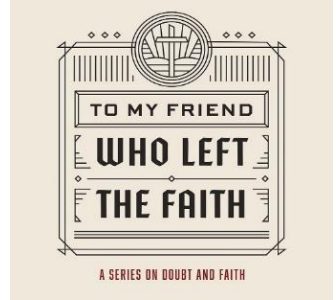




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## PRAISE ABLAZE

APRIL 21, 2024 • 11:00 AM • FOURTH SUNDAY IN 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 through the study of God's Word and empowered to live as 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; a small area is set up in the atrium for children with "wiggles"; and a restroom with a baby changing station is located by the rear parking lot entrance to your left as you exit the atrium doors of the Multi-Ministry Center (MMC). **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 baskets.

**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.

### A HUGE "Thank you" to those that served to make worship happen today...

Pastor .....	Rev. Jason Hoerth	Reader .....	Jennifer Hamilton
Children's Message .....	Chris Graves, DCE	Elder .....	Glen Brueggemeier
Cont. Worship Ldr. ....	Dyann Cooper	Acolyte .....	Lucy Brown
		Tech .....	Josh Cooper

+ + +

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**Chris Graves**, Family Ministries Coordinator • 513-686-9137 • [cgraves@zionlc.org](mailto:cgraves@zionlc.org)

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Welcome**

**Opening Worship**

*House of the Lord  
You've Already Won*

**Call to Worship**

**The Sacrament of Baptism**

*Lilly Ann Rybolt*

**Children's Message**

**God's Word** *(see opposite or screens)*

*Acts 4:1–13  
1 John 3:16–24  
Matthew 18:21–35*

*(Children dismissed for Children's Church (CC))*

**Offering** *(Thanks for your support of God's mission here.)*

**Today's Message**

*(Children return from CC.)*

**Prayers & Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing**

**Song**

*Live Like That*

**Dismissal**

## **Acknowledgments**

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## 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, <sup>2</sup>greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup>And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup>But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. <sup>5</sup>On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup>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." <sup>13</sup>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.**

## EPISTLE

1 John 3:16–24

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

<sup>16</sup>By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup>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? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. <sup>19</sup>By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; <sup>20</sup>for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup>and whatever we

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## **EPISTLE** (cont.)

ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup> Whoever 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.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 18:21–35*

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

Then 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?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup> "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup> And 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. <sup>26</sup> So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But 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.' <sup>29</sup> So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup> He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When 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. <sup>32</sup> Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup> And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup> So 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.**

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