



Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024 Setting 1 8:15

It Happens by Chariots

Prelude

As We Gather

The spoken message shared by Philip with the Ethiopian stranger made an eternal difference in that man's life. The words that we speak and the messages that we share are of great importance and have the divine potential to "spread the reign of God the Lord" (*LSB* 830:1).

Welcome

Hymn of Invocation "Come, Thou Almighty King" LSB 905

**Come, Thou almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing;
Help us to praise;
Father all-glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.**

**Come, Thou incarnate Word,
Gird on Thy mighty sword;
Our prayer attend.
Come and Thy people bless,
And give Thy Word success,
And let Thy righteousness
On us descend.**

**Come, holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour!
Thou, who almighty art,
Now rule in ev'ry heart,
And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.**

**To Thee, great One in Three,
Eternal praises be
Hence evermore!
Thy sov'reign majesty
May we in glory see,
And to eternity
Love and adore.**

Text: English, before 1760, alt.

Text: Public domain

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

A If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

A Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Easter Acclamation

A Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Service of the Word

Introit

A little while, and you will see me no longer;
and again a little while, and you will see me.

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your saints shall bless you!

My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

A little while, and you will see me no longer;
and again a little while, and you will see me.

Kyrie

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

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



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C A - men.

This Is the Feast (sing)

**C This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free
to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and
glory are His.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all
creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb
forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

A The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A 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.

C **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 8: 26-40

(Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news

about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

he has put all things under his feet.

Epistle

1 John 4: 1-11

(An exhortation to lives of Christian love)

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir: "I am the Vine" Allen Pote

Gospel

John 15: 1-8

(Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.)

A The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

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

¹[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. 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. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn for Today "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" LSB 633 vs 1, 2, 4, 7, 8

**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!

(Choir)

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

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!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.

Text: Public domain

Sermon "It Happens by Chariots" Acts 8: 26-40

Prayer of the Church

- A** Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

A May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, amid both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Guide our congregation to faithfully discern Your purpose for mission and ministries to our community and world in the years to come. Into Your merciful hands we commend *Mary Fodor, Jan Peterson, Charles Barber, Ed Mischen, Jose Luna, Ken Wolski, Debra Berger, Janet Pollard, Greg Coleman, Carol Danner, James Allen, Joseph Davis, Janice Weikert, Chris Quakenbush, Tammy Tolbert, Dave Peterson, Erik, Peterson,* and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his deceiving lies. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. We pray for Your presence and provision within our families at SPLC and in the lives of our children. Be with each member of St. Paul, especially those we lift to You this day, Cheryl Hill, Gayle Hoyt, Gary & Bonnie Holtzman, Joan Hubbard, Bless the children of our CLC Evelyn, Otto, Henry, Ian along with their parents and our staff. Deliver us from evil. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

(Having received the Gospel's grace, let us joyfully share "Peace of Christ" with one another.)

Offerings Are Received

We Prepare

A As we prepare to receive the Sacrament of Christ's True Body and Blood for the forgiveness of our sins, let us humbly confess what we believe regarding this Sacrament and our approach to it:

C **I believe and confess that I sin often. I am responsible for my sins. I am truly sorry for them and I desire to redirect my life by God's grace.**

C **I am not withholding forgiveness nor harboring bitterness with anyone.**

C **I believe that Jesus is truly present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion- in, with, and under the bread and wine - His Body and Blood – for the forgiveness of my sins.**

C **I believe I am coming together with fellow Christians who are united in faith and doctrine concerning this Sacrament.**

- P** If this is what you believe then I invite you to come forward to share the true Body and Blood of our Savior under these elements of bread and wine. If this is not what you understand or believe you are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply cross your arms as a sign to receive a blessing only.

(For those who are intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A 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 Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (sing)

C Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are
full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

A Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

C **Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pax Domini

A The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei (sing)

**☐ Lamb of God, You take away
the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away
the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away
the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

Distribution Hymn "Your Table I Approach" LSB 628

**Your table I approach;
Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart
Prove hurtful to me there.**

**Lord, I confess my sins
And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find
Forgiveness at Your hands.**

**Your body and Your blood,
Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord,
In blest reality.**

**Search not how this takes place,
This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more
Than what we think could be.**

**O grant, most blessed Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.**

**Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.**

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
Text: Public domain

Distribution Hymn "Where Charity and Love Prevail" LSB 845

**Where charity and love prevail
There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love
By love are we thus bound.**

**With grateful joy and holy fear
His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul
Now love Him in return.**

**Forgive we now each other's faults
As we our faults confess,
And let us love each other well
In Christian holiness.**

**Let strife among us be unknown;
Let all contention cease;
Be God's the glory that we seek;
Be ours His holy peace.**

**Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined
We are in Him made one.**

**For love excludes no race or clan
That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all
Whose Father is the same.**

Text: Latin, c. 9th cent.; tr. Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97, alt.

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Distribution Hymn "Christ, the Word of God Incarnate" LSB 540

**Christ, the Word of God incarnate,
Lord and Son of Abraham;
Christ, the radiance of the Father,
Perfect God, the great I AM;
Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished,
Light and life You bring to all;
Light our path with Your own presence,
Grant us grace to heed Your call.**

**Christ, the living bread from heaven,
Food for body, food for soul;
Christ, the manna daily given,
Nourish, strengthen, make us whole.
Feed us with the food of heaven,
Foretaste of the feast to be;
Quench our thirst with living water
Springing up eternally.**

**Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant
From the stump of Jesse's tree;
Christ, true vine, You nurture branches
To bear fruit abundantly.
Graft us into You, O Savior;
Prune our hearts so we remain
Fruitful branches in Your vineyard
Till eternal life we gain.**

**Christ, our good and faithful shepherd,
Watching all Your lambs and sheep;
Christ, the gate that guards the sheepfold,
Never-failing vigil keep.
When we stray, Good Shepherd, seek us,
Find us, lift us, bear us home;
Lamb of God, our shepherd, keep us;
Let us hear Your voice alone.**

**Christ, the way that leads unailing
To the Father's home on high,
Christ, the truth that frees the captive,
Christ, the life that cannot die.
Mediator to the Father,
Sacrifice and great High Priest:
Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions,
There to share Your wedding feast.**

**Christ, the Alpha and Omega,
Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
Christ, the life and resurrection,
Christ, the Church's glorious head:
Praise and thanks and adoration
And unending worship be
To the Father and the Spirit
And to You eternally.**

Text: Steven P. Mueller, 1964

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Thank the Lord (sing)

**☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise;
tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice
and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises
and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Easter Acclamation

A Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn to Depart "Lift High the Cross" LSB 837 vs. 1, 3, 5, 6

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

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified

Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain

**Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain**

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

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.

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Postlude

Acknowledgments

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