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**April 28, 2024**

**easter five**

Holy Communion ELW Setting Ten

April 28, 2024

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

***All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.***

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden’s verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom’s land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus’ death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

***Gathering Song We Know that Christ is Raised  ELW 449***

**Greeting** pg. 203

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Kyrie**  pg. 203

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.

Renew us with your saving pow’r; create in us new hearts!

**Canticle of Praise** *(Glory be to God)*pg. 204

***Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.***

***Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:***

***we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.***

***Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.***

***Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.***

***Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav’n above;***

***on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God’s right hand.***

***Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.***

***Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;***

***Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:***

***Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father’s splendor bright.***

***For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!***

**Prayer of the Day**

***O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading Acts 8:26-40

Psalm Psalm 22:25-31

Second Reading 1 John 4:7-21

**Gospel Acclamation** pg. 205

***Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.***

***Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.***

***Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.***

Gospel Reading John 15:1-8

Childrens Chat

Sermon

***Hymn of the Day There in God’s Garden  ELW 342***

**Nicene Creed** pg. 104

**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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

**Prayers of Intercession** pg. 206

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, provincial, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. We especially pray for all those whom you have entrusted to our care. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

**Sharing of the Peace**

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give it, as the world gives. Let not your hearts be troubled and neither let them be afraid.’ The peace of the Lord be with you, and those you love. ***And also with you.***

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**Offering *Create in Me a Clean Heart ELW 186***

***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.***

***Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.***

***Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.***

**Offertory Prayer**

Blessed are you,

***O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue** pg. 206

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Proper Preface**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Sanctus** pg. 207

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Eucharistic Prayer**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

***Do this for the remembrance of me.***

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

***Do this for the remembrance of me.***

**Lord’s Prayer** pg. 208

Living together in trust and hope let us pray as our Lord has taught us.

***Our Father in heaven,***

***hallowed be your name,***

***your kingdom come,***

***your will be done,***

***on earth as in heaven.***

***Give us today our daily bread.***

***Forgive us our sins***

***as we forgive those***

***who sin against us.***

***Save us from the time of trial***

***and deliver us from evil.***

***For the kingdom, the power,***

***and the glory are yours,***

***now and forever. Amen.***

**Prayer for Those on Line**

Holy Lord, we believe that you are truly present in this Holy Sacrament. We love you above all things, and desire you within our hearts. Since those who are with us on line cannot now receive you sacramentally, we ask you to come spiritually into their hearts. Unite them to you, together with all your faithful people, and embrace them with your presence and grace. We pray this prayer with all of the people of God around your Holy altar. **Amen.**

**Invitation to Communion**

In Christ’s presence there is fullness of joy. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**Agnus Dei** pg. 208

***O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;***

***you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.***

***O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;***

***you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.***

***O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;***

***eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.***

**Post-Communion Prayer**

We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

Communion Distribution

**Prayer after Communion**

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**Blessing**

The peace of God, which passes all human understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God’s Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Sanctifier be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

***Sending Song Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing ELW 385***

**Dismissal**

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now, go in peace, tell what God has done. **Thanks be to God.**

**The First Reading is from the book of Acts beginning at the 8th chapter and the 26th verse.** *(Acts 8:26-40)*

26An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) 27So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” 30So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer,  
   so he does not open his mouth. 33In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
  Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” 38He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**Listen for the leading of the Spirit. Thanks be to God**

**Our Psalm is Psalm 22. We will say the Psalm responsively by whole verse beginning with verse 25 and concluding with verse 31.** *(Reader, please read all of the verses so that the people on line can hear the responses as well.)*

**25From you comes my praise in the great assembly,  
  I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.**

26The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
  Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!

**27All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;  
  all the families of nations shall bow before God.**

28For dominion belongs to the Lord,  
  who rules over the nations. 

**29Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
  all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.**

30Their descendants shall serve the Lord,  
  whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

**31They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
  saying to them, “The Lord has acted!”**

**The Second Reading is from first John beginning at the 4th chapter and the 7th verse.** *(1John 4:7-21)*

7Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love

is perfected in us.

13By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.  
  God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19We love because he first loved us. 20Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 21The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**Listen for the leading of the Spirit. Thanks be to God**

**The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th chapter** *(John 15:1-8)*

**Glory to You O Lord!**

[Jesus said:] 1“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 2He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4Abide in me as I abide in you. Just 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. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

**Praise to You O Christ!**