

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

In God's Way

April 27 & 28, 2013

AS WE GATHER

The season of Easter is the time of great surprises in the Church. God's people discover that He has a new way of relating to everyone that spills over into the very way we relate to one another. In the First Reading for this day we share in Peter's sheer amazement in the revelation that the Gospel of Jesus is intended for everyone---Jew and Gentile. This invitation from Christ is utterly new and surprising! Often, at the holidays, we enlarge the dining table to include guests beyond the immediate family. In broadly proclaiming the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation to Jew and Gentile alike, Jesus does that same thing on an eternal scale. His heavenly banquet feast will be prepared for all who believe in Christ. Praise and thanksgiving is our only response as we revel in the resurrection of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, our Lord!

5:00 BELL ANTHEM *"God of Grace and God of Glory"*

WELCOME

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:25

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #803 **"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"**

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow-'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountain-head of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

People: For kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

Pastor: This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

People: For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. *I Timothy 2:1-7*

Pastor: For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,

People: for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. *I Timothy 4:4-5*

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: O God our Father, since you have set forth the way of life for us in your beloved Son, we confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, our reluctance to bear the cross.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: Forgive us the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibility in your service, our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: Forgive us that so little of your love has reached others through us, that we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, grudging in forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

People: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.

Pastor: Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May the God of peace sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #818 "In Thee Is Gladness"

In Thee is gladness Amid all sadness, Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
By Thee are given The gifts of heaven, Thou the true Redeemer art.
Our souls Thou wakest, Our bonds Thou breakest;
Who trusts Thee surely Has built securely; He stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining To see Thy shining, Dying or living
To Thee are cleaving; Naught can us sever: Alleluia!

Since He is ours,---- We fear no powers, Not of earth nor sin nor death.
He sees and blesses In worst distresses; He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story Tell of His glory With hearts and voices;
All heav'n rejoices In Him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness, Triumph o'er sadness, Love Him and praise Him
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, you make the minds of your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what you have commanded and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

FIRST READING Acts 11:1-18 (*Peter tells of the Gospel being shared with the Gentiles.*) The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them." Peter began and explained everything to them precisely as it had happened: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of the air. Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.' "I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' "The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again. "Right then three

men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.' "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?" When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life."

EPISTLE Revelation 21:1-7 (*John beholds a vision of the new heaven and new earth.*)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

ANTHEM 10:30

"The Heavens Are Singing"

Choir

(Rise)

GOSPEL John 16:12-22 (*The Spirit of truth will glorify Jesus*) "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me." Some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying." Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'? I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" Stanzas 1-4

At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast- Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

SERMON "Christ for the Nations" Acts 11:1-18

HYMN #633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" Stanzas 5-8
Rise for last stanza

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

CREED *The First Article of the Apostles' Creed and its explanation from Luther's Small Catechism*

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine, goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve And obey Him. This is most certainly true.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for all of God's people, praying for His blessings, praying for His Spirit to lead and guide, and praying for all people who still need to know the Lord. Almighty God, we pray for the whole Church on earth; for all pastors, teachers, deaconesses, musicians and servants of Christ's people.

People: May the Holy Spirit give us all the joy of singing the new song, praising Jesus for the resurrection victory we have in our Savior.

Pastor: Lord of the nations, we pray for the president, the Congress and all who make, administer and judge our laws.

People: Bless, lead, and strengthen them as they serve the people of our nation, that our common life might be conformed to your Holy will.

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we pray for our parish, that you would strengthen us by grace and make us an outpost of the age to come,

People: serving our Lord who rescues from sin and death, and living even in this fallen world the joys of a life that death cannot destroy.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, you continue to equip, educate, and call men into the office of the Holy Ministry. Bless all seminarians, especially J.J. Stefanic, as they receive the first call to serve your bride, the Holy Christian Church.

People: Strengthen and support them that they may serve faithfully and diligently, bringing more people to saving faith and building up your people to live out the faith.

Pastor: God of compassion and healing, we pray for those who travel, for pregnant women and young mothers, for the lonely and afflicted, for those suffering from addiction, for those who mourn and for those in need of healing especially Dorothy, Bob, Ron, Marga, Eleanor, Diane, Anita, David, Carol, Jean, Lois, Sarah, Irma, Gerald and Joe.

People: Bless them, dear heavenly Father, protect, nourish, sustain and restore them according to your good and gracious will. Bless those who celebrate your good gifts including Carol, Kevin & Suzette.

Pastor: Lord of our salvation, we pray for all those who come to the feast of Christ's body and blood this day, that they may be preserved from unbelief and impenitence,

People: and that they may receive forgiveness of all sin and experience a foretaste of the feast to come.

Pastor: Lord of glory, we give you thanks and praise for all those who have fallen asleep in the sure hope of the resurrection to eternal life.

People: Grant us to remember them in our hearts, to imitate their faith, and to eventually give us our portion in life everlasting with all His saints.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI (p. 198 in hymnal)

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

5:00 BELL ANTHEM

"Blessed Assurance"

HYMN #566 "By Grace I'm Saved"

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless; My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever false-hood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain: By grace you too will life obtain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit; Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer, Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone, And we are saved by grace alone.

Continued

By grace God's Son, our only Savior, Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone, That brought Him from His heav'n-ly throne.

By grace! This ground of faith is certain; As long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration, What in His Word our God commands,
Our faith in what our God has done Depends on grace-grace through His Son.

HYMN #483 "With High Delight"

With high delight Let us unite In songs of great jubilation.
Ye pure in heart, All bear your part, Sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.
To set us free Forever, He Is ris'n and sends To all earth's ends
Good news to save ev-'ry nation.

True God, He first From death has burst Forth into life, all subduing.
His enemy Doth vanquished lie; His death has been death's undoing.
"And yours shall be Like victory O'er death and grave," Saith He, who gave
His life for us, life renewing.

Let praises ring; Give thanks, and bring To Christ our Lord adoration.
His honor speed By word and deed To ev-'ry land, ev-'ry nation.
So shall His love gives us above, From misery And death set free,
All joy and full consolation.

HYMN #555 "Salvation Unto Us Has Come"

Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom, They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.

What God in His Law demand And none to Him could render
Caused wrath and woe on ev-'ry hand For man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires The spirit of the Law requires,
And lost is our condition.

It was a false, misleading dream That God His Law had given
That sinners could themselves redeem And by their works gain heaven.
The Law is but a mirror bright To bring the inbred sin to light
That lurks within our nature.

From sin our flesh could not abstain, Sin held its sway unceasing;
The task was useless and in vain, Our guilt was e'er increasing.
None can remove sins' poisoned dart Or purity our guileful heart-
So deep is our corruption.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

NUNC DIMITTIS

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Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared
before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you now and forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #837

"Lift High the Cross"

Stanzas 1, 2, 4 & 6

Refrain ***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.***

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **Refrain**

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in con-qu'ring ranks combine. **Refrain**

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. **Refrain**

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! **Refrain**

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Organist
Bell Director
Choir Director
Music Coordinator

Pastor Gregg Stanton
Pastor Harold Bender
Virginia Sell, Marc Stefanic, Marty Osell
Jon Chang, April Dela Cotera, Cross Foti
Roger Gottschalk
Jan Schneider
Nancy Hoelke
Kim Woller