

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 28, 2024
WORD AND PRAYER**

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
613 LOCUST STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 15901**

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WORD AND PRAYER

THE PRELUDE ~

Stand.

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C **Amen.**

THE PRAYER FOR PURITY

P Let us pray.

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 Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C **and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

P The Lord God, Father and Creator spoke all these words saying:

a **I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land**

of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God.

Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

C **I confess to Almighty God, to the Apostles and saints in heaven and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word and deed; by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault. I ask almighty God, the Apostles and saints in heaven and you my brothers and sisters to forgive me and help me amend my life.**

P Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As one called and ordained in the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you who do truly repent and believe in him, the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P By the same authority, I declare to those who do not repent and believe, that so long as they continue knowingly, arrogantly and willfully in their sins, God has not forgiven them, and will assuredly bring judgment upon them, if they do not turn from their evil ways and come to true repentance and faith in Christ.

C **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

THE ENTRANCE HYMN ~ "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

LBW143



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds in praise of love that
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, there - fore our heart with
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; set heart and will on
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring and with the heav'n - ly



still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
things a - bove that we con - quer through your tri - umph;
bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!"



Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song
Now still he comes to give us life and by his pres -
grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's day that by our lives
Be to the Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest,

THE GREETING

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 KYRIE

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A 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 mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

A This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

P 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.

C **Amen.**

Sit.

THE FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

L A reading from Acts.

An 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.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31 [LBW Psalm 22:24-30]

²⁴My praise is of him in the | great assembly;*

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who | worship him.

²⁵The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the | LORD shall praise him:*

“May your heart | live forever!”

²⁶**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD,***

and all the families of the nations shall | bow before him.

²⁷**For kingship belongs | to the LORD;***

he rules o- | ver the nations.

²⁸To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow | down in worship;*

all who go down to the dust | fall before him.

²⁹My soul shall live for him; my descend- | ants shall serve him;*

they shall be known as the | LORD’s forever.

³⁰**They shall come and make known to a people | yet unborn***

the saving deeds that | he has done.

²⁴My praise is of him in the | great assembly;*

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who | worship him.

Glory to the Father, and | to the Son,*

and to the | Holy Spirit,

as it was in | the beginning,*

is now and will be forev- | er. Amen.

THE SECOND READING: I John 4:7-21

L A reading from First John.

Beloved, 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.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C **Alleluia. I am the vine, you | are the branches.* Those who abide in me and I in them | bear much fruit. Alleluia. (John 15:5)**

THE GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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!

Sit.

THE HOMILY

Stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY ~ “We Know That Christ Is Raised”

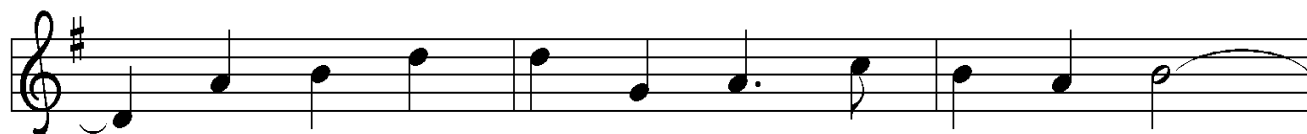
LBW189



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

THE NICENE CREED

A Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C I believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen:
And 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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.**

**I 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 is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**I look for the + resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A 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 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: 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 seeking employment and freedom from financial crisis, and for all who are ill or suffering (*especially*). God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A For the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, 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 (*especially*). 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.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P In the presence of Christ himself, let us pray as he has taught us.

a **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.**

THE BENEDICTION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Almighty God, the Father, the Son + and the Holy Spirit, bless you and raise you to life, both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE SENDING HYMN ~ "Let All Things Now Living"

LBW557



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks-giv - ing
2 By law God en - forc - es, the stars in their cours - es,

to God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;
the sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash-ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
the hills and the moun-tains, the riv - ers and foun-tains,

by guid - ing us on to the end of our days.
the depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban-ners are o'er us; pure light goes be - fore us,
We too should be voic - ing our love and re - joic - ing;

a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:
with glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise,

till shad - ows have van - ished, all fear - ful - ness ban - ished,
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing;



as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!

THE DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Proclaim the resurrection. Alleluia, alleluia!

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE ~

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