

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024 11:00 am

FOR THOSE DESIRING HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor. For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.)

THINK ABOUT THIS

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).



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC “Jesus, Name Above All Names”

(3 Verses)

**Jesus, name above all names,
Wonderful Savior, Glorious Lord
Immanuel, God is with us,
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word**

**Jesus, loving shepherd,
Vine of the branches, Son of God
Prince of peace, Wonderful Counselor,
Lord of the universe, Light of the world**

**Jesus, Key of David,
Adonai, King of the Ages
Almighty God, Alpha Omega,
Author of Life, Name that I love**

WELCOME

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 66:1–4, 8–9; 40:5

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

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

Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds!

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Humble yourselves then 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 person. 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.

God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

Amen.

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 Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE "Let It Rise"

**Let the glory of the Lord rise among us
Let the glory of the Lord rise among us
Let the praises of the King rise among us
Let it rise
Let the songs of the Lord rise among us
Let the songs of the Lord rise among us
Let the joy of the King rise among us
Let it rise.**

Oh-h-h, let it rise.

Oh-h-h, let it rise. (Repeat)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Risen and ascended Lord, You are the vine and we are the branches. Apart from You there is no life. By Baptism You have grafted us into Your gracious life. Cause Your Word to abide in us and make us fruitful to the glory of Your Father, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 8:26–40

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

1 John 4:1–21

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. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of

God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷By 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If 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. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John 15:1–8

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

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."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SONG "He is Lord" *(Please be seated)*

He is Lord, He is Lord!

He is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess

That Jesus Christ is Lord.

He's my....

He's our...

OBJECT LESSON

SONG "King Of Glory"

(Verse, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Chorus, Ending)

Who is this King of glory that pursues me with His love

And haunts me with each hearing of His softly spoken words

My conscience a reminder of forgiveness that I need

Who is this King of glory who offers it to me

Who is this King of angels, O blessed Prince of Peace

Revealing things of heaven and all its mysteries

My spirit's ever longing for His grace in which to stand

Who is this King of glory, Son of God and Son of man

Chorus:

His name is Jesus, precious Jesus

Lord Almighty, King of my heart King of glory.

Who is this King of glory with strength and majesty

And wisdom beyond measure, the gracious king of kings

The Lord of earth and heaven, the Creator of all things

He is the King of glory, He's everything to me.

**His name is Jesus, precious Jesus
Lord Almighty, King of my heart King of glory.
His name is Jesus, precious Jesus
Lord Almighty, King of my heart King of glory.**

**The Lord of earth and heaven, the Creator of all things
He is the King of glory, He's everything to me.**

MESSAGE "Come Alongside" (Acts 8:26-40)

OFFERING

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

HOLY COMMUNION

(Visitors, please read the statement at the beginning of this service folder)

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)

O Christ Lamb of God You take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us, have mercy on us

O Christ Lamb of God You take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER

SONG "All Bow Down"

(Verse, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus)

**You're arriving with the sound of thunder and rain,
You're arriving in the calm of the wind and the waves,
You're arriving in the glow of a burning flame, a burning flame.**

**Praise awaits You at the dawn when the world comes alive,
Praise awaits You in the darkness and shines in the light,
Praise awaits You with a song of love and desire, love and desire.**

Chorus:

**Here comes the King; All bow down.
Lift up your voices unto the Lamb.
He is the King! All bow down, all bow down.**

**You are coming again like a thief in the night,
You are coming again with a shout from the sky,
You are coming again to take away Your bride,
To take away Your bride.**

Chorus:

Bridge:

Yeah, You are the King. Yeah, You are the King.

Last Chorus: "You are the King..."

SONG "Sweet Mercies"

(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Chorus)

**It's our confession, Lord, that we are weak,
So very weak; But You are strong.
And though we've nothing, Lord, to lay at Your feet,
We come to Your feet and say, "Help us along."**

Chorus:

**A broken heart and a contrite spirit You have yet to deny.
Your heart of mercy beats with love's strong current.
Let Your river flow by Your Spirit now, Lord we cry.**

**Let Your mercies fall from heaven,
Sweet mercies flow from heaven,
New mercies for today.
Shower them down, Lord, as we pray.
Let Your mercies fall from heaven,
Sweet mercies flow from heaven,
New mercies for today.
Shower them down, Lord, as we pray.**

Chorus:

PRAYER OF THANKS

...

Amen

BLESSING

SONG "Jude's Charge"

(Three Verses)

**You, my friends, build each other up.
You, my friends, build each other up.
In strong faith, pray: "Spirit, fill my cup."
You, my friends, build each other up.**

**Keep yourselves in God's love.
Keep yourselves in God's love,
As you wait for mercy from above.
Keep yourselves in God's love.**

**To God be glory, now and ever more!
To God be glory, now and ever more!
To stand before Him, Christ is the door.
To God be glory, now and ever more!
To God be glory, now and ever more!**

LEAVING

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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