

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



**5th SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**May 1 & 2, 2021**

**Pastor's Bulletin**

(No Congregational bulletin due to Pandemic precautions)

## **GREETING**

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

*People: And also with you.*

## **OPENING HYMN: "Gather Us In" #532**

Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face; we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

## **KYRIE**

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*People: Lord, have mercy.*

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

*People: Lord, have mercy.*

Pastor: 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.

*People: Lord, have mercy.*

Pastor: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

*People: Lord, have mercy.*

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

*People: Amen*

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches, wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are his.

## ***PRAYER OF THE DAY***

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

## ***A READING FROM Acts 15:1-18***

<sup>1</sup>Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." <sup>2</sup>And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. <sup>3</sup>So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers.

<sup>4</sup>When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. <sup>5</sup>But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses."

<sup>6</sup>The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. <sup>7</sup>After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. <sup>8</sup>And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; <sup>9</sup>and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. <sup>10</sup>Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup>On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

<sup>12</sup>The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. <sup>13</sup>After they finished speaking, James replied, "My brothers, listen to me. <sup>14</sup>Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. <sup>15</sup>This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

<sup>16</sup>'After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, <sup>17</sup>so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called. Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things <sup>18</sup>known from long ago.'

**The Gospel according to St. Luke**

Luke 2:29-32

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ**

**MESSAGE**

***HYMN "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" #597***

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace; in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

**APOSTLES CREED**

**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## ***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE***

Pastor: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

Pastor: God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## ***SHARING OF THE PEACE***

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**People: And also with you.**

## ***OFFERING PRAYER***

Pastor: God our provider, we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**People: Amen**

## ***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING***

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

***People: and also with you.***

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

***People: We lift them to the Lord.***

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

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

Pastor: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

***People: 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.***

Pastor: 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. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

***People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

Pastor: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection We look with hope for his coming.

**People: Come Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen**

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

Pastor: Let us pray with confidence the prayer our Lord taught us:

**People: 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.**

### ***LAMB OF GOD***

Pastor: The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

**People: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

### ***DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION***

#### ***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***

Pastor: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

#### ***POST COMMUNION CANTICLE***

**People: Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people; a light to reveal you to the nation and the glory of your people Israel. Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace.**

#### ***BLESSING***

Pastor: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: “Jesus Loves Me” #595**

Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so; little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.

**Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,  
the Bible tells me so.**

Jesus loves me! he who died heaven's gates to open wide; he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in.

**Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,  
the Bible tells me so.**

**SENDING**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Pastor: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**