

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Faith Lutheran Church

Online

Georgetown, TX 78628

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flcms.org

(The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)

WELCOME

INVOCATION:

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

People: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 150:1, 6

*Pastor: Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary;
praise Him in His mighty heavens.*

People: Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

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

OPENING HYMN: “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (LSB, #790, verses 1, 2, 5)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear
Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things
is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle,
uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen
All that is needful has been
Sent by His gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord!
O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath,
come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen
Sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him!
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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

People: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Pastor: Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: You are glorified, almighty Father, as faith bears fruit. By Your Spirit direct every follower of Jesus, Your Son, toward those good works that prove to others that love in Christ is strong and true. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26–40

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. 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 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 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.
In His humiliation justice was denied Him.
Who can describe His generation?
For His life is taken away from the earth.”

And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 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?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 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. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

RESPONSORY: Psalm 150:2-3

*Lector: Praise [the LORD] for His mighty deeds;
praise Him according to His excellent greatness.*

**People: Praise Him with trumpet sound;
praise Him with lute and harp!**

EPISTLE READING: 1 John 4:1–21

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. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 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. 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. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 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.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as He is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because He first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God Whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

RESPONSORY: Psalm 150:4-5

*Lector: Praise [the LORD] with tambourine and dance;
praise Him with strings and pipe!*

**People: Praise Him with sounding cymbals;
praise Him with loud clashing cymbals.**

Lector: Please rise, as you are able.

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

GOSPEL READING: John 15:1–8

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 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. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. 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. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.”

Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

Lector: We confess together our Christian faith, using the Nicene Creed

CONFESSIOIN OF FAITH: The 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 MESSAGE

The Children's Message will return to its regularly scheduled place when we are able to increase the length of the worship service. Until then, it is available online at www.flcms.org/index.php/media/sermons.

HYMN: **"Spread the Reign of God the Lord"** (LSB, #830, verses 1-4)

Spread the reign of God the Lord,
Spoken, written, mighty Word;
Ev'rywhere His creatures call
To His heav'nly banquet hall.

Tell how God the Father's will
Made the world, upholds it still,
How His own dear Son He gave
Us from sin and death to save.

Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
Who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion's price,
Gave Himself as sacrifice.

Tell of God the Spirit giv'n
Now to guide us on to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true,
Working both to will and do.

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SERMON: **"Standing Out"** (Acts 8:26-40)

OFFERTORY:

While the Coronavirus may have changed the way we come through the front doors of church, thanks be to God it has not prevented us from coming to Church! Please consider, as you are able, returning thanks and giving today at www.flcms.org/index.php/give.

HANDBELL ANTHEM: “Let All Things Now Living”

Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
To God the creator
triumphantly raise.
Who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to
the end of our days.
His banners are o'er us,
His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining
forth in the night.
Till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished
As forward we travel
from light into light.

His law he enforces,
the stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit
obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean
proclaim him divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration
a song let us raise.
Till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest,
Hosanna and praise!"

Arranged by Linda R. Lamb (2020 Concordia Publishing House)

Based on the Welsh hymn tune “The Ash Grove,”

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

EASTER GREETING:

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

BENEDICTION: (*Hebrews 13:20-21*)

Pastor: May the God of peace, Who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will,

People: and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

“The Day of Resurrection”

(LSB, #478)

The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad,
The passover of gladness,
The passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
From sin’s dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over
With hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil
That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal
Of resurrection light
And, list’ning to His accents,
May hear, so calm and plain,
His own “All hail!” and, hearing,
May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav’ns be joyful,
Let earth its song begin,
Let all the world keep triumph
And all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen,
Their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord has risen,
Our joy that has no end!

All praise to God the Father,
All praise to God the Son,
All praise to God the Spirit,

Eternal Three in One!
Let all the ransomed number
Fall down before the throne
And honor, pow'r, and glory
Ascribe to God alone!

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DISMISSAL:

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Go in peace and serve the Lord!

In Christian Service:

All disciples of the Lord Jesus
with

Proclaimer – Rev. Bill Crowe
Liturgist – Rev. Walt Pohland

Musicians:

Adam Perez and Austin Angerman

Organist: Adam Perez

Lay Readers:

Online Reader – James Sanborn