



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 2, 2021

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Place for Everyone . . .

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MOLLY HAGGERTY, Interim Pastor



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The *congregation*, or participants, *respond* with the lines in **bold type**.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING HYMN: *Now the Green Blade Rises*
(LBW 148)

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

☛ **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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 worship²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.”³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”³¹ He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.³² Now 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?”³⁵ Then 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?”³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.³⁹ When 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.⁴⁰ But 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 This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:25-31

L/G by whole verse

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

MUSICAL OFFERING

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God

sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but

that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we

also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love

is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and

do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is

the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among

us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is

no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached

perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or

sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have

not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

P This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SERMON

(Silence for a time of reflection)

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Awake, O Sleeper* (WOV 745)

BAPTISMAL SERVICE OF MILA KAI MORDA

(see insert)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

☞ Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

☞ God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

☛ **Your mercy is great.**

☞ You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

☛ **Your mercy is great.**

Ⓔ You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

Ⓒ **Your mercy is great.**

Ⓔ You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Ⓒ **Your mercy is great.**

Ⓔ You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

Ⓒ **Your mercy is great.**

Ⓔ In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ⓒ **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE COMMUNION MEAL

THE OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray. God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

The elements were given as you entered.

P The body of Christ given for you.

C Amen.

P The blood of Christ shed for you.

C Amen.

P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

THE LITURGY OF SENDING FOR SERVICE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

☞ Let us pray. Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☞ **Amen.**

BLESSING

☞ May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

☞ Alleluia! Christ is risen.

☞ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

☞ Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

☞ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. We will!**

POSTLUDE

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