

- 1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever
and our confidence alone.
- 2 To this temple, where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come, with all your lovingkindness,
hear your people as they pray;
and your fullest benediction
shed within these walls today.
- 3 Here bestow on all your servants
what they seek from you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever
with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.
- 4 Praise and honor to the Father,
praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory
while unending ages run!

	Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
<i>The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins!</i>	† Dismissal Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. Thanks be to God.
	Postlude

You are warmly invited to gather in the upstairs lounge area for coffee hour immediately following worship.

Coffee Hour Discussion Question:

**Have you encountered unique church architecture?
Where? What was it like?**

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Today's Worship Servants:

Presiding: Rev. Marissa Harrison	Reader: Trey Harrison
Ushers: Sharon Hollowell Kim Wylie	Counters: Bill Fink Kim Wylie
Online Usher: Karen Sperli	Acolyte: Isaac Krankowski
Livestream: Sean Lanter	Sunday School Teachers: Louise DeBell (Early Learners) Pam Lanter (Primary) JoAnne Wancata (Middle Schoolers)



Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, May 7, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Peter Alexander, Helen Andrews, Andrew Evatt, Martha and Jamie Lanter, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Marlon Naylor, Rich Petrusky, Dick and Joan Schluep, Marie Sternad, Anna Sykaluk, Patricia Wancata, Jeanette Weidlich, Archer Oster, the family of Kaethe Buchholz, and our siblings in Christ at Trinity Lutheran Lakewood as they prepare for Holy Closure.

For those celebrating their birthday:

Jessica Berkshire (May 12)

For those celebrating their baptism:

Abbie Blocksom (May 8), Steve Bugosh (May 11), Nancy Koch (May 11)

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the glory of God by The Wylie Family to celebrate Jacob's birthday.

Acts Bible Study 7pm via Zoom: Join Pastor Marissa for a bible study via zoom at 7pm this Wednesday (5/10) to explore the book of Acts and connections with Good Soil's new Guiding Principles. Please RSVP to admin@goodsoillutheran.org to sign-up and receive the zoom link (zoom link also included in e-news). People who have participated have appreciated the combination of engaging in scripture together, praying with one another, and deepening relationships. Last session 5/10!

Save the Date 5/20 - TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE + PICNIC: On Saturday, May 20th Good Soil will be hosting a spring property day 10am-12pm to help plant flowers, pull weeds, and beautify this corner of God's earth we call Good Soil. We have also been invited to assist Trinity Lutheran in their final produce giveaway event at Lakewood Congregational Church's parking lot, also from 10am-12pm. Then we will all gather at Good Soil for an afternoon picnic beginning at 1pm to get more acquainted. If you can assist with picnic planning, please contact Bill Fink bfink06@yahoo.com.

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, May 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Sunday School • Coffee Hour 	9:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am
Tue, May 9	GS Executive Team Meeting	7:30 pm
Wed, May 10	Acts Bible Study – Zoom	7:00 pm
Fri, May 12- Sat, May 13	BREATHE – NEO Synod Assembly	
Sat, May 13	ELCA Anti-Racist Zoom Meeting	10:30 am
Sun, May 14	MOTHER’S DAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Sunday School • Coffee Hour 	9:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am