



April 28, 2024

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist  
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Lift High the Cross”

~Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till all the world adore His sacred name.

♪ Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Lift high...

♪ Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. ~Lift high...

♪ All newborn soldiers of the Crucified  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. ~Lift high...

♪ O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. ~Lift high...

♪ Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. ~Lift high...

♪ So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! ~Lift high....

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## Invocation

This is the day that the LORD has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Psalm 118:24  
Matthew 28:19b*

## Confession and Absolution

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

**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.**

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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. Amen.**

## Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

♪ Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!

Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;

Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

♪ Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev'ry troubled breast;

Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;

End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

♪ Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;

Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy host above,

Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

♪ Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;

Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee,

Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav'n we take our place,

Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

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## First Reading

Acts 8:26–40

<sup>26</sup>Now 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Epistle

1 John 4:1–11

<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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Hymn

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

- ♪ Come, Thou almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing;  
Help us to praise; Father all-glorious, O'er all victorious,  
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.
- ♪ Come, Thou incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword;  
Our prayer attend. Come and Thy people bless, And give Thy Word success,  
And let Thy righteousness On us descend.
- ♪ Come, holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear  
In this glad hour! Thou, who almighty art, Now rule in ev'ry heart,  
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

*Please Stand*

- ♪ To Thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be  
Hence evermore! Thy sov'reign majesty May we in glory see,  
And to eternity Love and adore.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 905 -Text: English, before 1760; Tune: Felice de Giardini 1716-96,  
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## Holy Gospel

John 15:1–8

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

### Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### Praise to You, O Christ.

## Apostles' Creed

### Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

## Handbell Choir

### The Hymn

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”

♪ Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!

Splendor the Lamb, Heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

~Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

♪ Walking the way, Christ in the center Telling the story to open our eyes;

Breaking our bread, Giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. ~Jesus is...

♪ Jesus the vine, We are the branches; Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;

Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, Gift of the future now flowing to me. ~Jesus is...

♪ Weeping be gone; Sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.

Cherubim sing: “O grave, be open!” Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. ~Jesus is...

♪ City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,

River of life, Saints and arch-angels, Sing with creation to God the I AM! ~Jesus is....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 474 -Text: Herbert F. Brokering b. 1926; ©1995 Augsburg Fortress  
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## Proclamation of the Word

“Remaining in the True Vine”

John 15:1–8

## Offering and Musical Offering

**Prayer of the Church** *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer and fill us with Your joy!**

## Lord's Prayer

## Benediction

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

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

**Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Jesus, Shall Reign”

- ♪ Jesus shall reign where'er the sun Does its successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- ♪ To Him shall endless prayer be made, And endless praises crown His head;  
His name like sweet perfume shall rise With ev'ry morning sacrifice.
- ♪ People and realms of ev'ry tongue Dwell on His love with sweetest song;  
And infant voices shall proclaim Their early blessings on His name.
- ♪ Blessings abound where'er He reigns: The pris'ners leap, unloose their chains,  
The weary find eternal rest, And all who suffer want are blest.
- ♪ Let ev'ry creature rise and bring Honors peculiar to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again, And earth repeat the loud amen.

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## Postlude