

The Falls Village Congregational Church
May 3, 2026, 10 a.m., 5th Sunday of Easter
Rev. Dr. Kirk Hall, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude *Andantino* – J. Haydn

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

***Call to Worship (Psalm 63)**

One: O God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;
All: *my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

One: So, I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory,
All: *because your steadfast love is better than life.*

One: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast
All: *and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.*

***Hymn #709** “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

Opening Prayer Barry Fenstermacher
God who came enfleshed to dwell among us, we gather with gratitude for the times and places where we can see and touch and taste your relentless love. Pour out your Spirit of life in this time and place so that we might experience your mysterious presence, your comforting mercy, and your transforming grace that sends us out to lead us home. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
O God, you invite us to the banquet of your love, and we make excuses. You provide enough, but we want more than enough and watch others lack enough. We set our own tables that you rightly overturn. Forgive our table manners. Transform our meals into celebrations and our feasts into fellowship, our consumption into communion and our bodies into the body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

Silent Confession

One: Lord in your mercy...
All: *...hear our prayer*

Assurance of Pardon *(repeat as guided)*

*By God’s grace, you are created again.
In Christ, you are accepted, no matter what.
Through the Holy Spirit, you are freed to truly live.
Be at peace and know you are forgiven.*

***Gloria Patri**

#35 in hymnal

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

***Passing the Peace of Christ:**

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.
All: *And also with you.*
(you are invited to offer Christ’s peace to your neighbor)

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Scripture: Exodus 16:1-4; 9-15 Dick Heinz
John 6:25-35 Rev. Dr. Kirk Hall

Sermon: “Comfort Food”

THE CHURCH RESPONDS IN FAITH

Offertory *Jesus, Feed Us* – R. Makeever, arr. B. Wentzel
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.
All: *And also with you.*

One: Lift up your hearts!
All: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

(celebrant continues prayer)

The Lord's Prayer

...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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

When invited, please come up by the middle aisle, take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup and return by the side aisle.

When you receive the bread and wine, the appropriate response is "Thanks be to God" or "Amen."

Prayer After Communion (Unison)

Bread of Life, in gratitude for the food that endures for eternal life, we praise you for the relationship that fills our hunger and quenches our thirst. Nourished by your grace, may we find the strength to be broken, the fullness to be poured out, and the love to be shared in a world starving for mercy, compassion, and hope. Amen.

THE CHURCH DISPENSES TO SERVE

***Hymn #464** *"God of Grace and God of Glory"*

***Benediction**

***Postlude:** *God Be with You till We Meet Again*

God be with you till we meet again; by His counsel guide, uphold you, with His sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet.

Till we meet, till we meet again, God be with you till we meet again.

**You are invited to rise in body or spirit.*



Scripture Lessons for May 3, 2026

Exodus 16:1-4, 9-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." ⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses, ¹²"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning, you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.' "

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

John 6:25-35

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " ³²Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.