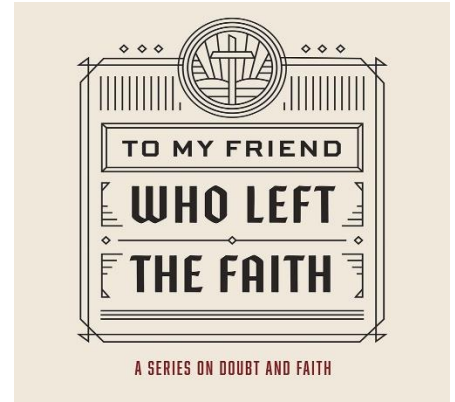

APRIL 21, 2024 • 8:30 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Welcome! We're excited you're here. In our service, we gather before Almighty God to offer Him our worship and praise. We come together to be strengthened by His Word to be His witnesses.

Families, if you brought your children with you today, we want you to know that the spiritual well-being of your child is very important to us. Many families wish to teach and encourage their younger child(ren) to be in church and get what they can out of it. If you feel that you need to take your child out for whatever reason; there is a cry room near the back of the sanctuary and a restroom with a baby changing station is located by the elevator (to the left as you exit the sanctuary). **Guests**, we welcome you. If you will, please help us to get to know you by filling out the Guest side of the Welcome Card found in the pews/ chair backs and place it in the offering plates.

As We Gather Forgiveness is filled with questions. How often must I forgive? Is there a limit to the grace of forgiveness? What is the connection between God's forgiveness to me and my forgiveness to others? The answer to these questions lies in Christ. As our heavenly Father has forgiven us, so do we forgive one another in His name. A heart that has received God's grace and lives from that grace will naturally also want to give that grace away. The best way to combat hypocrisy in our lives is by continually reminding ourselves of God's grace to us. This love corrects, cleanses, and makes it possible for us to see others as brothers and sisters in Christ.

WELCOME

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

C Amen.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

OPENING HYMN

851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

- 1 Lord of glory, You have bought us, With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones, That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given; Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil; With Your own unsparing hand.
- 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You, Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness, Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed, 'Tis to give than to receive.
- 3 Wondrous honor You have given, To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?

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OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 143:1-2, 5-6

P Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

C Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

P I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.

C I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

[Silence for self-examination.]

P Let us confess our sins to God, confident of His grace and forgiveness to all who are penitent.

C I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints through the gift of forgiveness, let us manifest our unity by extending the hand of peace. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

HYMN OF PRAISE

851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

4 Lord of glory, You have bought us, With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones; That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.

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SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God, You are always ready to hear the prayers of Your people. Grant that we may with all boldness and courage bring to You our petitions with the assurance that for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ You will hear them, forgiving our trespasses and granting us Your guidance in this life and every blessing in the life to come. This we ask through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

+ WORD +

FIRST READING

Acts 4:1–13

(Peter and John are brought before the Jerusalem Council.)

4 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ² greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴ But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. ⁵ On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹ This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." ¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

606 *I Lay My Sins on Jesus*

1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;
He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.
His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.
I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;
I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;
Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

Text and tune: Public domain

EPISTLE

1 John 3:16–24

(Followers of Christ are called to love in deed and in truth.)

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as

EPISTLE *(cont.)*

he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

GRADUAL AND VERSE

Psalm 34:9, 19 alt.; Matthew 6:14

P Fear the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing!

C Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

P Alleluia. If you forgive others their trespasses,

C your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21–35

(How often must I forgive my brother? How often has God forgiven you?)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Be Seated – Children are dismissed for Children's Church (CC).

MESSAGE HYMN

845 Where Charity and Love Prevail

1 Where charity and love prevail There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.

2 With grateful joy and holy fear His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul Now love Him in return.

3 Forgive we now each other's faults As we our faults confess,
And let us love each other well In Christian holiness.

6 For love excludes no race or clan That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all Whose Father is the same.

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Taking the cross of grace and peace to form a community of uncommon servants.

MESSAGE

Please Stand

CREED

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING *(Thanks for your ongoing stewardship and support of God's mission here!)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Prayer response after each petition...)*

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

C 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.

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[Psalm 136]

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good that we at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Help us to receive this grace with open hand and give you praise for all you've done singing:

HYMN

845 Where Charity and Love Prevail

5 Let us recall that in our midst, Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined, We are in Him made one.

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THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Taking the cross of grace and peace to form a community of uncommon servants.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS *(see pew hymnals)*

633 *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing*
621 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Please Stand

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Grant us grace, heavenly Father, that we not think too highly of ourselves and too little of our neighbor, but give welcome in Your name to all people and rejoice because You have filled us with Your redeeming love in Jesus Christ, our Lord, with whom, in whom, and through whom all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, both now and forevermore.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C **Amen.**

EASTER AFFIRMATION

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

CLOSING HYMN

535 *How Wide the Love of Christ*



1 How wide the love of Christ! It knows not class or race But
2 How long the love of Christ! Its pa - tience will not cease Un -
4 How deep the love of Christ, De - scend - ing to a cross! He
5 All praise to You, O Christ, For love whose depth and height, Whose



holds our one hu - man - i - ty With - in its broad em - brace.
til this bro - ken world is bound In ev - er - last - ing peace.
bears with - in His wound - ed hands All hu - man pain and loss.
length and breadth fill time and space With end - less life and light!

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DISMISSAL

Into the world continually reminding ourselves of the grace of Christ...

A HUGE "Thank you" to those that served to make worship happen (virtual and in-person) today...

Pastor	Rev. Jason Hoerth	Reader	Elizabeth Hoffmann
Children's Message	Chris Graves, DCE	Organist	Carol Trumbo
Elder	Bob Remmele	Acolyte	Abby Wood

Acknowledgments

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