

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 2, 2021

*(Everything you need to follow the service is in this bulletin. The hymns are at the end. In preparation for Communion, place whatever food and drink you are using for the elements near your worship space. After the Lord's Prayer and Invitation to Communion, I'll invite you to serve yourself or each other using the following words: The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.)*





RECONCILING IN CHRIST

*We, the members of Emmaus Lutheran Church, affirm that Christ has made us one body with many members, all sharing in God's wondrous grace and unconditional love. We celebrate both the human variation and inclusive unity of God's family. Following Jesus' example, we embrace all of God's people, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientations, gender identities, theological perspectives, or economic circumstance. With welcoming hearts, we invite all to join us in worship, fellowship, and ministry.*

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## PRELUDE

### *Once To Every Man and Nation*

~ Rick Wilson

## WELCOME

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We thank you, risen Christ,  
for these waters where you make us new,  
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.**

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us  
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,  
like rains to our thirsting earth,  
like streams that revive our souls,  
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

**Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.  
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.  
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.**

Make us one, risen Christ.  
Cleanse our hearts.  
Shower us with life.  
To you be given all praise,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

*This is the Feast*

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and  
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of  
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, thank you for unifying us with your son, the vine, who holds your church together in love. Inspire us with a vision of the church universal at work in the world. Continue to show us what it means to be part of that work in our community. In hope, we pray. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>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 silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*African Psalm*  
 ~arr. by Patrick Liebergen

**Psalm 22:25-31**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
 I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.  
<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**  
**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**  
<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
 all the families of nations shall bow before God.  
<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,**  
**who rules over the nations.**  
<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
 all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.  
<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,**  
**whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**  
<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
 saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **Gospel: John 15:1-8**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*We Know that Christ is Raised*

**(ELW 449)**

## **PRAYERS**

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.

God, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Guide us with your word and strengthen our bonds with one another to further our witness to the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God, we live in wonder at the beauty of creation and yet, we know that there are many threats to the land in our time, one of which is the possibility of drought and lack of water. We pray for rain to water crops, fill reservoirs, and nourish the land. Provide life-giving moisture wherever it is needed. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God, this world is yours. Give the leaders of the earth awareness of your abiding presence, that they might lead and rule not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. We pray for nations in conflict, especially Ethiopia. We also pray for nations experiencing dramatic upswings in Covid infections and deaths, especially India and many nations in South America. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You have loved us so that we can love others. Strengthen our resolve to love even as we are tired of the stresses of living in a pandemic, political divisiveness, and constant uncertainty. We pray for all who feel their desperate need for your love: those who are experiencing loneliness, rejection, financial insecurity, ill health, broken relationships, or any reality that leads to despair. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We now share our other prayers with you . . . Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. Be with those who grieve the loss of beloved family members and friends, especially Bill Jones and Ardell Smith. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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

**Amen.**

## **COMMUNION**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **SENDING SONG**

*Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

**(ELW 389)**

### **BLESSING**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, share the good news!

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Variation on Hymn to Joy*

~ Joseph Lowe

**Musicians:** Brent Anderson, Dan Smith, Kepler Smith  
**Reader:** Lori Kugler  
**Sound Recording Director & Music Editing:** Noah Kerr  
**Ministers:** Andrew Langford, Rachel Langford  
**Videographer:** Andrew Langford  
**Editor:** Rachel Langford

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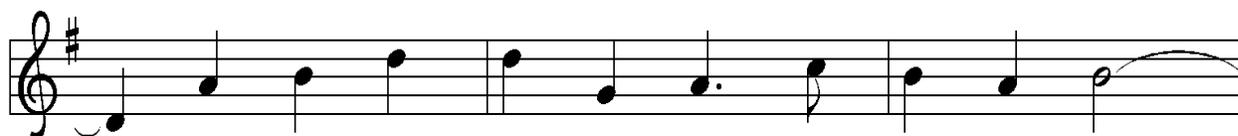
## We Know That Christ Is Raised



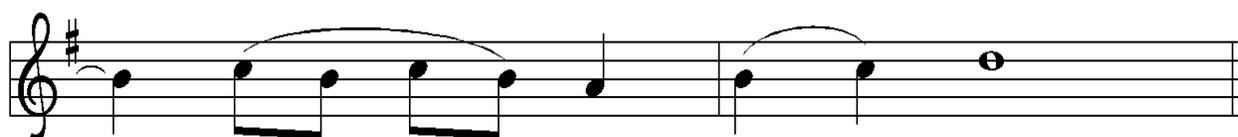
1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em-braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
Re-born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

# Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Do you see someone we missed or a description that needs to be filled out? Please let Melinda know. Thank you for your help and your prayers!

## ***REMEMBER IN PRAYER***

### **In death:**

~The family and friends of Bill Jones

~The family and friends of Ardell Smith

- **Ted Anderson** - Continued recovery after surgery to treat spinal arthritis
- **Nola Baird** - Prayers for fewer complications with dialysis, resolution of her health concerns, and strength to face this difficult situation
- **Denise Blake** (daughter of Billie Scott-Totress) – Missionary work
- **Merry Burbank** - Health issues
- **Kathy Cantrell** (mother of Heather McBride) – Transition
- **Marge Churchill** – Homebound
- **David Crane** (Carolyn Bauder & Judy Koppermann’s nephew) - Healing
- **Willard Grabofsky** - Continued recovery after radiation treatment
- **Susan Harlow** - Prayers for upcoming testing on thoracic and cervical spine
- **Jeanne Hubbard** - Shoulder Surgery and loss of grandson
- **Marilyn Kalstad** - Thankful for successful surgery
- **Zarir Khademian** (uncle of Noah Kerr) - Healing from COVID-19, brain cancer
- **Denise Knipp** (sister of Susan Harlow) - Recovery from aortic valve surgery
- **Mike Oberman** (family friend of Suzanne Cavanagh) - Immunotherapy for melanoma
- **Linda Omar** (friend of Nanci Strickland) - Cancer treatment
- **Tim Paulson** (nephew of Dave and Diane Paulson) - Covid infection
- **Ramona Setzler** (Suzanne Cavanagh’s friend)- treatment for malignant melanoma
- **Steve** (friend of Mitzi Shirk) - Prayers for recovery after stroke
- **Tomi** (friend of Mitzi Shirk) - Prayers for recovery from bad reaction to chemo and for effective treatment for breast cancer
- **Sidsel Tompkins** – Upcoming parathyroid surgery