
APRIL 28, 2024 • 8:30 AM

FIFTH 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 The world hears a sentimental story, a typical account of an underdog hero who has come to fight against all sorts of wrongs. Today we hear from John the same story but with the revelation that the Child is the Word, that this is no ordinary birth but the Word made flesh, and that this story is not about sentiment but salvation. In the midst of this all is the reality that the world lies in the darkness of sin and death—but not all of it. To those who believe on His name, the light shines and the darkness has not and cannot overcome it. Here is where we are. We see the Word by faith, hear His promise of salvation by faith, live in His light by faith, and rejoice that we are the sons and daughters of God by faith. When life becomes difficult, we get to wholly rely on Jesus.

WELCOME

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

C Amen.

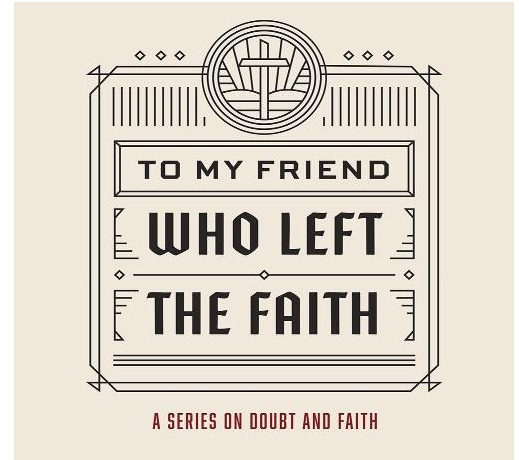
The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

OPENING HYMN

913 O Holy Spirit, Enter In

- 1 O Holy Spirit, enter in, And in our hearts Your work begin, Your dwelling place now make us.
Sun of the soul, O Light divine, Around and in us brightly shine, To joy and gladness wake us
That we may be – Truly living, To You giving, Prayer unceasing
And in love be still increasing.
- 2 Give to Your Word impressive pow'r, That in our hearts from this good hour, As fire it may be glowing,
That in true Christian unity, We faithful witnesses may be, Your glory ever showing.
Hear us, cheer us – By Your teaching; Let our preaching; And our labor
Praise You, Lord, and serve our neighbor.
- 3 O mighty Rock, O Source of life, Let Your dear Word, in doubt and strife, In us be strongly burning
That we be faithful unto death, And live in love and holy faith, From You true wisdom learning.
Your grace and peace – On us shower; By Your power; Christ confessing,
Let us see our Savior's blessing.

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OPENING SENTENCES

Isaiah 60:1; 9:2; 2 Corinthians 4:6

P Arise, shine, for your light has come,

C and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

P For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts

C to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

John 1:4-5

P Jesus, Word made flesh, You came to dwell among us, but the darkness of our sin separates and we often fail to bask in the light of Your presence.

C We are sinful and unclean; 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. We deserve Your present and eternal punishment.

P John writes, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Heavenly Father, too frequently we live in the darkness of unbelief.

C Forgive us, Lord, for those sins we know, and those sins we do not know.

P Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

C so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to be born into this world and in our flesh for us, to live a perfect life we can never attain, and to give His life as a perfect sacrifice for you. For His sake, He forgives you all your sins. Christ was born to live for us, to die for us, that we by faith will rise with Him in victory. He was born as our Savior to forgive. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GREETING

HYMN

830 Spread the Reign of God the Lord



1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might-y Word;
2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,
3 Tell of our Re-deem-er's grace, Who, to save our hu-man race
4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,



Ev - 'ry - where His crea-tures call To His heav'n-ly ban - quet hall.
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.
And to pay re - bel-lion's price, Gave Him - self as sac - ri - fice.
Strong and ho - ly, just and true, Work - ing both to will and do.

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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 make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through 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 8:26–40

(Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

808 O Sing to the Lord

1 O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song. O sing to the
4 O shout to our God, Who gave us the Spir - it. O shout to our
5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! For Je - sus is

Lord, O sing God a new song. O sing to the Lord, O
God, Who gave us the Spir - it. O shout to our God, Who
Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! For Je - sus is Lord! A -

sing God a new song. O sing to our God, O sing to our God.
gave us the Spir - it. O sing to our God, O sing to our God.
men! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing to our God, O sing to our God.

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EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1–6

(Now He has spoken through His Son.)

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”?⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

VERSE

John 1:14

P Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory,

C glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1–18

(The Word becomes flesh on earth.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was in the beginning with God.³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

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

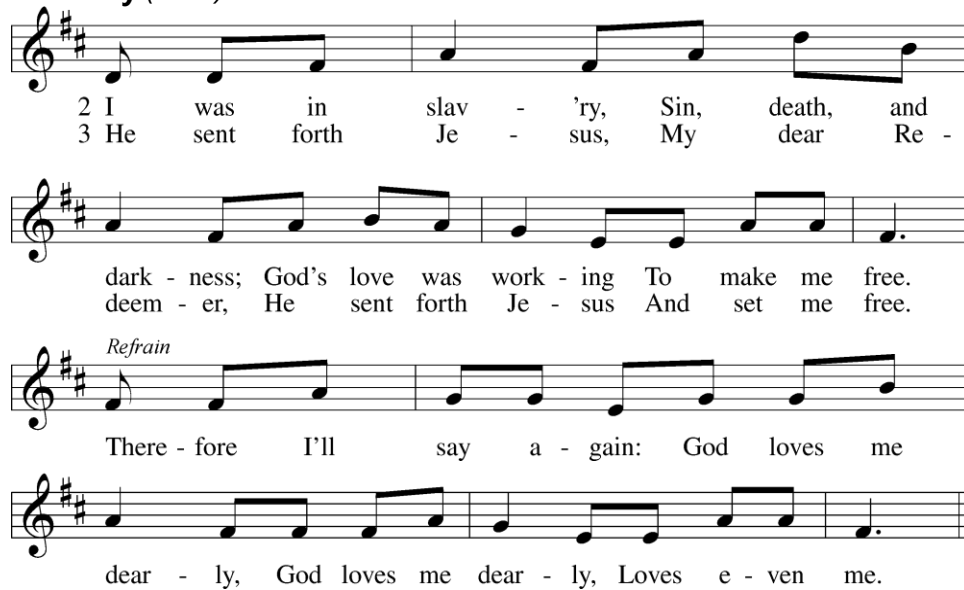
392 *God Loves Me Dearly*

1 God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me. *Refrain*

Refrain Therefore I’ll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.

(See verses 2-3 on the next page.)

392 God Loves Me Dearly (cont.)



2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.

Refrain
There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me
dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

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MESSAGE

CATECHISM

The Second Article

C I believe 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.

P What does this mean?

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION *(see sheet)*

Please Stand

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Prayer response after each petition...)

P Christ is risen,

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.

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 Go in peace as you serve our living Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

CLOSING HYMN

691 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.
Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

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DISMISSAL

Into the world knowing who Jesus is and what that means...

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

Pastor	Rev. Jason Hoerth	Reader	Kathy Dreier
Children's Message	Chris Graves, DCE	Organist	Carol Trumbo
Elder	Bob Remmele	Acolyte	Elias Buckingham

Acknowledgments

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