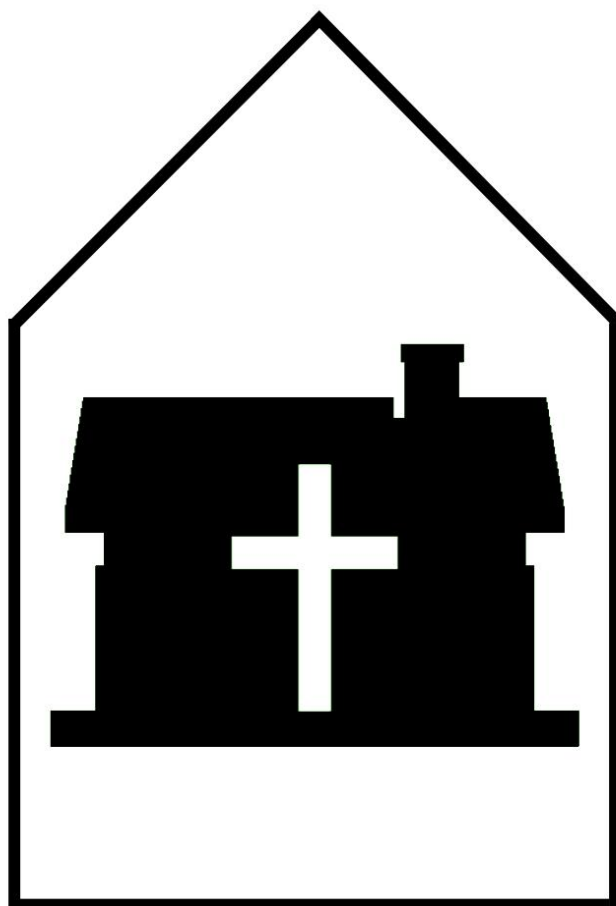


WORSHIP COMPANION

18TH EDITION

Palm Sunday - Ascension of Our Lord

March 24th 2024 - May 12th 2024



Faith Lutheran Church
730 Collingwood Ave
Whitehall, OH 43213

TABLE OF CONTENTS

March 24, 2024	Palm Sunday	pg. 3
March 31, 2024	Resurrection of Our Lord	pg. 7
April 7, 2024	Second Sunday of Easter.....	pg. 10
April 14, 2024	Third Sunday of Easter	pg. 13
April 21, 2024	Fourth Sunday of Easter	pg. 16
April 28, 2024	Fifth Sunday of Easter	pg. 19
May 5, 2024	Sixth Sunday of Easter	pg. 22
May 12, 2024	Ascension of Our Lord.....	pg. 25

Opening Prayer, Thanksgiving for the Word, Prayers of Intercession, Blessing, and Dismissal written by Rev. Daniel W. Hille.

Confession and Forgiveness, Prayer of the Day, and Lord's Prayer taken from Sundays & Seasons 2024.

Gospel Readings taken from the New International Version (NIV 1973).

The order of worship for the Sundays of Easter is adapted from the Worship Supplement, authorized by the Commission on Worship, the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Edited and compiled by Rev. Daniel W. Hille and Nate Terry.

Cover Art designed by Michael Leavitt (mikeleavittart.com).

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Opening Prayer

"Holy God help us to welcome your Christ into the world, into Jerusalem, and into our hearts. As we light these candles for worship, may their resilient flames remind us of your promises that have endured from age to age.

Help us to celebrate, and hold us in our fear as we move through this most holy of weeks, ever trusting you, and the future that you call us into."

Amen.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

A reading from Mark 11:1-11

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' " ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Musical Offering

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race, you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy, enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel – Mark 15:1-39

^{15:1}As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ²Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so.” ³Then the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴Pilate asked him again, “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.” ⁵But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

⁶Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” ¹⁰For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹²Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” ¹³They shouted back, “Crucify him!” ¹⁴Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

¹⁶Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

²⁵It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!” ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.” ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

As we enter into the center of time this Holy Week, let us pray for all people and all places that yearn for God's presence.

*...let us pray,
have mercy, O God.*

God of new life, lead us through the week ahead; through death, and beyond. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Son of God, and Son of Man, you came into the world as a babe in Bethlehem to love it. You rode into Jerusalem as a king coronated on a donkey with branches and palms, to show the world the way to new life.

Lead us, guide us, and hold us.

In the face of persecution, political turmoil, and social unrest, you remained calm, faithfully trusting the power of the Father; inspire us to do the same.

Lead us, guide us, and hold us.

Until your dying breath, you found time to forgive, and welcome others into Your kingdom. You told criminals hanging on crosses that they too would be with you in paradise, giving a sign to all who watched that the path you have traveled is a path for all people.

Lead us, guide us, and hold us.

A darkness is coming to our land, and with all the acquaintances, including the women who followed him from Galilee, we wait, watching you as you show us the way..

Lead us, guide us, and hold us.

Hold us as we wait for a miracle, with bated breath and shanking folded hands.
Hold us as darkness settles in our land and we cling to your promise that it will not be overcome.

Hold us as we remember the words you taught us to pray...

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.

Extinguishing of Candles

God of All things, we pray to you this day asking for hope, for patience, and for so much more. Lead us, guide us, and hold us, as we wait, clinging to the promises that are woven into our faith, our minds, and our souls, as we enter into the center of time.

Lord Hear Our Prayer.

(candles are extinguished)

Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, we remember that most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life. We gather with the church throughout the world in prayer. Now through light and the word, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless our candles, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lighting of the Candles

The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispels the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen!

Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation;

and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation.

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your king!

Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever.

Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you!

Musical Offering

Prayer of the Day

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel – Mark 16:1-8

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right

side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Easter Proclamation

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that with full devotion of heart and mind and voice we should praise the invisible God, and the only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who, by his precious blood, redeemed us from bondage to the ancient sin. For this indeed is the Paschal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain, by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy.

This is the time!

This is the time
in which, in ancient times, you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel,
and led them, dry-shod, through the sea.

This is the time

in which the darkness of sin has been purged.

This is the time

in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin,
are renewed in grace and are restored to holiness.

This is the time

in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph.

A time truly blessed which alone was worthy to know
the time and hour in which Christ arose again from hell!

This is the time!

Therefore, in this time of grace,
receive, O God, our praise and thanksgiving
for the light of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,
reflected in the burning of our candles.

We sing the glories of the pillars of fire,
the brightness of which is not diminished
even when its light is divided and borrowed.

For it is fed by the melting wax which the bees, your servants,
have made for the substance of this candle.

This is the time

in which heaven and earth are joined- things human and things divine.

We pray to you, O God,
that the candles, burning to Your honor,
will continue to vanquish the darkness,
and be mingled with the lights of heaven.

And we pray, O God, rule, govern, and preserve
with your continual protection your whole church,
giving us peace in this time of our paschal rejoicing;
through the same Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who taught us to pray...

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.

Blessing

May the God of hope fill you
with all the joy and peace of believing.
Go in peace, make peace wherever you go.
Amen.

Dismissal

Alleluia, Christ is Risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Second Sunday after Easter

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Call To Worship

Let us adore God almighty, who created us, who sustains us, who loves us with everlasting love and gives us the light of the knowledge of glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

We praise you, O God; we acknowledge you to be the Lord.

Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor; who in every respect was tempted as we are, yet without sinning; who went about doing good in preaching the Gospel of the kingdom; who became obedient unto death, even death on a cross; who died and is alive forever more; who has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers; who is seated at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father; who will come again, as Judge and king.

All praise to you, O risen Christ.

Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, by whom we are born into the family of God, and made members of the body of Christ; whose witness confirms us, whose wisdom teaches us, whose power enables us to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.

All praise to you, O Holy Spirit.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel – John 20:19-31

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are

those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon

Musical Offering

Prayers of Intercession

As people of Easter, You gather us in like a hen gathers her brood. From the safety and security of your wings, O God, we pray for the church, the world, and all that is in it.

...Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Gathered in your great cloud of witness, we raise before you these prayers, and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

Almighty God, we lift up our hearts in gratitude to you, and for all your loving kindness we bless your holy name.

For life and health, for love and friendship, and for the goodness and mercy that have followed us all the days of our lives.

We praise you, O God.

For the wonder and beauty of the world; and for all things true and honorable, just and pure, lovely and gracious.

We praise you, O God.

For the gift of Jesus Christ, you only-begotten Son; for the grace and truth which came by Jesus; and for his obedience unto death, even death on a cross.

We praise you, O God.

For Jesus' glorious resurrection and ascension to your right hand, and for the kingdom and glory and everlasting dominion.

We praise you, O God.

For the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, the Lord and Giver of life; for your holy Church throughout the world; for all the means of grace; and for fellowship of the redeemed in heaven and on earth.

We praise you, O God. Glory, thanksgiving, and praise be to you, O God almighty, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Lord Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray....

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.

Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God.

Dismissal

Go in peace, make peace wherever you go.
Amen.

Third Sunday after Easter

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Call To Worship

Let us adore God almighty, who created us, who sustains us, who loves us with everlasting love and gives us the light of the knowledge of glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

We praise you, O God; we acknowledge you to be the Lord.

Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor; who in every respect was tempted as we are, yet without sinning; who went about doing good in preaching the Gospel of the kingdom; who became obedient unto death, even death on a cross; who died and is alive forever more; who has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers; who is seated at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father; who will come again, as Judge and king.

All praise to you, O risen Christ.

Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, by whom we are born into the family of God, and made members of the body of Christ; whose witness confirms us, whose wisdom teaches us, whose power enables us to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.

All praise to you, O Holy Spirit.

Prayer of the Day

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel – Luke 24:36b-48

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

Sermon

Musical Offering

Prayers of Intercession

As people of Easter, You gather us in like a hen gathers her brood. From the safety and security of your wings, O God, we pray for the church, the world, and all that is in it.

...Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Gathered in your great cloud of witness, we raise before you these prayers, and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

Almighty God, we lift up our hearts in gratitude to you, and for all your loving kindness we bless your holy name.

For life and health, for love and friendship, and for the goodness and mercy that have followed us all the days of our lives.

We praise you, O God.

For the wonder and beauty of the world; and for all things true and honorable, just and pure, lovely and gracious.

We praise you, O God.

For the gift of Jesus Christ, you only-begotten Son; for the grace and truth which came by Jesus; and for his obedience unto death, even death on a cross.

We praise you, O God.

For Jesus' glorious resurrection and ascension to your right hand, and for the kingdom and glory and everlasting dominion.

We praise you, O God.

For the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, the Lord and Giver of life; for your holy Church throughout the world; for all the means of grace; and for fellowship of the redeemed in heaven and on earth.

We praise you, O God. Glory, thanksgiving, and praise be to you, O God almighty, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Lord Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray....

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.

Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God.

Dismissal

Go in peace, make peace wherever you go.
Amen.

Fourth Sunday after Easter

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Call To Worship

Let us adore God almighty, who created us, who sustains us, who loves us with everlasting love and gives us the light of the knowledge of glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

We praise you, O God; we acknowledge you to be the Lord.

Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor; who in every respect was tempted as we are, yet without sinning; who went about doing good in preaching the Gospel of the kingdom; who became obedient unto death, even death on a cross; who died and is alive forever more; who has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers; who is seated at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father; who will come again, as Judge and king.

All praise to you, O risen Christ.

Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, by whom we are born into the family of God, and made members of the body of Christ; whose witness confirms us, whose wisdom teaches us, whose power enables us to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.

All praise to you, O Holy Spirit.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel – John 10:11-18

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Sermon

Musical Offering

Prayers of Intercession

As people of Easter, You gather us in like a hen gathers her brood. From the safety and security of your wings, O God, we pray for the church, the world, and all that is in it.

...Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Gathered in your great cloud of witness, we raise before you these prayers, and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

Almighty God, we lift up our hearts in gratitude to you, and for all your loving kindness we bless your holy name.

For life and health, for love and friendship, and for the goodness and mercy that have followed us all the days of our lives.

We praise you, O God.

For the wonder and beauty of the world; and for all things true and honorable, just and pure, lovely and gracious.

We praise you, O God.

For the gift of Jesus Christ, you only-begotten Son; for the grace and truth which came by Jesus; and for his obedience unto death, even death on a cross.

We praise you, O God.

For Jesus' glorious resurrection and ascension to your right hand, and for the kingdom and glory and everlasting dominion.

We praise you, O God.

For the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, the Lord and Giver of life; for your holy Church throughout the world; for all the means of grace; and for fellowship of the redeemed in heaven and on earth.

We praise you, O God. Glory, thanksgiving, and praise be to you, O God almighty, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Lord Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray....

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.

Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God.

Dismissal

Go in peace, make peace wherever you go.
Amen.

Fifth Sunday after Easter

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Call To Worship

Let us adore God almighty, who created us, who sustains us, who loves us with everlasting love and gives us the light of the knowledge of glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

We praise you, O God; we acknowledge you to be the Lord.

Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor; who in every respect was tempted as we are, yet without sinning; who went about doing good in preaching the Gospel of the kingdom; who became obedient unto death, even death on a cross; who died and is alive forever more; who has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers; who is seated at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father; who will come again, as Judge and king.

All praise to you, O risen Christ.

Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, by whom we are born into the family of God, and made members of the body of Christ; whose witness confirms us, whose wisdom teaches us, whose power enables us to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.

All praise to you, O Holy Spirit.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Gospel – 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.”

Sermon

Musical Offering

Prayers of Intercession

As people of Easter, You gather us in like a hen gathers her brood. From the safety and security of your wings, O God, we pray for the church, the world, and all that is in it.

...Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Gathered in your great cloud of witness, we raise before you these prayers, and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

Almighty God, we lift up our hearts in gratitude to you, and for all your loving kindness we bless your holy name.

For life and health, for love and friendship, and for the goodness and mercy that have followed us all the days of our lives.

We praise you, O God.

For the wonder and beauty of the world; and for all things true and honorable, just and pure, lovely and gracious.

We praise you, O God.

For the gift of Jesus Christ, you only-begotten Son; for the grace and truth which came by Jesus; and for his obedience unto death, even death on a cross.

We praise you, O God.

For Jesus' glorious resurrection and ascension to your right hand, and for the kingdom and glory and everlasting dominion.

We praise you, O God.

For the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, the Lord and Giver of life; for your holy Church throughout the world; for all the means of grace; and for fellowship of the redeemed in heaven and on earth.

We praise you, O God. Glory, thanksgiving, and praise be to you, O God almighty, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Lord Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray....

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.

Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God.

Dismissal

Go in peace, make peace wherever you go.
Amen.

Sixth Sunday after Easter

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Call To Worship

Let us adore God almighty, who created us, who sustains us, who loves us with everlasting love and gives us the light of the knowledge of glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

We praise you, O God; we acknowledge you to be the Lord.

Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor; who in every respect was tempted as we are, yet without sinning; who went about doing good in preaching the Gospel of the kingdom; who became obedient unto death, even death on a cross; who died and is alive forever more; who has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers; who is seated at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father; who will come again, as Judge and king.

All praise to you, O risen Christ.

Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, by whom we are born into the family of God, and made members of the body of Christ; whose witness confirms us, whose wisdom teaches us, whose power enables us to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.

All praise to you, O Holy Spirit.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel – John 15:9-17

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

Sermon

Musical Offering

Prayers of Intercession

As people of Easter, You gather us in like a hen gathers her brood. From the safety and security of your wings, O God, we pray for the church, the world, and all that is in it.

...Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Gathered in your great cloud of witness, we raise before you these prayers, and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

Almighty God, we lift up our hearts in gratitude to you, and for all your loving kindness we bless your holy name.

For life and health, for love and friendship, and for the goodness and mercy that have followed us all the days of our lives.

We praise you, O God.

For the wonder and beauty of the world; and for all things true and honorable, just and pure, lovely and gracious.

We praise you, O God.

For the gift of Jesus Christ, you only-begotten Son; for the grace and truth which came by Jesus; and for his obedience unto death, even death on a cross.

We praise you, O God.

For Jesus' glorious resurrection and ascension to your right hand, and for the kingdom and glory and everlasting dominion.

We praise you, O God.

For the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, the Lord and Giver of life; for your holy Church throughout the world; for all the means of grace; and for fellowship of the redeemed in heaven and on earth.

We praise you, O God. Glory, thanksgiving, and praise be to you, O God almighty, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Lord Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray....

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.

Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God.

Dismissal

Go in peace, make peace wherever you go.
Amen.

Ascension of Our Lord

Sunday, May 12, 2024

Call To Worship (Adapted from Psalm 47)

Sing praises to God, sing praises;
God has ascended amid shouts of joy.
Clap your hands, all you nations;
shout to God with cries of joy.
God has ascended amid shouts of joy.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
God has ascended amid shouts of joy.

Holy God, as we remember the return of our Lord Jesus Christ to your presence, help us to keep our hearts and minds turned to you. Give us strength for the work ahead as we continue to be an outpost of your kingdom, sharing with our communities the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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.
Amen.

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

Most merciful God,
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.

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. Amen.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel – Luke 24:44-53 (Ascension Gospel, not Sunday Gospel)

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Sermon

Musical Offering

Prayers of Intercession

As people of Easter, You gather us in like a hen gathers her brood. From the safety and security of your wings, O God, we pray for the church, the world, and all that is in it.

...Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Gathered in your great cloud of witness, we raise before you these prayers, and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

God of all time and space, you sent your son Jesus Christ to be the light that shines in the darkness, to close the chasm of fear and remove the sting of death. In his life, death, and resurrection, hell was crushed under foot and all of time and space were pulled into your holy presence.

We praise you for Christ our Lord, and wait for his return.

Praise and thanks to you, Master of the Universe, for your love knows no bounds. You created existence out of love, and sent your son to redeem that creation in love, by his holy and precious blood.

We praise you for Christ our Lord, and wait for his return.

As we continue to serve the world as your church, equip us to share the good news of Jesus' love with all people. Grant us the wisdom of the prophets, the dedication of the apostles, and the support of the heavenly hosts as we carry out this work with our lives.

We praise you for Christ our Lord, and wait for his return.

As we continue to praise Christ our Lord and wait for his return, let us remember the words he taught us to pray...

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.

Blessing

May God Almighty, maker of heaven and earth hold you, bless you, and remind you that you are loved by the one in whom all things exist.

As we wait for the return of Christ our savior, I pray you feel God's love peace, and acceptance of you right now.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace, make peace wherever you go.

Thanks be to God.