

**May 3, 2026**  
**5th Sunday of Easter**  
Theme: ***“Unbound: Secured Identity”***  
Text: 1 Peter 2:1-10

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **I. THE FOUNDATION OF OUR SECURED IDENTITY--VV. 1-3**

- A. The Renunciation of the Old Identity**
- B. The Nourishment of the New Identity**
- C. The Motivation for Our Identity**

### **II. THE SOURCE OF OUR SECURED IDENTITY--VV. 4-6**

- A. The Cornerstone of Our Identity**
- B. The Transformation of Our Identity**
- C. The Security of Our Identity**

### **III. THE POSITION OF OUR SECURED IDENTITY--VV. 7-10**

- A. The Basis of Our Identity**
- B. The Description of Our Identity**
- C. The Purpose of Our Identity**

## **CONCLUSION**

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## **CONCLUSION**

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday, May 3, 2026

9:30 am Sunday School, classrooms  
10:45 am Communion Worship Service, Sanctuary  
**12:00 pm Graduate Reception, Fellowship Hall**

### Monday, May 4, 2026

No Activities

### Tuesday, May 5, 2026

8:30 am Meals on Wheels, Activity Building  
9:00 am Food Pantry, Activity Building  
**12:00 pm Discipleship Group, Conference Room**  
5:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting, Parlor

### Wednesday, May 6, 2026

**8:00 am Pastor John's Devotion on FB (or email)**  
7:00 pm Choir Practice, Sanctuary

### Thursday, May 7, 2026

8:30 am Meals on Wheels, Activity Building  
9:00 am Food Pantry, Activity Building  
5:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting, Parlor  
**6:30 pm Discipleship Group, Chapel**

### Friday, February May 8, 2026

No Activities

### Saturday, May 9, 2026

**10:00 am Needlework Group**

### Sunday, May 10, 2026 MOTHER'S DAY!

9:30 am Sunday School, Classrooms  
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary  
**5:00 pm Dinner Church, Activity Building**

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## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR EASTER SEASON

*God is with you!*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them up to God.**

*Let us give thanks to our Creator.*

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!*

*You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.*

*You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.*

*You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life. You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.*

*You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.*

*And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One. You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells, to be for us the way, the truth, and the life. Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him, healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him. He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate, He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death. Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people. It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .*

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*On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*

*In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me. Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer, we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup, and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.*

*Accept our praise and thanksgiving,  
accept our lives as holy offerings to you,  
that in losing our life we might find true Life  
and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.  
Great is the mystery of faith:*

**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

*As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:*

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

*Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way, that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place. In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood, we invite your life to fill us; we invite your Spirit to lead us ever more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world. All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.***

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