



EASTER DAYS: THE 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER!

APRIL 28 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2024

ALLELUIA!

CHRIST IS RISEN!

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

A “Welcome” to worshippers - whether on the first page of a printed bulletin or the first screen of a display - is pretty common in places of worship. Offering a greeting is a courteous thing to do and if it hasn’t happened, you’ll soon hear it from somebody. We like to greet people. In our thinking, you’re a blessing.

At the same time, it is interesting that John’s Gospel doesn’t tell of Jesus offering a welcome we might expect (e.g., “Hi!”; “Glad to see you.”; “Thanks for walking over.”). Instead, Jesus asks a question: “What are you looking for?” We would like to share a few thoughts to His question.

We assume we’re all here looking for the same thing: Jesus. Our understanding of worship sees this gathering as a coming together of broken people to sit at the feet of Jesus to learn from him, working at practicing Jesus-things like grace and forgiveness. We bumble that often (remember the broken-people part), but thanks to God’s Holy Spirit, we’re not like we used to be. We’re into claiming God’s loving (yes, we just made a noun a verb) for one another, knowing God more, and living into loving one another. For us, this is cradle-to-grave thinking: we don’t send our kids out of worship and we proclaim everyone is a child of God, at least until the age of 225 (no, 225 is not a typo). So, you’ll hear us laugh and you’ll hear us cry. You’ll hear us pray in the raw (whatever someone writes down, we pray) and you’ll hear us welcome everyone to Jesus’ Table. You’ll also experience us “mixing it up”. That is, while we maintain a traditional liturgical grounding, we also maintain that the worship traditions each soul brings from their past are gifts to the whole.

God-willing, we’ll be here next week and will welcome the gift of growing with you a bit more in following Jesus. “Gift”, that’s an appropriate word to end with. We believe worship is “God’s gift to us” - an offering from God to us - inviting us to be in the healing, renewing, redeeming, going-to-cross-for-us, resurrecting love of God. “Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be - world without end. Amen.” What a gift!

Given in honor of Don and Katherine Bachinsky 61st anniversary and Connor Liden’s birthday are the flowers on the altar by the Liden Family.

Worship Leaders

Assisting Minister
Communion Servers
Livestream/Slides
Reader

Usher

This Week

Ronald Fleming
Avery Lusher; Claire Pearce
Ashley Stahurski
Morgan Fleming; Avery Lusher
Claire Pearce; Nicolas Rajamarivo
Youth

Next Week

Marie Liden
Cindy Hobbs, Carol Lowe
Ray and Nancy Stagg
Alison Lacalamita

Rick Wetherill

GATHERING

“NOW ALL . . . SINNERS WERE COMING NEAR.” (LUKE 1:15)

Prelude

8:00

10:30

Leah Fearing
Avery Lusher

I Giorni

by Ludovico Einaudi

Welcome

Easter Proclamation of New Life

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The grace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, the undefeated love of God, and the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit be with you!

C: And also with you!

A: We are

C: Easter people!

P: Who have been to the tomb and found it empty!

C: We are Easter people!

A: To the crucified and risen Jesus,

C: we belong!

A: With the crucified and risen Jesus,

C: we live now and forever within God's resurrecting love!

A: By the crucified and risen Jesus,

C: we are entrusted with his authority to tell of forgiveness and new life!

P: Easter people need forgiveness? You have something to confess?

C: Yes, there have been parts of my life this week - outside and inside - that didn't look much like Easter. I'm struggling to see the risen Christ in other people. Truthfully, I'm pretty good at seeing - and telling - what's wrong in other people: I blame; I label; I condemn. I need to mature in how to discern right and wrong while not becoming wrong in doing so. I want to be like Jesus whose words have saved me. I want the newness of Jesus'

risen life and love and living to flow through me. I'm blessed; I want to bless.

P: Easter people, God's power raised Jesus from the dead . . . correct?

(If you believe so, proclaim so with your own heartfelt word choice.)

God's Word is more powerful than your mistakes; your self-loathing. God's Word is: You're forgiven. God's Word is truth - your feelings are not. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, you are offered a relationship that is able to embrace (not excuse) your sinfulness and transform how you are broken into grace. Sin matters; yes, but grace matters more. God's grace is not a cheap/ excuse anything grace; rather, costly grace (an energy-demanding kind of grace) offering God's resurrecting power to help you wrestle with, "What can I do differently next time?"

Remember, Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed.**

P: We get to live resurrected, now! **Alleluia!**

Hymn

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!

ELW 380

Prayer of the Day

A: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

A: We pray.

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

"YOU HAVE ALREADY BEEN CLEANSED BY THE WORLD THAT I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU." (JOHN 15:1)

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Morgan Fleming (10:30)

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

R: The First Reading is from Acts, the 8th chapter.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God! Word of Life!

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm

Psalm 22:25-31

Avery Lusher (10:30)

R: As we pray the psalm today, please pray the bolded lines.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live
forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the Lord,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before
the Lord.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the Lord,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

Claire Pearce (10:30)

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

R: The Second Reading is from 1 John, the 4th chapter.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives 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 do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so 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 reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

8:00 Gospel Acclamation**The refrain to *Celtic Alleluia* (1 time)**

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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10:30 Gospel Acclamation***Amazing Grace*****Morgan Fleming****Gospel Reading****John 15:1-8****Nicolas Rajamarivo (10:30)**

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

R: The Holy Gospel from St. John, the 15th chapter.

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just 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. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord!
Praise to you, O Christ!

Young Christian's Time**Homily**

10:30 Readers: Amber Hobbs; Morgan Fleming; Claire Pearce (Catechism Class)

10:30 Puppeteers: Sadie & Scarlet Hoffman

Hymn of the Day

8:00 *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

ELW #359

10:30 *Forever*

see screen or insert

Nicene Creed

A: The cross of Christ is where the resurrecting God of Easter meets us. With confidence we proclaim the way of grace - the way of God for us - using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come.
 Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

*Each petition concludes with, “Resurrecting God” and the congregation responds,
 “raise us up.”*

MEAL

[JESUS] HAD BEEN MADE KNOWN TO THEM IN THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD.” (LUKE 24:35)

Offertory

Youth

10:30 Offering Ushers

Grant Pearce & Erwan Rajamarivo

Offering Prayer

A: God of love,
 You call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
 Receive our lives and gifts we offer.
 Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
 for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.
C: Amen.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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Proper preface for Easter

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The presiding minister continues,
using an appropriate form not printed in the hymnal*

The Great Thanksgiving concludes with the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

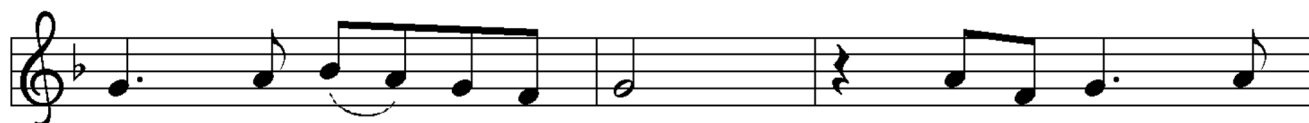
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Blessing after Communion**Prayer after Communion**

A: Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

God of life! God of love! God of living! Keep stirring in us your resurrecting power given in this bread and wine. You are setting us side-by-side with Mary, announcing, "We have seen the Lord!" Yes, we have! Now, grant anew that the world may see Jesus' love being shared among us and through us as Jesus grabs hold of us and we hang on for the ride.

C: Lead on, O Risen Lord!

SENDING

"I HAVE OTHER SHEEP THAT DO NOT BELONG TO THIS FOLD.
I MUST BRING THEM ALSO." (JOHN 10:16)

Blessing**Hymn*****Abide with Me*****ELW 629****vs. 1,3,5****Dismissal**

A: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

C: Alleluia!

Postlude**Acknowledgments:**

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