

## First Evangelical Lutheran Church

(Wisconsin Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod)

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### ***Abiding in Christ***

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 25, 2021

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- To practice **social distancing**, you may sit where sheets of paper are positioned in each row.
  - **First-time visitors**—please fill out the yellow card in the seat in front of you and return this card to the offering plate or the pastor.
  - You can follow the **order of service** printed out in the **bulletin**.
  - **Hymns** are found in the red hymnal in front of you.
  - A printed copy of today's **sermon** is located on the table in the narthex.
  - Please reserve the back pews for parents with **small children**. If you have a fussy child, feel free to use the parents' room in the back of the sanctuary.
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### **EASTER ACCLAMATION** (Revelation 21):

M: This is the day the Lord has made;

**C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

M: He carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high,

**C: And showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.**

M: It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal

**C: To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN:.....CW #141 – At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing**

**INVOCATION:**

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION:**

M: Upon the hill the cross now stands empty. Morning light breaks upon the empty tomb. As we come before our God and King, let us confess our sins.

**C: Lord God, I humbly come before you. I confess that I am sinful in thought, word, and deed. I daily fail to do what you command and continually do what you forbid. Lord, I am sorry for my sins. I believe that for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ, you will have mercy on me.**

M: Upon this your sincere confession, by Christ’s command and authority, I assure you that your sins are all forgiven. The vacant cross and the empty grave are God’s signs to you that he has accepted the sacrifice of his one and only Son. Whoever believes this simple truth of Scripture has eternal life. The Lord is gracious and righteous!

**C: When I was in great need, he saved me.**

M: The Lord is my strength and my song;

**C: He has become my salvation.**

## LORD HAVE MERCY (KYRIE):

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



C: A - men.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

**HE IS ARISEN:**.....CW #162  
(Sung after a brief musical introduction)

He is a - ris - en! Glo - rious Word! Now rec-on - ciled is God, my  
Lord; The gates of heav'n are o - pen. My Je - sus did tri -  
um-phant die, And Sa-tan's ar - rows bro-ken lie, De-stroyed hell's  
fierc - est weap - on. Oh, hear What cheer! Christ vic - to-rious, Ris-ing  
glo-rious, Life is giv-ing. He was dead, but now is liv - ing!

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody line and a bass line. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece concludes with a final chord on the fifth staff.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

M: O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **FIRST LESSON: Philip demonstrates fruits of faith. Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” <sup>27</sup> So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

<sup>30</sup> Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

<sup>31</sup> “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup> This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,  
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.  
Who can speak of his descendants?  
For his life was taken from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup> As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” <sup>[37]</sup>

<sup>38</sup> And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

PSALM 67:

*Refrain*



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

*Psalm tone*



May God be gracious to us and b́less us\*  
and make his face shine upón us;

may your ways be ḱnown on earth,\*  
your salvation among all ńations.

May the nations be glad and síng for joy,\*  
for you rule the peoples justly  
and guide the nations óf the earth.

*Refrain*

Then the land will yield its h́arvest,\*  
and God, our God, will b́less us.

God will b́less us,\*  
and all the ends of the earth will féar him.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Śpirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Ámen.**

*Refrain*

## SECOND LESSON: Christians will burst forth with fruits of love.

1 John 3:16-24

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

<sup>19</sup> This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: <sup>20</sup> If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup> and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup> The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

**THE VERSE OF THE DAY:** Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



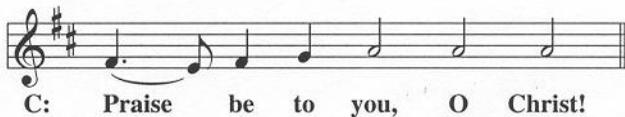
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**GOSPEL LESSON: Our relationship with Christ cannot be any closer than it is now. John 15:1-8**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

M: This is the gospel of the Lord.



**HYMN OF THE DAY:**..... CW #153 – Alleluia! Jesus Lives

**SERMON:**.....1 Corinthians 15:35-53

**“I Believe in the Resurrection of the Body”**

**NICENE CREED:**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the  
Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our  
salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy**

**Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER:**

**C: 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.**

#### **HOLY COMMUNION:**

**M: The Lord be with you.**



**C: And al - so with you.**

**M: Lift up your hearts.**



**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

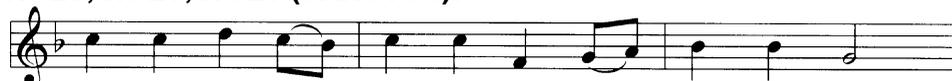
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS):



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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



C: A - men.

**DRAWN TO THE CROSS**.....CW #387 (st. 1-3)

Drawn to the cross, which you have blessed  
With healing gifts for souls distressed,  
To find in you my life, my rest,  
Christ crucified, I come.

How well you know my griefs and fears,  
Your grace abused, my misspent years;  
So now to you with contrite tears,  
Christ crucified, I come.

Wash me and take away each stain;  
Let nothing of my sin remain.  
For cleansing through your cross and pain,  
Christ crucified, I come.

**DISTRIBUTION**

**THANK THE LORD:**



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION:**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

**CLOSING HYMN:**..... CW #145 – Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won

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**PARTICIPANTS**

Officiant: Pastor Fred Piepenbrink  
Organist: Nancy Cannon