

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28th, 2024

PRELUDES

Echo Alleluia

By Henry Purcell. Arranged by Lani Smith. Copyright: 1996 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Christ the King of Glory

By Anna Laura Page. Copyright: 2017 Lorenz Publishing Co.

WELCOME

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the wellspring of grace, our salvation and our joy.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life.

P: Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

C: Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

C: By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

P: We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Now the Green Blade Rises

Words by John MacLeod Campbell Crum. Music: French carol. Words copyright: Oxford University Press

1.

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
what that in the dark earth many days has lain.
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.*

2.

*In the grave they laid Him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that He would never wake again.
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green!*

3.

*Forth He came at Easter like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green!*

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

Music: *Mass No. 1*, Avon Gillespie
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HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the Feast of Victory

Words by John Arthur, Music by Richard Hillert

Copyright: 1978 Augsburg Fortress. Music: 1975,1988 Richard Hillert

1.

This is the feast of victory for our God!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!

*Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.*

2.

This is the feast of victory for our God!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!

*Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation!*

3.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!

*Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen!*

4.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

FIRST READING *Acts 8:26-40*

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides

me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC *“See My Hands and Feet”* The Son-Light Choir

Words by Mary Louise Bringle, music by Gregg DeMey.

Words copyright: 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. Music copyright: 2008 ReCreate Music

SECOND READING *1 John 4:7-21*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are

liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!*

Caribbean words and melody adapted by Hal Hopson. Copyright: 1998 hope Publishing Co. CCLI# 2659190

Halle, halle, halle - lu-jah!

Halle, halle, halle - lu-jah!

Halle, halle, halle - lu - jah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St John

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL READING *John 15:1-8*

Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

P: The Gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pastor Rebecca Truland

SERMON HYMN *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken*

Words by: Herman Stuempfle Jr. Music by: Marty Haugen

Words copyright: 2006 GIA Publications, Inc. Music copyright: 1987 GIA Publications.

1.

*Loaves were broken, words were spoken by the Galilean shore.
Jesus, Bread of life from heaven, was their food forevermore.
By Your body broken for us, by Your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again Your people, be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*

2.

*Loaves were broken, words are spoken, as in faith we gather here.
Jesus speaks across the ages: "I am with you, do not fear!"
By Your body broken for us, by Your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again Your people, be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*

3.

*By the loaves You break and give us, send us in Your name to share
bread for which the millions hunger, words that tell Your love and care.
By Your body broken for us, by Your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again Your people, be our Host, our Life, our Lord!*

A: Let us confess our faith using the words of the creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS of the People

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A: God of grace
C: **hear our prayer**

A: Help us to love our neighbors and to pray for their wholeness, strength and healing...

Pastor Paul Herpich
Andy Klein (Deanna Pavlacka)
Stacy C (Barb Nies)
Family of Alfred Leitgeb on his recent passing

A: God of grace
C: **hear our prayer**

Family of John Quiggle (Dawnelle Jager)
Chet (Greg & Julie Yoder)
Cheryl Gatling
Diane DuMond

A: God of grace
C: **hear our prayer**

Please speak additional names aloud or silently in your heart

A: God of grace

C: **hear our prayer**

P: Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

(Greet one another with a sign of peace as you feel comfortable)

OFFERING

P: Let us gather our tithes and offerings for the sake of serving God and our neighbors.

OFFERING MUSIC *An Easter Meditation*

By Benton Price, based on "Noel Nouvelet." Copyright: 1974 Lorenz Publishing Co.

P: Risen One,

C: you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

COMMUNION LITURGY

(Communion provided offers wine and white grape juice as well as gluten-free wafers as an option. Please ask the Pastor for gluten-free wafers as needed. If you desire to receive a blessing, come forward with arms crossed. If you desire communion, come forward and extend your hands.)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you

C: **and also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts

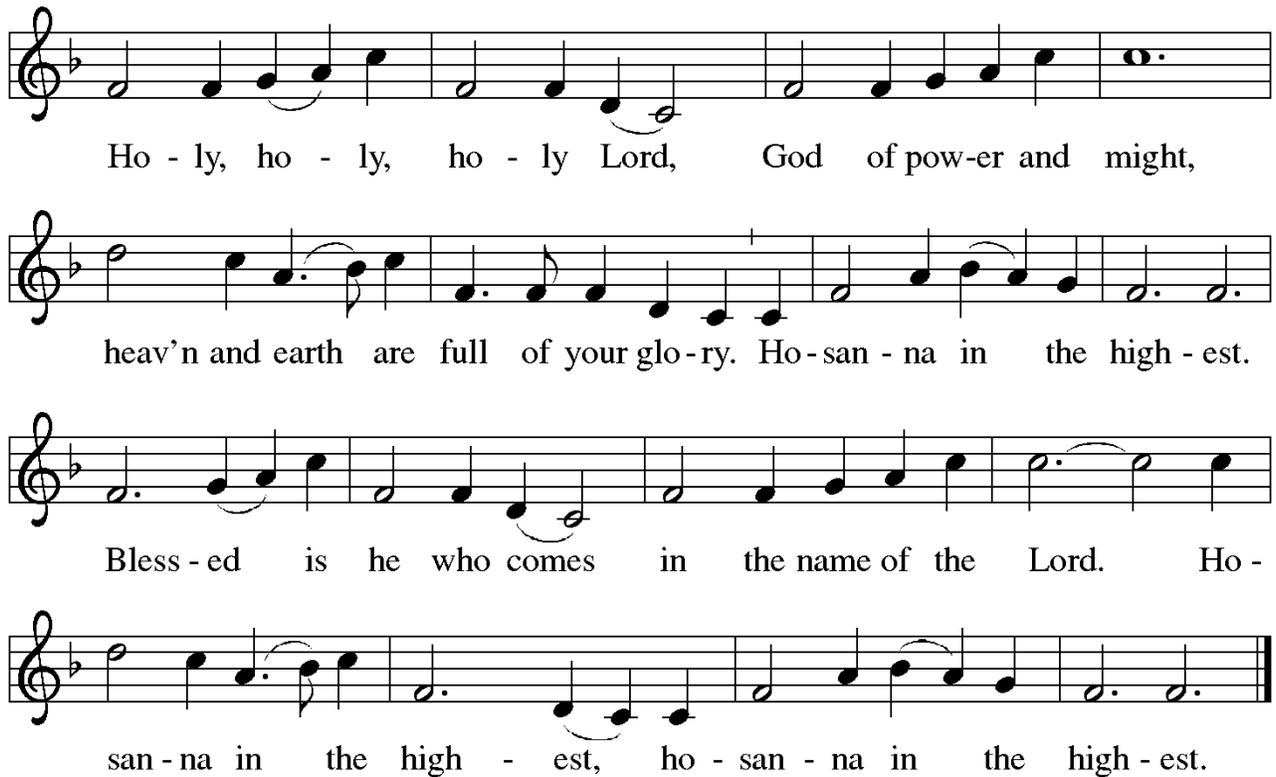
C: **We lift them to the Lord**

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

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
C: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
C: Come, Holy Spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Awake, O Sleeper*

Words by F. Bland Tucker, Music by Carl Glaser. Words copyright: 1980 Augsburg Publishing House

1.

*Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
and Christ will give you light;
so learn His love, its length and breadth,
its fullness, depth, and height.*

2.

*To us on earth He came to bring
from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit's unity,
the very bond of peace.*

3.

*Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
who died that He might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive
as God in Christ forgave.*

4.

*For us Christ lived, for us He died,
and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
and Christ will give you life!*

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

A Joyous Acclamation

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