



**Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024 10:45**

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**

**+ PREPARATION +**

**Opening Song "Shine Like the Son"**

**How beautiful  
are the hands and feet of those  
Bringing the good news  
to all the world  
Bringing the good news  
to all the world**

**And how beautiful  
the sound of all  
Your people In love  
with Someone so much  
greater than themselves  
Someone so much  
greater than themselves**

**You've made us ready  
Shine like the Son shine like the Son  
Shine like the Son for ev'ryone  
For ev'ryone for ev'ryone**

**How beautiful are the hands and feet of those  
Working in the vineyard of the Lord  
Working in the vineyard of the Lord  
And blessed are those going in the name of the Lord  
In the middle of the lost and the poor  
We're living in the name of the Lord**

**You've made us ready  
You've made us worthy  
Shine like the Son shine like the Son  
Shine like the Son for ev'ryone  
For ev'ryone. For ev'ryone.**

**Announcing peace  
As the prodigals come home  
And You open up the doors  
And the prodigals come home  
Setting the captives free by Your word  
And You free us by Your word  
You free us by Your word**

**Shine like the Son shine like the Son  
Shine like the Son for ev'ryone  
For ev'ryone**

**Shine like the Son shine like the Son  
Shine like the Son for ev'ryone  
For ev'ryone For ev'ryone**

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### **Invocation**

**A** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

**C** **sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

- A** Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!
- C** **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name."**
- P** Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,
- C** **who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**
- A** You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!
- C** **I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

- P** Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.
- C** **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**
- A** God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant 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!**

## **Song of Forgiveness "You are my King" SSP 32**

**I'm forgiven**

**Because You were forsaken**

**I'm accepted**

**You were condemned**

**I'm alive and well**

**Your Spirit is within me**

**Because You died**

**And rose again**

**Amazing love**

**How can it be**

**That You my King**

**Would die for me**

**Amazing love**

**I know it's true**

**It's my joy to honor You**

**In all I do I honor You**

Text: Billy J. Foote

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**+ WORD +**

## Prayer of the Day

**A** Let us pray.

Risen and ascended Lord, You are the vine and we are the branches. Apart from You there is no life. By Baptism You have grafted us into Your gracious life. Cause Your Word to abide in us and make us fruitful to the glory of Your Father, 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.)*

<sup>26</sup>An 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. <sup>27</sup>And 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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>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 before its shearer is silent,  
so he opens not his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And 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?" <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And 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. <sup>40</sup>But 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.**

## Epistle

1 John 4:1–11

*(An exhortation to lives of Christian love)*

<sup>1</sup>Beloved, 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. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and 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. <sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We 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.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In 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.

<sup>10</sup>In 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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, 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.**

**Anthem:** "I am the Vine"

**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.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every 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. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide 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. <sup>5</sup>I 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. <sup>6</sup>If 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. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By 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.**

## **Children's Song "Child of God"**

**If anybody asks who I am,  
who I am, who I am,  
If anybody asks who I am,  
Say that I'm a child of God**

**If anybody asks you how I am,  
how I am, how I am,  
If anybody asks you how I am,  
Say that I'm alive and free.**

**If anybody asks you who's my friend?  
who's my friend, who's my friend?  
If anybody asks you who's my friend?  
Say that Jesus is His name.**

Text: Public domain

## **Children's Message**

**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 Hoit, 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.)*

## + SACRAMENT +

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

- A** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You graciously invite us to be the people who proclaim the salvation that is in Christ alone. Gathered at Your Table, may we receive His blessed body and blood, fully trusting in the promises that are fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Unite us to Christ our Savior that we may live and respond to the opportunities for service and witness brought to us by the Holy Spirit and bring us at last to Your eternal kingdom.

### **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."

### **Pax Domini**

- A** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **Amen.**

**Song of Sacrifice** "Lamb of God" SSP 4

**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**

Text: Michael A Schmid

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**Distribution Song** "Here I Am, Lord" SSP 52

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?**



**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne My people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My word to them.  
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them.  
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.**

Text: Dan Schutte

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**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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## **Song of Thanksgiving "We Thank You Lord" SSP 5**

**We thank You Lord**

**We sing Your praise**

**We shout aloud alleluia.**

**Let all the world**

**seek Your face**

**and celebrate Your gifts of love.**

**For you fulfill your promises,  
and lead us forth with songs of joy  
and shouts of thanksgiving**

**Alleluia, Alleluia,**

**Alleluia, Alleluia,**

**Alleluia, Alleluia,**

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Text: Michael A Schmid

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## **Post-Communion Collect**

**A** Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we bless You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same, help us to rejoice in Your mercies that we may grow daily and reach out with Your love in every situation. Finally, in Your mercy, grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

**C** **Amen.**

## **Benedicamus**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Benediction**

**A** 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**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## **Dismissal**

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** **AMEN!**

**Song of Departure** "Lift High the Name of Jesus" SSP 81

**Lift high the name of Jesus**

**Of Jesus our King**

**Make known the power of His grace**

**The beauty of His peace**

**Remember how His mercy reached**

**And we cried out to Him**

**He lifted us to solid ground**

**To freedom from our sin**

**Oh sing my soul  
And tell all He's done  
'Til the earth and heavens  
are filled with His glory**

**Lift high the name of Jesus  
Of Jesus our Lord  
His pow'r in us is greater than  
Is greater than this world  
To share the reason for our hope  
To serve with love and grace  
That all who see Him shine through us  
Might bring the Father praise**

**Oh sing my soul  
And tell all He's done  
'Til the earth and heavens  
are filled with His glory**

**Lift high the name of Jesus  
Of Jesus our Light  
No other name on earth can save  
Can raise a soul to life  
He opens up our eyes to see  
The harvest He has grown  
We labor in His fields of grace  
As He leads sinners home**

**Oh sing my soul  
And tell all He's done  
'Til the earth and heavens  
are filled with His glory**

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## **Postlude**

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