

ELW Service of the Word Sunday, April 27, 2025

WELCOME VIDEO

PRELUDE

CHOIR ANTHEM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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. 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.

GATHERING SONG *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* (ELW 384)

1 That Easter day with joy was bright;
the sun shone out with fairer light
when, to their longing eyes restored,
th'apostles saw their risen Lord!

2 O Jesus, king of gentleness,
with constant love our hearts possess;
to you our lips will ever raise
the tribute of our grateful praise.

3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all
in this our Easter festival,
for you will be our strength and shield
from ev'ry weapon death can wield.

4 All praise, O risen Lord, we give
to you, once dead, but now alive!
To God the Father equal praise,
and God the Spirit, now we raise!

GREETING (ELW p. 213)

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 213)

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you,
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)

Let us pray.

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

A reading from Acts.

When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 118:14-29

14 The Lord is my strength and my song,
and has become | my salvation.

15 **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"**

16 The right hand of the Lord is exalted!
The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

17 **I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord.**

18 The Lord indeed punished me sorely,

but did not hand me over to death.

**19 Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.**

20 “This is the gate of the Lord;
here the righteous may enter.”

**21 I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

22 The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**23 By the Lord has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

24 This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**25 Hosanna! O Lord, save us!
We pray to you, Lord, prosper our days!**

26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;
we bless you from the house of the Lord.

**27 The Lord is God and has given us light.
Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

28 You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

**29 Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;
God’s mercy endures forever.**

SECOND READING (VISUALWORD): Revelation 1:4-8

4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

*7 Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.*

So it is to be. Amen.

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 216)

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL (VISUALWORD): John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to

them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing* (ELW 389)

1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
 The cross stands empty to the sky.
 Let streets and homes with praises ring.
 Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
 to distant years in Palestine,
 but saving, healing, here and now,
 and touching ev'ry place and time.

3 In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,
 where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
 Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
 and lives, where even hope has died.

4 Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

A STATEMENT OF FAITH

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

READER 1 Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

READER 2 Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

READER 3 Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

PASTOR Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

READER 4 Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

READER 5 We remember the faithful departed from all times and places. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

PEACE (ELW p. 217)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

VISUALWORD

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 221)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

BLESSING

The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (ELW 803)

1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,

that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

DISMISSAL (ELW p. 222)

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATION JOINS IN SINGING:

God be with you 'til we meet again, By his counsel's guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you, God be with you 'til we meet again.
Amen.

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