

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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THE SERVICE – SETTING ONE

THREAD: *The risen Savior gives fruit in his branches.*

Hymn: Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

CW 767



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly,
3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our
4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your



life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the
free - ly, of your own. With the sun - shine of your
hum - blest char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious
life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the



lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
good - ness melt our thank - less hearts of stone
sen - tence, "You have done it all for me."
lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



and with that have free - ly giv - en bless - ings
till our cold and self - ish na - tures, warmed by
Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, that you
Give us faith to trust you bold - ly, hope, to



count - less as the sand to th'un - thank - ful
you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
need what we can do, say - ing by your
stay our souls on you; but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?
all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called 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.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

Easter Song of Praise: This Is the Feast

CW 938:1, 3-4

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for the first line of text: 'This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.' The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text: 'Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!' The lyrics are placed below the corresponding notes on the staves.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
 gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia!



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



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Acts 4:32-37

In our first lesson, we see two kinds of fruit coming from believers in the early church. First, we see a fearless proclamation of the gospel, which, itself, comes with power. Second, we see a great unity among the believers. Other believers became more important than possessions.

³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

³⁶Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Lord, You Are My Hope and Stay

Psalm 63C

Refrain



Lord, you are my hope and stay; I will ev - er sing your praise.

Tone



You, God, / are my God,
earnestly I / seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being / longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no / water.
I have seen you in the sanctu- / ary
and beheld your power and your / glory. *Refrain*

Because your love is bet- / ter than life,
my lips will glori- / fy you.
I will praise you as long / as I live,
and in your name I will lift / up my hands.

Because you / are my help,
I sing in the shadow / of your wings.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

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Second Reading

1 John 3:18–24

Can we see our connection to Jesus? Yes, we can. Our second reading offers further examples of fruits that come from our connection to Jesus. Our actions match our tongues, we look to God as father, we seek to please him, and we listen to his word.

¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²²and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

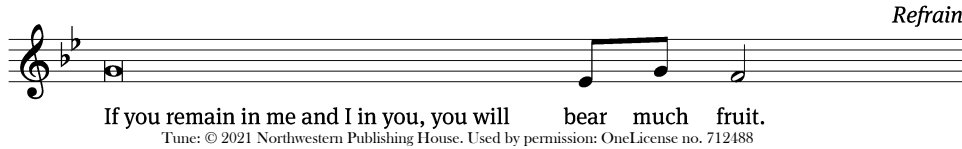
John 15:5



Refrain



Tone



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Gospel

John 15:1-8

In our second reading, we are commanded to have actions that rise from faith. In our gospel reading, we hear this in more detail. We see that unbelievers are cut off from Jesus. We see that we are pruned, but this is to allow us to bear even more fruit.

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day: Welcome, Happy Morning

CW 469



1 “Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!” age to age shall say;
2 Mak - er and Re - deem - er, life and health of all,
3 Source of all things liv - ing, you came down to die,
4 Free the souls long pris - oned, bound with Sa - tan’s chain;



“Hell to - day is van - quished; heav’n is won to - day!”
God from heav’n be - hold - ing hu - man na - ture’s fall,
plumbed the depths of hell to raise us up on high.
all that now is fall - en raise to life a - gain.



Lo, the dead is liv - ing, God for - ev - er - more!
of the Fa - ther's God - head you, the on - ly Son,
Come, then, true and faith - ful, come, ful - fill your word;
Show your face in bright - ness; shine in ev - 'ry land



Him, their true Cre - a - tor, all his works a - dore.
man - kind to de - liv - er man - hood did put on.
this is your third morn - ing— rise, O bur - ied Lord.
as in E - den's gar - den when the world be - gan.



“Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!” age to age shall say;



“Hell to - day is van - quished; heav'n is won to - day!”

Sermon

John 15:1-8

Stay Connected to Jesus to Bear Much Fruit

- Why is staying connected to Jesus so important?
- What's the fruit all about?

Sermon by Rev. Gregg Bitter, adapted. Used by permission.

Ministering Elder: Jim Dietz

Apostles' Creed

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

**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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there 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.**

Prayer of the Church for Easter

Almighty and merciful God, in this glorious Easter season we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Increase our faith that the message of the empty tomb may fill our lives and make us glad each day.

When we are weak, be our strength; when we are sad, be our song; and when we sin, be our salvation.

Remove the hurt of death from all who mourn. In moments of grief call believers through the voice of our Good Shepherd and embolden us to follow his promises. In their hopelessness of despair turn the faithless to trust in the only Way, Truth, and Life.

Wipe away tears born of death and give new birth to a living hope in the hearts of the lost and troubled. Use our witness as compassion and comfort for others in need of mercy.

King of kings and Lord of lords, destroy all dominion, authority, and power that stands against you, whether seen or unseen. Whatever evil exerts itself against your saving will--false teaching or lukewarm faith, Satan's lies or worldly pleasures, empty worship or futile religion—rule it for the sake of the gospel's free course.

Triumph over our enemies and empower the Church to fight the good fight to the end. Never leave us or forsake us.

Walk among our churches, O Living One, as the faithful witness and firstborn from the dead. As your angel sent women with news of the risen Christ, call women in our church to announce, "He is risen!" As you sent your disciples with the breath of the Spirit, call those in our church full of the Spirit and wisdom to administer the keys of the kingdom.

Wherever we live and whatever we do, help us to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have in Christ.

Heavenly Father keep the baptized united with your Son in his resurrection. Put to death the fleshly urges of those caught in addictions, clothe in your righteousness anyone ashamed of good intentions which have fallen short, and assure those searching for purpose that their eternal identity as your dear children is sealed.

Thank you for the power of baptism working in our lives, and for the certainty of its promises through the resurrection. Enrich us with everything we need for life and godliness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

... Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

O Lord of life, you have done mighty things for us! We pray through him who is the Beginning and the End, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

His name is above every name, to the glory of God the Father! Amen.

Offering – *The mail at church is being collected. Offerings may be mailed to:*

Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, 200 E. Beidler Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406

Hymn: We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer


CW 609:1, 3




1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us;



we bless your ho - ly name, — glad prais - es we sing.
to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Let us pray:

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn: O God from God, O Light from Light

CW 629



1 O God from God, O Light from Light, O Prince of
2 For deep in proph - ets' sa - cred page, and grand in
3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, that death of
4 Then sing to Christ a might - y song; ex - tol his



Peace and King of kings, to you in heav - en's
po - ets' wing - ed word, slow - ly in type, from
pain mid hate and scorn— these all are past, and
name, his mer - cies tell! Sing, heav'n - ly hosts, your



glo - ry bright the song of praise for - ev - er rings.
age to age the na - tions saw their com - ing Lord;
now a - bove he reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.
praise pro - long, and all on earth, your an - them swell!



To him who sits up - on the throne, the Lamb once
till through the deep Ju - de - an night rang out the
Lift up your heads, you heav'n - ly gates! So sang his
All hail, O Lamb for sin - ners slain! For - ev - er



slain but raised a - gain, be all the glo - ry
 song, "Good will to men!" What an - gels sang in
 hosts, un - heard by men. Lift up your heads, for
 let the song as - cend! To Christ the King, en -



he has won, all thanks and praise! A - men, a - men.
 heav'n - ly light re - ech - oes now, "Good will!" A - men.
 you he waits. We lift them up. A - men, a - men.
 throned to reign, all glo - ry, pow'r! A - men, a - men.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn: Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening

CW 631



1 Speak, O Sav - ior, I am lis - t'ning, as a ser - vant
 2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near you and to lis - ten
 3 Lord, your words are wa - ters liv - ing where I quench my
 4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; let your words in



to his lord. Let me show re - spect and hon - or
 to your voice; let me ev - er love and fear you,
 thirst - y needs. Lord, your words are bread life - giv - ing;
 me take root. May your Spir - it e'er be near me



to your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, that each day, my whole life
 let your Word still be my choice! Man - y hard - ened sin - ners,
 on your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, your words will be my
 that I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing your



through, I may serve and fol - low you. Let your Word e'er
 Lord, flee in ter - ror at your Word; but to all who
 light thro' death's cold and drear - y night; yes, they are my
 praise, from my heart glad an - thems raise, till my high - est



be my plea - sure and my heart's most pre - cious trea - sure.
feel sin's bur - den you give peace and words of par - don.
sword pre - vail - ing and my cup of joy un - fail - ing.
praise is giv - en in the end - less joy of heav - en.

Silent prayer – Announcements

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