

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Service of the Word

May 3, 2020

PRELUDE Prelude on “Brother James’s Air” | Searle Wright

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN #378 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, see what to - day is done;
2 Now hell, its prince, the dev - il, of all their pow'r are shorn;
3 This is a sight that glad - dens—what peace it does im - part!
4 Now I will cling for - ev - er to Christ, my Sav - ior true;
5 Christ brings me to the por - tal that leads to bliss un - told,



now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, comes forth the glo - rious sun.
now I am safe from e - vil, and sin I laugh to scorn.
Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens the joy with - in my heart.
my Lord will leave me nev - er, what - e'er he pass - es through.
where - on this rhyme im - mor - tal is found in script of gold:



My Sav - ior there was laid where our bed must be made
 For Christ a - gain is free; in glo - rious vic - to - ry
 No gloom shall ev - er shake, no foe shall ev - er take,
 He rends death's i - ron chain; he breaks through sin and pain;
 "Who there my cross has shared finds here a crown pre - pared;



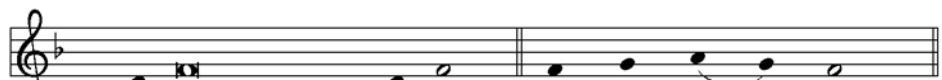
when, as on wings in flight, we soar to realms of light.
 he who is strong to save has tri - umphed o'er the grave.
 the hope which God's own Son in love for me has won.
 he shat - ters hell's grim thrall; I fol - low him through all.
 who there with me has died shall here be glo - ri - fied."

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. John Kelly, 1833–1890, alt.
 Music: AUF, AUF, MEIN HERZ, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

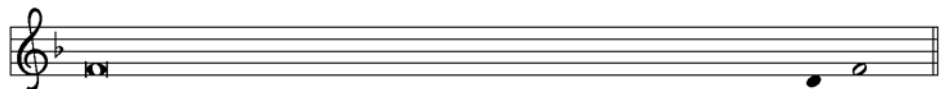
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



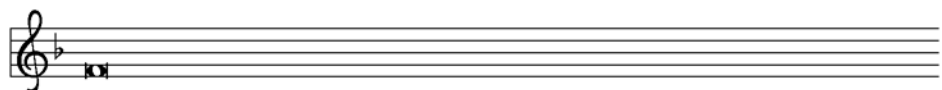
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of resurrection hope: you call us to new life in Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep. As you feed, protect, and lead us, so also send us in faithful service to feed the hungry, heal the injured, and rescue the lost—all for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Word

FIRST READING Acts 2:42–47

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM HYMN #778 The Lord’s My Shepherd

1 The Lord’s my shep-herd; I’ll not want. He makes me down to lie
 2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
 3 Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
 4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres-ence of my foes;
 5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
 my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
 My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650
 Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:19–25

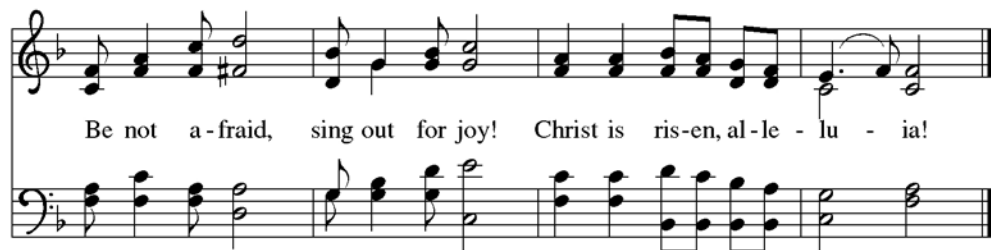
For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sung before and after Gospel. First time, sung by cantor; second time, sung by all.



GOSPEL John 10:1-10

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY #782 My Shepherd, You Supply My Need



1 My Shep - herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly is your name.
2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres - ence is my stay;
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
oh, may your house be my a - bode and all my work be praise.



You bring my wan - d'ring spir - it back when I for - sake your ways,
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
Here would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and lead me, for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.
no more a strang - er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt., based on Psalm 23
Music: RESIGNATION, North American traditional

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.**

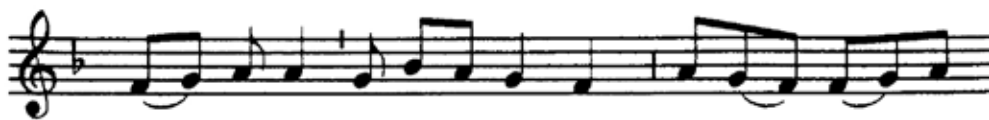
**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into 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

.... Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER *Sung by all*



Our Fa-ther, who art in heav- en, hal- low- ed be



thy name, thy king-dom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heav- en. Give us this day our

dai- ly bread; and for- give us our tres- pass- es,

as we for- give those who tres- pass a- gainst us; and lead us

not in- to temp- ta- tion, but de- liv- er us from e- vil.

For thine is the king- dom, and the pow- er, and the

glo- ry, for- ev- er and ev- er. A- men.

Sending

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #544 Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

- 1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
- 2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
- 3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -

vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
 one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
 lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
 by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
 Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
 firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
 ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands | Paul Manz

Today from the life of the church

Beloved, you have today put on Christ and march under our direction, you are raised up by the word of God, like a fish on a hook, from the ocean of the world. With us normal life is transformed, for fish die as soon as they are taken from the seas of this life and we sinners although dead return to life.

As long as we were in the world we remained in the depths and our life was submerged in the mire. But since we have been rescued from the waters we have begun to see the sun, we have commenced to look on the true light. We cry, I say, to the Lord, and let us interpret the profound mysteries of the scripture by other witnesses of the scripture. Everything which we cannot discover in the abyss of the Old Testament we will find revealed in the New in the roar of God's cataracts, that is to say in God's prophets and apostles. All the lofty wastes of the Lord, the seas and the impetuous rivers which gladden the city of God, have been broken under us in Christ Jesus, to whom be glory and power for ever and ever.

"A homily to the newly baptized"
Jerome (340–420)

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