

Fifth Sunday Of Easter

April 28th 2024 9:30am



Share Read Talk Pray Bless

Preparation For Worship: Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me! *Psalm 66:20*

Opening Song

Who You Say I Am

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

Who the Son sets free - Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God - Yes I am

Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

Who the Son sets free - Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God - Yes I am

In my Father's house - There's a place for me
I'm a child of God - Yes I am

I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am

I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am

(Oh) (Yes) I am who You say I am

Who the Son sets free - Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God - Yes I am

In my Father's house - There's a place for me
I'm a child of God - Yes I am

Invocation

Pastor: We gather today in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Jesus tells us, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though they die, yet shall they live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."
John 11

People: **God is good!**

Pastor: All the time!

People: **All the time!**

Pastor: God is good!

People: **Like spring after winter is the faithful renewal of Jesus' love.**

Pastor: May your life be renewed like spring after winter in Jesus' love.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Jesus' preaching began with, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Jesus also answered the Pharisees when they questioned who He welcomed and forgave, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

People: **After His resurrection Jesus said to His disciples, "It is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."**

Pastor: Acknowledging the promise and call of God to confess, repent, and receive forgiveness, we join in the Apostle John's words:

People: **If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned we make God a liar, and His Word is not in us.**

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Forgive me of my sins, I pray. *(Reflection for confession)*

Pastor: Jesus laid down His life for our sins to be forgiven. He cleanses us, and calls us clean as we believe and receive His reconciliation. As you have confessed and believed, as a called servant of Jesus our Christ, and according to His Word, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Daily Text

Give me an undivided heart to revere Your Name.

Psalm 86:11

God exalted Him even more highly and gave Him the Name that is above every other name, so that at the Name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

Let us pray:

People: **Lord, You know how stiff my knees are! Give me this day calisthenics that I may feed on Your flexibility. Like the Israelites of old, I too am stiff-necked. Help me develop Your range of motion that embraces people not just lie me. I want t kneel with strangers! Amen.**

Scripture Lessons *Read*

First Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

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.

The Psalm

Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him. ²⁶ The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever! ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. ²⁸ For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. ²⁹ All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive. ³⁰ Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; ³¹ they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

Second Lesson

1 John 4:7-21

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Reader: Please rise for the reading of the Gospel. God has given us Good News.

People: **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. You have the words of eternal life.**

Psalm 119:105, John 6:68

Gospel Lesson

John 15:1-8

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

People: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Song

Run To The Father

I've carried a burden for too long on my own
I wasn't created to bear it alone
I hear Your invitation to let it all go
I see it now I'm laying it down
And I know that I need You

I run to the Father
I fall into grace
I'm done with the hiding
No reason to wait
My heart needs a surgeon
My soul needs a friend
So I'll run to the Father
Again and again and again and again

Oh oh oh

**You saw my condition
Had a plan from the start
Your Son for redemption
The price for my heart
I don't have a context
For that kind of love
I don't understand
I can't comprehend
All I know is I need You**

**I run to the Father
I fall into grace
I'm done with the hiding
No reason to wait
My heart needs a surgeon
My soul needs a friend
So I'll run to the Father
Again and again and again and again**

Interlude

***Oh oh*
Again and again and again and again
*Oh oh oh***

**My heart has been in Your sights
Long before my first breath
Running into Your arms
Is running to life from death
I feel this rush deep in my chest
Your mercy is calling out
Just as I am You pull me in
And I know I need You now**

**I run to the Father
I fall into grace
I'm done with the hiding
No reason to wait
My heart needs a surgeon
My soul needs a friend
So I'll run to the Father
Again and again and again and again**

**I run to the Father
I fall into grace
I'm done with the hiding
No reason to wait**

**My heart (found) a surgeon
My soul (found) a friend
So I'll run to the Father
Again and again and again and again**

Interlude

**Oh oh
Again and again and again and again
Oh oh oh
(Again and again)**

Sermon/Watchword *Talk --- New, Knew, Next* Pr Knoll
Jesus said, "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."

Offering Song

You Are My All In All

**You are my strength when I am weak
You are the treasure that I seek
You are my all in all
Seeking You as a precious jew'l
Lord to give up I'd be a fool
You are my all in all**

**Jesus Lamb of God
Worthy is Your name
Jesus Lamb of God
Worthy is Your name**

**Taking my sin my cross my shame
Rising again I bless Your name
You are my all in all
When I fall down You pick me up
When I am dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all**

**Jesus Lamb of God
Worthy is Your name
Jesus Lamb of God
Worthy is Your name**

Prayers of the Church *Pray*

The congregation is invited to join in prayers that include whole Church, the nation, those in need, the parish, additional petitions and special concerns.

Pastor: Let's join together to pray with Jesus for all that He loves right here, and to the ends of the earth. Father, our Father in heaven, You are the present active, Creator, and Redeemer of our heart, soul, mind and body.

People: Thank You Lord, that in You we are made a part of Your great salvation of all that You have created. You have made us Your redeemed children. We join today with all those throughout the world who follow You, and pray that Your kingdom would come, and Your will would be done among us as it is in heaven.

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude with these words...

Pastor: You are our God, and we are Your people... Thank You that You hear our prayers, and work in all things for the good of those who love You. To You be all glory, honor, and praise.

People: Amen.

Preface, Proper Preface and Sanctus

Pastor: The Lord be with You.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Pastor: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for He is the true Passover Lamb who gave Himself to take away our sin, who by His death has destroyed death, and by His rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

People_(sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.**

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Words Of Institution

Pastor: In the night in which He was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take and eat, this is My body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." Again after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of Me."

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

People: **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.**

Distribution Of Holy Communion

All who sincerely believe in the real presence of Christ in the Holy Communion – that the cup of blessing is the Communion of the blood of Christ and the bread is the Communion of the body of Christ, and sincerely believing that in receiving Him we have the forgiveness of our sins, salvation, and strength for the Christian life, come – *partake of the Lord's Supper.*

Communion Song

Overcome

**Seated above enthroned in the Father's love
Destined to die poured out for all mankind**

**God's only Son perfect and spotless One
He never sinned but suffered as if He did**

**All authority - every victory is Yours
All authority - every victory is Yours**

**Savior worthy of honor and glory
Worthy of all our praise
For You overcame**

**Jesus awesome in power forever
Awesome and great is Your Name
For You overcame**

**Power in hand speaking the Father's plan
You're sending us out light in this broken land**

**All authority - every victory is Yours
All authority - every victory is Yours**

**Savior worthy of honor and glory
Worthy of all our praise
For You overcame**

**Jesus awesome in power forever
Awesome and great is Your Name
For You overcame**

instrumental

**We will overcome
By the blood of the Lamb
And the word of our testimony
Everyone overcome**

continued on next page

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By the blood of the Lamb
And the word of our testimony
Everyone overcome**

**Savior worthy of honor and glory
Worthy of all our praise
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Jesus awesome in power forever
Awesome and great is Your Name
For You overcame**

Nunc Dimittis

Pastor: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word;
For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the
face of all people;
A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the + Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Benediction *Bless*

Pastor: Now, may the Lord bless you and keep you.
May He make His face shine on you, and be gracious unto you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you His peace.

People:(Sung)**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Blessing: Child of God, abide in Jesus, knowing that He abides in you.

Pastor: Our worship continues,

People: our service begins!

Closing Song

House Of The Lord

**We worship the God who was
We worship the God who is
We worship the God who evermore will be
He opened the prison doors
He parted the raging sea
My God He holds the victory yeah**

**There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise**

~ Interlude ~

Oh oh oh - we shout out Your praise

**We sing to the God who heals
We sing to the God who saves
We sing to the God who always makes a way
'Cause He hung up on that cross
Then He rose up from that grave
My God's still rolling stones away**

**There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise**

**('Cause) We were the beggars
Now we're royalty
We were the prisoners
Now we're running free
We are forgiven accepted
Redeemed by His grace
Let the house of the Lord sing praise**

**('Cause) We were the beggars
Now we're royalty
We were the prisoners
Now we're running free
We are forgiven accepted
Redeemed by His grace
Let the house of the Lord sing praise**

**There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise**

There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise

There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise

There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise

We shout out Your praise
There is joy in this house
There is joy in this house today
We shout out Your praise
We shout out Your praise

SHARING OF PEACE AS WE GO IN GOD'S PEACE

Welcome To Worship At Zion. We are pleased to have you join us. *If you are a visitor* please check the shelf outside the office for our newsletter and brochure.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God from Ron and JoAnne O'Neill in thankfulness that like spring after winter is the faithful renewal of Jesus' love.

The Property & Grounds Committee met on 3/25/24. We will be trimming the shrubs outside each pod of our church several weekday afternoons in April. Additionally, we will be cleaning any winter debris...branches, etc., and also putting/adding bark chips in the area near the church entrance. If you would have an hour or two to help with these clean-up tasks, please call JoAnne at 920-948-9503.

The Mission of the Month for April is supporting Pr John Rutzindintwarane and his work in Rwanda and other parts of Africa.

Bible Studies/Small Groups

Wednesday 6:00pm G.I.F.T.

Worship at Zion

Saturday 5:00pm Chapel

Sunday 8:00am Worship

9:30am G.I.F.T. Worship

11:30am Swahili-English Worship

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