

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024

“God Gathers and Blesses Us Through His Word!”

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN #464 “The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done”

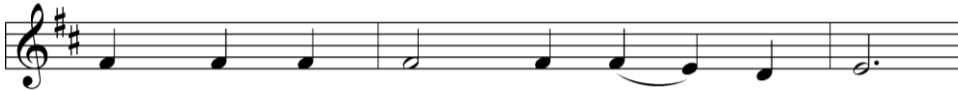
Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 The strife is o’er, the bat - tle done;
2 The pow’rs of death have done their worst,
3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped,



Now is the vic - tor’s tri - umph won;
But Christ their le - gions hath dis - persed.
He ris - es glo - rious from the dead.

The Refrain is repeated after st. 5.



Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
All glo - ry to our ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!

**4 He broke the age-bound chains of hell;
The bars from heav’n’s high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell.
Alleluia!**

**5 Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,
From death’s dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee.
Alleluia! Refrain**

(please stand)

THE INVOCATION AND EASTER ACCLAMATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Jesus said, "I am the Vine; you are the branches. . . .

C: Apart from Me you can do nothing."

(John 15:5)

P: We stand before God, grafted into the vine of the resurrected Christ.

(silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

P: O most merciful God,

C: we confess to You that even though we are in Christ, we often live as if we were not. Sin dwells in us like blight. We fail to bear fruit and we deserve none of Your blessings. Father, remove our sin as a vinedresser prunes the vine, that we may bear fruit in keeping with repentance, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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.

THE RESPONSE *"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"* (LSB #611 v.1)

**Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.**

(please be seated)

THE INTROIT Psalm 145:1-2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16 (ESV)

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, and bless Your name forever and ever.

C: Every day I will bless You 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.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

C: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: A little while, and you will see Me no longer;

C: and again a little while, and you will see Me.

THE KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

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

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

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

P: For the Holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

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

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

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

P: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

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

THE HYMN OF PRAISE #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!

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THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray; Lord God, by the water of Holy Baptism You make us to live in Christ and He in us. As a branch connected to a living vine bears fruit, may the life of Jesus so dwell in us making us fruitful witnesses; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE FIRST READING Acts 8:26-40 (ESV)

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. 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 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent, so He opens not his mouth. In His humiliation justice was denied Him. Who can describe His generation? For His life is taken away from the earth" [53:7-8] And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 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?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 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. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE 1 John 4:1-11 (ESV)

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. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 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. 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. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 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. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE ALLELUIA AND VERSE *(page 205 in the hymnal)*

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 15:1-8 (ESV)

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said] I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 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. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. 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. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 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.

THE 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.

THE MEMORY VERSE The Introduction to the Lord's Prayer and Meaning
from Luther's Small Catechism

Our Father who art in heaven. *What does this mean?* With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

(please be seated)

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #474 "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter Tell - ing the
 3 Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es; Life in the
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent; Death put a -
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -



sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -
 sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; Break - ing our bread, Giv - ing us
 Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the
 sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: "O grave, be
 ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch -



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 o - pen!" Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Refrain
 Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

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THE SERMON "God Gathers and Blesses Us Through His Word!" Text: Acts 8:26-40

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS "Baptized into Your Name" (LSB #590 v.4)

**All that I am and love most dearly—Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
 Let me confess my faith sincerely; Help me Your faithful child to be!
 Let nothing that I am or own Serve any will but Yours alone.**

(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the following response: "Lord, in Your mercy," "hear our prayer.")

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(printed inside the back cover of the hymnal)*

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN #707 "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS