

# The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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Sunday – April 28, 2024 – 9:30 a.m. Worship  
*(In-Person & Live -Streamed)*



Friends In Christ Lutheran Church

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# † Call to Worship †

## Greeting

## Easter Acclamation

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

## Opening Hymn #553 (v.1, 4-6) “O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts’ Desire”

*1 Peter 2:24 {3}; Colossians 1:5, 20, 23, 27 {1}; Hebrews 1:2 {2}*

1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, Cre -  
4 O let Your might - y love pre - vail To  
5 Christ Je - sus, be our pres - ent joy, Our  
△ 6 All praise to You, as - cend - ed Lord; All  
a - tion's might - y Lord, Re - deem - er of the  
purge us of our pride That we may stand be -  
fu - ture great re - ward; Our on - ly glo - ry,  
glo - ry ev - er be To Fa - ther, Son, and  
fall - en world, By ho - ly love out - poured:  
fore Your throne By mer - cy pu - ri - fied.  
may it be To glo - ry in the Lord!  
Ho - ly Ghost Through all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, adapt. Tune: Harmonischer Lieder-Schatz, 1738, Frankfurt  
Text and tune: Public domain

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

- P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Exhortation

*1 John 1:8–9 LSB 151*

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

## Confession of Sins

*LSB 184*

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

## Absolution

*[John 20:19–23] LSB 151*

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

# † Service of the Word †

## Introit

- P** A little while, and you will see me no longer;  
**C** and again a little while, and you will see me.  
**P** I will extol you, my God and King,  
**C** and bless your name forever and ever.  
**P** Every day I will bless you  
**C** and praise your name forever and ever.  
**P** The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
**C** slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
**P** All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,  
**C** and all your saints shall bless you!  
**P** My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,  
**C** and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.  
**ALL** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## Kyrie

*Mark 10:47 LSB 204*



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Gloria in Excelsis

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29 LSB 204*



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>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 before its shearer is silent,  
so he opens not his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle: 1 John 4:1-21

<sup>1</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if

God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup>By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### Alleluia and Verse

*John 6:68 LSB 156*

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel: John 15:1-8

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

## Sermon Hymn #684 "Come unto Me, Ye Weary"



- 1 "Come un - to Me, ye wea - ry, And I will give you rest."
- 2 "Come un - to Me, ye wan - d'ers, And I will give you light."
- 3 "Come un - to Me, ye faint - ing, And I will give you life."
- 4 "And who - so - ev - er com - eth, I will not cast him out."



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which comes to hearts op-pressed!  
O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to cheer the night!  
O cheer - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to aid our strife!  
O pa - tient love of Je - sus, Which drives a - way our doubt,



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, Of par - don, grace, and peace,  
Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, And we had lost our way;  
The foe is stern and ea - ger, The fight is fierce and long;  
Which, though we be un - wor - thy Of love so great and free,



Of joy that hath no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.  
But Thou hast brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.  
But Thou hast made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.  
In - vites us ver - y sin - ners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.  
Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812-after 1857  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon "Christ in Us, Our Source of Life!"

*Text: John 15:1-8*

*Stand*

### Apostles' Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offerings are brought to the LORD's altar as we sing:

*(Please remain standing)*

Offertory

*Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19 LSB 159*

**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.

*Sit*

Prayer of the Church

Responses:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.

Final Petition:

- P** Hear us Father for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who has forgiven our sins, healed our diseases, will one day raise us from the dead and has taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9–13 LSB 162*

- C** 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.

**Benediction**

Numbers 6:24–26 LSB 166

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**Closing Hymn #477 “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”**

- 1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:  
 △ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:



Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;  
 See the an-cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re - treat;  
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;



He who on the cross a vic-tim For the world's sal - va-tion bled—  
 Once He died, and once was bur-ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,  
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir-it, Fount of love and sanc-ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.  
 Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor-ship and a - dore.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

Text (sts. 1, 3): Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85; (st. 2): rev. The Jubilate Group  
 Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867  
 Text (st. 2): © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130302628  
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