

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 28, 2024

PRELUDE "Prelude on a Scottish Tune" – Dale Wood

Those who are able, please stand.

MISSION/MINISTRY

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN 449 "We Know That Christ Is Raised"

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

C: **And also with you.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE



Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Ⓑ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray . . .

C: **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**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Acts 8:26-40

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.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Those who are able, please stand.



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

THE GOSPEL READING John 15:1-8

[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."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated.

SERMON

Those who are able, please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY 721 "Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil"

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

THE PRAYERS

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

A: We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace... **C: hear our prayer**

A: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace... **C: hear our prayer**

A: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace...

C: hear our prayer

A: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. God of grace... **C: hear our prayer**

A: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace... **C: hear our prayer**

A: With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace... **C: hear our prayer**

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

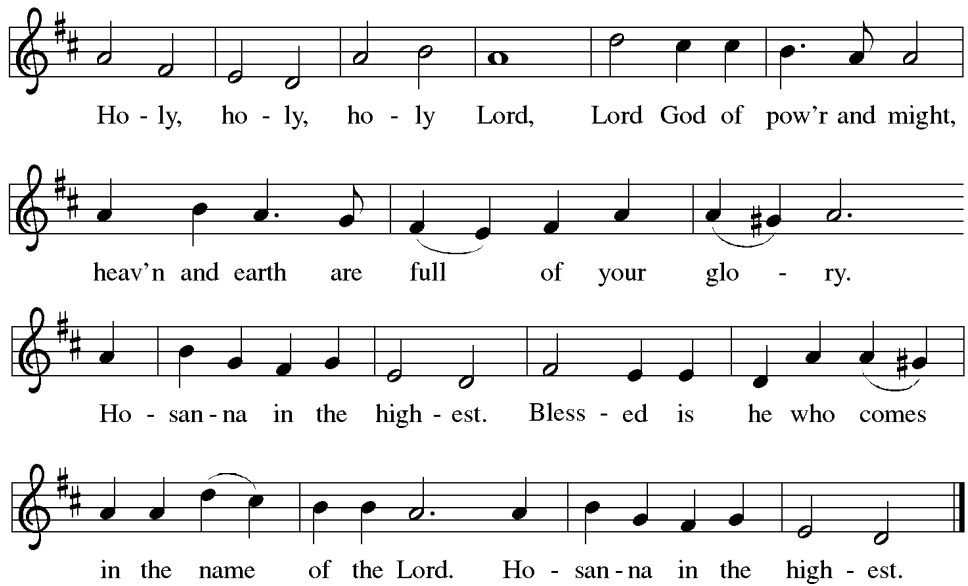
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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**

Please be seated.

MEAL

We welcome all who believe that Jesus is Lord and truly present to join us at his table. Holy communion will be distributed using Gluten-free wafers, wine, or grape juice. Make your choice known to the Communion Assistant. Communion will be taken from the center aisle; baskets are available to dispose of your communion cup.

The following hymn, "Be Not Afraid," is sung twice by the entire congregation as the distribution of communion begins:

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The first instance of the hymn is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!"

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The second instance of the hymn is identical to the first, written on a grand staff with the same melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!"

CHORAL ANTHEM "I Know the Lord" – John Eggert

A: Let us pray....

C: Amen

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN 881 "Let All Things Now Living"

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE "Earth, Earth Awake!" – Steumpfle/Morris

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

M Psalm 80 **Tu** James 3:17-18 **Wednesday** John 14:8-14 **Thursday** Psalm 98 **Friday** Acts 10:34-43 **Saturday** Deuteronomy 32:44-47 **Sixth Sunday of Easter** Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

pastor: Bob Cheyney, Jr. **co-cantors:** John Schwandt, MaryAnn Schwabe **John Lauby, Organist/Choir Director Emeritus** **communion assistants:** Becky Popio, Gary Smith **door greeter:** Gary Smith **usher:** Harry Rennecker

Church Council: Mary Amick, Marilyn Brodie, Alex Clevinger, Heather Coontz, Michael Kahlenberg, John Lauby, Doug Nabors, Amanda Oberhauser, Gary Smith, Lou Stange, Don Taranowski and Harvey Wagner

WELCOME VISITORS Whatever your religious background and however you have come to be here, we welcome you to Advent Lutheran Church. We hope that you will feel comfortable and fulfilled, and that you will be strengthened to meet the challenges of your daily lives. The service is printed in your bulletin. If at first you find it difficult to follow the service, please ask someone near you for assistance; after a few services, we hope it will become easier. **We always welcome** children during worship.

We encourage you to include the following people in your daily prayers this week: Joe Balough, Shannon Bridges, Diane Frasier, Ronnie Haines, Gary Holmes, Dianne Johnson, Hunter Lumbatis, David Phillips, Al Shoe

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God by Kay Albright in loving memory of Jan Cook Lee.

We are collecting pasta and toothpaste for the FISH Cupboard in April.

Your help is needed. Sign-up for your turn as door greeter or usher in April at the Welcome Center. Thank you!

Attention all 8th graders! Please plan to stay after second service **today, April 28th** so we can do a confirmation project practice run, along with the tech team. Confirmation will be Sunday, **May 5th!**

Come join the women's bible study in the church's library on Monday mornings at 10:30 am. On **April 15th** – We will be starting our next study by Adam Hamilton, "Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith". Books for this study are \$14. If you care to purchase one, please see Becky Popio.

All Daughters Brunch Saturday, **May 4th** from 10:30 am – Noon Ladies of all ages are invited to Advent's Fellowship Hall for brunch, devotions, & music by our young women. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 10 and under. Tickets on sale between services.

Worship is central to what we do as a congregation. The tech team is looking for individuals to assist at either of our worship services. **Traditional Worship:** Help is needed for doing the video recording and then posting the recording to our platforms. If you've created and posted videos online you can do this. Even if you haven't, we can teach you. **Contemporary Worship:** Help is needed to project the songs, prayers and other parts of the service on the screen for the congregation. **No special skills are required** – if you can login to a PC you have great potential! The work that the team does is vital because it enriches our worship and provides a means for others to experience God in this place. If you have any questions, contact Mike Pearch at michael.pearch@gmail.com or 330-760-4413

Mark your calendars...We will be hosting another rummage sale!! May 16th (Thursday) from 8:00am to 6:00pm, May 17th and 18th (Fri & Sat) from 8:00 am to 1:00pm in our fellowship hall. All proceeds will go towards the elca youth gathering trip. Helpers will be needed to set up/price items as well as to be here the days of the sale. Look for a sign-up sheet next month on the welcome center counter. We will be collecting items you would like to donate for us to sell a couple different dates in the beginning of May (stay posted when these dates will be). Thank you for keeping this in mind as you are doing your spring cleaning. Please note however, we will not be accepting furniture or appliances that require more than one person to carry, televisions, computers or adult clothing. Anything that does not sell will be boxed up and donated to the Hartville Thrift Shop and any leftover books will be shared with the Friends of the Library for their book sale. Please note nothing will be saved here at the church or given back once the rummage sale is over. Thanks in advance for your support!

We are once again assembling quilts for LWR! There are kits in the coat room which may be assembled for tops. We appreciate those who do that work at home so we can do so much on Thursdays. If you have sheets or material you would like to contribute, please leave these in the coatroom, too. Our work on Thursdays involves assembling, stitching and knotting and no special skills are needed. Everyone is welcome...please join us.