

*Rejoice and be glad!*

**YOUR REWARD IS GREAT**

**HEAVEN**



**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Praise & Worship Service**  
**May 2, 2021**

**WELCOME**

**INTROIT: *Psalm 145:1–2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16***

PASTOR: A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me. I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you! My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

**ALL: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

PASTOR: A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.

**Because He Lives**

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus,  
He came to love, heal, and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Because He lives I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future.  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride, and joy he gives;  
But greater still the calm assurance,  
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

Because He lives I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future.  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river,  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

Because He lives I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future.  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen.**

PASTOR: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**ALL: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

PASTOR: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**ALL: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature 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 justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

PASTOR: 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.

**All: Amen.**

## **KYRIE**

PASTOR: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**ALL: 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.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**ALL: Amen.**

## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

PASTOR: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

PASTOR: 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.

**ALL: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Acts 6:28-40**

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. 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 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 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. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 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?" And he commanded the chariot to

stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 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. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE LESSON: *I John 4:1-11***

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## ***PLEASE STAND FOR THE READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL.***

PASTOR: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

**ALL: Glory to You, O Lord.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL: *John 15:1-8***

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

PASTOR: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to You, O Christ.

## **NICENE CREED (spoken in unison)**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **My Faith Looks Up to Thee**

My faith looks up to Thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.  
Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire!  
As Thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to Thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread  
And griefs around me spread, be Thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

## **SERMON**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (spoken in unison)

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed by 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.

### **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

PASTOR: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up unto the Lord.

PASTOR: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

ALL: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PASTOR: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## **SANCTUS (spoken in unison)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

PASTOR: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

PASTOR: Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**ALL: Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**



## **Before the Throne of God Above**

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea:  
A great High Priest, whose name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands,  
My name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look, and see Him there  
Who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died,  
My sinful soul is counted free;  
For God, the just, is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me.  
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb,  
My perfect spotless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable "I Am",  
The King of glory and of grace.  
One with Himself I cannot die,  
My soul is purchased with His blood;  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ, my Savior and my God,  
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

I bow before the cross of Christ,  
And marvel at this love divine,  
God's perfect Son was sacrificed  
To make me righteous in God's eyes.  
This river's depths I cannot know,  
But I can glory in its flood;  
The Lord Most High has bowed down low,  
And poured on me His glorious love,  
And poured on me His glorious love.

## **Just as I Am, without One Plea**

Just as I am, without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown  
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## **What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

What a friend we have in Jesus.  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;  
Oh what needless pain we bear-  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer?

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged-  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrow share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness-  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge-  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield you;  
You will find a solace there.

## **BLESSING**

PASTOR: And now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.  
All: Amen.

## **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

PASTOR: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
ALL: Amen.

## **BENEDICTION**

PASTOR: 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.  
All: Amen.

## **Blessed Assurance**

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior, all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior, all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior, all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior, all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior, all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior, all the day long.