



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

PAX Worship Service

April 23rd, 2023

AS WE GATHER

Today we see Jesus appear to His disciples on the road to Emmaus. They say afterward that their hearts burned within them as Jesus opened up to them the Scriptures. In the Reading from Acts, those gathered on Pentecost are cut to the heart by Peter's words. And in the Epistle, Peter speaks of purified souls and hearts. It seems our hearts are being greatly affected by Christ. They are cut, burning, and purified by the Word of Christ.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING SONG

"We Believe"

Verse: In this time of desperation, when all we know is doubt and fear. There is only one foundation; we believe, we believe.
In this broken generation, when all is dark You help us see.
There is only one salvation, we believe, we believe.

Chorus: We believe in God, the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He's givin' us new life.
We believe in the crucifixion. We believe that He conquered death. We believe in the resurrection, and He's comin' back again. We believe.

Verse: Let our faith be more than anthems, greater than the songs we sing. And in our weakness and temptations, we believe. We believe.

Chorus: We believe in God, the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He's givin' us new life.
We believe in the crucifixion. We believe that He conquered death. We believe int the resurrection, and He's comin' back again.

Bridge: Let the lost be found and the dead be raised in the here and now let love invade. Let the church live loud; our God will say, "we believe, we believe." And the gates of hell will not prevail for the power or God has torn the veil. Know we know Your love will never fail. We believe, we believe.

Chorus: We believe in God, the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ. We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He's givin' us new life. We believe in the crucifixion. We believe that He conquered death. We believe in the resurrection, and He's comin' back, He's comin' back again. He's comin' back again. We believe, we believe.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: God raised Jesus from the dead
People: and gave Him honor and glory.

Pastor: We place our faith in Him,
People: and we place our hope in His resurrection.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As human beings, we inherited futile ways and deeds. We were born in sin, and we daily sin much. Though we may try to do what is right, we always fall short, burdened by mistakes and the weight of sin. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to draw near, confess our sins, and long to hear His living and abiding Word.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,
People: **we have not been pure of heart and mind and soul. We have not obeyed Your truth. We have not loved one another as we should. Forgive us for our futility, renew us by Your resurrection, and lead us back to the lives You want for us, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: “The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the Word of the Lord remains forever.” That Word of God tells us clearly that Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die and rise 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.
People: **Amen. We are purified because of the precious blood of Jesus.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of

the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Peter 1:17–25

¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. ²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

"Because He Lives (Amen)"

Verse: I believe in the Son; I believe in the Risen One; I believe I overcome by the power of His blood;

**Chorus: Amen, Amen, I'm alive, I'm alive because He lives;
Amen, Amen, let my song join the one that never ends because He lives.**

Verse: I was dead in the grave, I was covered in sin and shame. I heard mercy call my name, He rolled the stone away!

Chorus: Amen, Amen, I'm alive, I'm alive because He lives;
Amen, Amen, let my song join the one that never ends.

Bridge: Because He lives, I can face tomorrow; Because He lives every fear is gone;
I know He holds my life, my future in His hands.

Chorus: Amen, Amen, I'm alive, I'm alive because He lives;
Amen, Amen, let my song join the one that never ends.
Amen, Amen, I'm alive, I'm alive because He lives;
Amen, Amen, let my song join the one that never ends because He lives; Because He lives.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:13–35

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twenty-fourth chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹ And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the

women had said, but him they did not see.”²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther,²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them.³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them.³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.³² They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,³⁴ saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!”³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED (found inside back cover of the hymnal)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SONG OF THE DAY

"Living Hope"

Verse: How great the chasm that lay between us, how high the mountain I could not climb. In desperation I turned to heaven and spoke Your name into the night Then through the darkness Your loving kindness saw through the shadows of my soul. The work is finished, the end is written. Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Verse: Who could imagine so great a mercy? What heart could fathom such boundless grace? The God of ages stepped down from glory to wear my sin and bear my shame. The cross has spoken, I am forgiven. The King of Kings calls me His own. Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever. Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Chorus: Hallelujah! Praise the One who set me free! Hallelujah! Death has lost its grip on me. You have broken every chain, there's salvation in Your name. Jesus Christ, my living hope! Hallelujah! Praise the One who set me free! Hallelujah! Death has lost its grip on me. You have broken every chain, there's salvation in You name. Jesus Christ, my living hope!

Verse: Then came the morning that sealed the promise. Your buried body began to breathe. Out of the silence, the roaring Lion declared the grave has no claim on me. Then came the morning that sealed the promise. Your buried body began to breathe. Out of the silence, the roaring Lion declared the grave has no claim on me. Jesus, Yours is the victory.

Chorus: Hallelujah! Praise the One who set me free! Hallelujah! Death has lost its grip on me. You have broken every chain, there's salvation in Your name. Jesus Christ, my living hope! Hallelujah! Praise the One who set me free! Hallelujah! Death has lost its grip on me. You have broken every chain, there's salvation in Your name. Jesus Christ, my living hope! Jesus Christ, my living hope! God, my living hope!

SERMON

*"By Faith or By Deeds?"
Vicar Justin Brockman*

1 Peter 1:17-19

THE OFFERING *(baskets will be passed)*

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING SONG

"At The Cross"

Verse: O Lord, You've searched me, You know my way. Even when I fail You, I know You love me. Your holy presence surrounding me in every season, I know You love me. I know You love me.

Chorus: At the cross I bow my knee, where Your blood was shed for me. There's no greater love than this. You have overcome the

grave, Your glory fills the highest place. What can separate me now?

Verse: You go before me, You shield my way. Your hand upholds me; I know You love me.

Chorus: At the cross I bow my knee, where Your blood was shed for me. There's no greater love than this. You have overcome the grave, Your glory fills the highest place. What can separate me now? At the cross I bow my knee, where Your blood was shed for me. There's no greater love than this. You have overcome the grave, Your glory fills the highest place. What can separate me now?

Bridge: You tore the veil, You made a way when You said that, "It is done." You tore the veil, You made a way when You said that, "It is done."

Verse: And when the earth fades, falls from my eyes, and You stand before me, I know You love me; I know You love me.

Chorus: At the cross I bow my knee, where Your blood was shed for me. There's no greater love than this. You have overcome the grave, Your glory fills the highest place. What can separate me now? At the cross I bow my knee, where Your blood was shed for me. There's no greater love than this. You have overcome the grave, Your glory fills the highest place. What can separate me now?

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Pastor: Petitions heard... (*ending with...*) Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

LORD'S PRAYER (*found inside back cover of hymnal*)

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: 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 α body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: 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.
People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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 α give you peace.
People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG "Who You Say I Am"

**Verse: Who am I that the highest King would welcome me. I was
lost, but He brought me in. Oh, His love for me.**

**Chorus: Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed. I'm a child of God,
yes I am.**

**Verse: Free at last, He has ransomed me. His grace runs
deep. While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me. Yes, He
died for me.**

**Chorus: Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed. I'm a child of God,
yes I am. In my Father's house is a place for me. I'm a child
of God, yes I am.**

**Bridge: I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who You say I am. You are
for me, not against me. I am who You say I am. I am chosen,
not forsaken. I am who You say I am. You are for me, not
against me. I am who You say I am. I am who You say I am.**

**Chorus: Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed. I'm a child of God,
yes I am. In my Father's house is a place for me. I'm a child
of God, yest I am. In my Father's house is a place for me. I'm
a child of God, yes I am.**

SILENT PRAYER