FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024

  **The Order for Worship**

***As We Gather***

How far can the human voice travel? Scientists tell us that the normal outdoor range for an adult voice traveling through still air is about 180 meters or 590 feet. Communication in Silbo, a whistled language of Spanish-speaking inhabitants of the Canary Islands, can travel five miles under ideal conditions. The sound of a voice traveling across still water at night can range up to 10.5 miles. Voices can carry! The message that the voices carry is what is most important. The spoken message about Jesus shared by Philip the deacon with the Ethiopian stranger made an eternal difference in that man’s life. The words that we speak and the messages that we share are of great importance and have the divine potential to “spread the reign of God the Lord” (*LSB* 830:1).

Opening Proclamation (Psalm 118:24)

P "This is the day the Lord has made...

C **We will rejoice and be glad in it."**

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn LSB 490 Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won

1 Jesus lives! The vict’ry’s won!
 Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done!
 From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.

2 Jesus lives! To Him the throne
 High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone,
 Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!
This shall be my confidence.

3 Jesus lives! For me He died,
 Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
 Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.

4 Jesus lives! I know full well
 Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow’rs of hell
 Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.

5 Jesus lives! And now is death
 But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
 When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
Jesus is my confidence!

Text: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, 1715–69; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt.
Text: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

P Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

C **sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

P Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds!

C **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”**

P Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

C **who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

P You have multiplied, O Lord my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!

C **I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.**

Confession and Absolution

P Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

C **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

P God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C **Amen.**

P As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Kyrie LSB 204

C **Lord, have mercy;**

**Christ, have mercy;**

**Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria in Excelsis LSB 204

C **1 To God on high be glory**

 **And peace to all the earth;**

 **Goodwill from God in heaven**

 **Proclaimed at Jesus’ birth!**

 **We praise and bless You, Father;**

 **Your holy name, we sing—**

 **Our thanks for Your great glory,**

 **Lord God, our heav’nly King.**

**2 To You, O sole-begotten,**

 **The Father’s Son, we pray;**

 **O Lamb of God, our Savior,**

 **You take our sins away.**

 **Have mercy on us, Jesus;**

 **Receive our heartfelt cry,**

 **Where You in pow’r are seated**

 **At God’s right hand on high—**

**3 For You alone are holy;**

 **You only are the Lord.**

 **Forever and forever,**

 **Be worshiped and adored;**

 **You with the Holy Spirit**

 **Alone are Lord Most High,**

 **In God the Father’s glory.**

 **“Amen!” our glad reply.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

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.**

First Reading Acts 8:26–40

L A reading from Acts, chapter 8.

 26An 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. 27And 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 28and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” 30So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32Now 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.
33In his humiliation justice was denied him.
 Who can describe his generation?
 For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 36And 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?” 38And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39And 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. 40But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 150:1-6



1Praise the Lord!
Praise God in his sanctu- | ary;\*
 praise him in his mighty | heavens!
**2Praise him for his** | **mighty deeds;**\*
 **praise him according to his excellent** | **greatness!**
3Praise him with | trumpet sound;\*
 praise him with | lute and harp!
**4Praise him with tambou-** | **rine and dance;**\*
 **praise him with** | **strings and pipe!**
5Praise him with sounding | cymbals;\*
 praise him with loud clashing | cymbals!
**6Let everything that has breath** | **praise the Lord!**\*
**Praise** | **the Lord!**

Epistle Reading 1 John 4:1–11

A The Epistle is from 1 John, chapter 4.

 1Beloved, 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. 2By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3and 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. 4Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 6We 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.

 7Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9In 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. 10In 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. 11Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

C **These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel John 15:1–8

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

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

 1[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2Every 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. 3Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4Abide 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. 5I 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. 6If 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. 7If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8By 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.**

Apostles’ Creed

C **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** T **everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of Praise LSB 691 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing

1 Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s sowing,
 May we ripen and increase,
Fruit to life eternal growing,
 Rich in love and joy and peace.

2 Laden branches freely bearing
 Gifts the Giver loves to bless;
Here is fruit that grows by sharing,
 Patience, kindness, gentleness.

3 Rooted deep in Christ our Master,
 Christ our pattern and our goal,
Teach us, as the years fly faster,
 Goodness, faith, and self-control.

4 Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s tending,
 May we grow till harvests cease;
Till we taste, in life unending,
 Heaven’s love and joy and peace.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926
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Sermon

Offering

Special Music Ricky Fitzgerald

Prayer of the Church

Lord’s Prayer

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.**

**Service of the Sacrament**

Preface 208

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 Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have shown mercy to all in Christ our Redeemer, the Vine divine. Receive our thanks that as branches of the Vine, we are created to bear fruit. Unite our praises with those of all the faithful who are connected to Christ and join them with the unending praise of the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, as we sing...

Sanctus LSB 208

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;**

**Heav’n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.**

**Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;**

**Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You graciously invite us to be the people who proclaim the salvation that is in Christ alone. Gathered at Your Table, may we receive His blessed body and blood, fully trusting in the promises that are fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Unite us to Christ our Savior that we may live and respond to the opportunities for service and witness brought to us by the Holy Spirit and bring us at last to Your eternal kingdom.

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei LSB 210

C **1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,**

 **You take the sin of the world away;**

 **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,**

 **Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,**

 **You take the sin of the world away;**

 **Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,**

 **And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Distribution Hymn LSB 633 At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing

1 At the Lamb’s high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from His piercèd side.
 Alleluia!

2 Praise we Him, whose love divine
Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast—
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.
 Alleluia!

3 Where the paschal blood is poured,
Death’s dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel’s hosts triumphant go
Through the wave that drowns the foe.
 Alleluia!

4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love
Eat we manna from above.
 Alleluia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell’s fierce pow’rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light.
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And Your saints in You shall rise.
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.
 Alleluia!

D 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.
 Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.
Text: Public domain

Distribution Hymn LSB 478 The Day of Resurrection

1 The day of resurrection!
 Earth, tell it out abroad,
The passover of gladness,
 The passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
 From sin’s dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over
 With hymns of victory.

2 Let hearts be purged of evil
 That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal
 Of resurrection light
And, list’ning to His accents,
 May hear, so calm and plain,
His own “All hail!” and, hearing,
 May raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heav’ns be joyful,
 Let earth its song begin,
Let all the world keep triumph
 And all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen,
 Their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord has risen,
 Our joy that has no end!

D 4 All praise to God the Father,
 All praise to God the Son,
All praise to God the Spirit,
 Eternal Three in One!
Let all the ransomed number
 Fall down before the throne
And honor, pow’r, and glory
 Ascribe to God alone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis LSB 211

C **1 O Lord, now let Your servant**

 **Depart in heav’nly peace,**

 **For I have seen the glory**

 **Of Your redeeming grace:**

 **A light to lead the Gentiles**

 **Unto Your holy hill,**

 **The glory of Your people,**

 **Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,**

 **All glory to the Son,**

 **All glory to the Spirit,**

 **Forever Three in One;**

 **For as in the beginning,**

 **Is now, shall ever be,**

 **God’s triune name resounding**

 **Through all eternity.**

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, we bless You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same, help us to rejoice in Your mercies that we may grow daily and reach out with Your love in every situation. Finally, in Your mercy, grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus 212

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

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 T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn LSB 920 Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go

1 Forth in the peace of Christ we go;
 Christ to the world with joy we bring;
Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,
 Christ in our hearts, the world’s true king.

2 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;
 Kingship with Him His servants gain;
With Christ the Servant-Lord of all,
 Christ’s world we serve to share Christ’s reign.

3 Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth
 This world of time to consecrate,
This world of sin by grace to heal,
 Christ’s world in Christ to re-create.

4 Christ’s are our lips, His Word we speak;
 Prophets are we whose deeds proclaim
Christ’s truth in love that we may be
 Christ in the world, to spread Christ’s name.

5 We are the Church; Christ bids us show
 That in His Church all nations find
Their hearth and home where Christ restores
 True peace, true love to all mankind.

Text: James Quinn, 1919–2010
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Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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