

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN           “AWAKE, MY HEART, WITH GLADNESS”

LSB 467

- 1    Awake, my heart, with gladness,  
      See what today is done;  
Now, after gloom and sadness,  
      Comes forth the glorious sun.  
My Savior there was laid  
Where our bed must be made  
      When to the realms of light  
      Our spirit wings its flight.
  
- 2    The foe in triumph shouted  
      When Christ lay in the tomb;  
But lo, he now is routed,  
      His boast is turned to gloom.  
For Christ again is free;  
In glorious victory  
      He who is strong to save  
      Has triumphed o'er the grave.
  
- 3    This is a sight that gladdens—  
      What peace it doth impart!  
Now nothing ever saddens  
      The joy within my heart.  
No gloom shall ever shake,  
No foe shall ever take  
      The hope which God's own Son  
      In love for me has won.
  
- 4    Now hell, its prince, the devil,  
      Of all their pow'r are shorn;  
Now I am safe from evil,  
      And sin I laugh to scorn.  
Grim death with all its might  
Cannot my soul affright;  
      It is a pow'rless form,  
      Howe'er it rave and storm.
  
- 5    The world against me rages,  
      Its fury I disdain;  
Though bitter war it wages,  
      Its work is all in vain.  
My heart from care is free,  
No trouble troubles me.  
      Misfortune now is play,  
      And night is bright as day.
  
- 6    Now I will cling forever  
      To Christ, my Savior true;  
My Lord will leave me never,

Whate'er He passes through.  
He rends death's iron chain;  
He breaks through sin and pain;  
He shatters hell's grim thrall;  
I follow Him through all.

- 7 He brings me to the portal  
That leads to bliss untold,  
Whereon this rhyme immortal  
Is found in script of gold:  
“Who there My cross has shared  
Finds here a crown prepared;  
Who there with Me has died  
Shall here be glorified.”

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt.  
Text: Public domain

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
**C** 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.

- P** 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.  
**C** Amen.

### THIS IS THE FEAST

LSB 155

- C** This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**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.

#### **FIRST READING**

**Acts 8:26–40**

<sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent,  
so he opens not 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>And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>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?” <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

#### **EPISTLE**

**1 John 4:1–21**

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156

**C** Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1–8

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

**And 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.**

**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.**

**SERMON HYMN            “I AM CONTENT! MY JESUS EVER LIVES”**

**LSB 468**

- 1 I am content! My Jesus ever lives,  
In whom my heart is pleased.  
He has fulfilled the Law of God for me,  
God’s wrath He has appeased.  
Since He in death could perish never,  
I also shall not die forever.  
I am content!  
I am content!
- 2 I am content! My Jesus is my head;  
His member I shall be.  
He bowed His head when on the cross He died  
With cries of agony.  
Now death is brought into subjection  
For me by Jesus’ resurrection.  
I am content!  
I am content!
- 3 I am content! My Jesus is my light,  
My radiant sun of grace.  
His cheering rays beam blessings forth for all,  
Sweet comfort, hope, and peace.  
This Easter sun has brought salvation  
And everlasting exultation.  
I am content!  
I am content!
- 4 I am content! At length I shall be free,  
Awakened from the dead,  
Arising glorious evermore to be  
With You, my living head.  
The chains that hold my body, sever;

Then shall my soul rejoice forever.

I am content!

I am content!

Text: attr. Johann Joachim Möller, 1660–1733; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## SERMON

### OFFERTORY

LSB 159

**C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

### PREFACE

LSB 160

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed... This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### LORD'S PRAYER

### PAX DOMINI

LSB 163

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

### AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

**C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

#### "CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY"

LSB 469

1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n today!"  
Saints on earth and angels say;  
Raise your joys and triumphs high;  
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply.

2 Love's redeeming work is done,  
Fought the fight, the battle won;  
Lo! Our Sun's eclipse is o'er;  
Lo! He sets in blood no more.

3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;  
Christ hath burst the gates of hell.  
Death in vain forbids His rise;  
Christ has opened paradise.

4 Lives again our glorious King!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Once He died our souls to save;  
Where thy victory, O grave?

5 Soar we now where Christ has led;  
Foll'wing our exalted Head.  
Made like Him, like Him we rise;  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

6 Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!  
Praise to Thee by both be giv'n!  
Thee we greet triumphant now:  
Hail, the resurrection, Thou!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
Text: Public domain

### “SCATTER THE DARKNESS, BREAK THE GLOOM”

LSB 481

1 Scatter the darkness, break the gloom;  
Sun, reveal an empty tomb  
Shining with joy for all our sorrows,  
Hope and peace for all tomorrows,  
Life uneclipsed by doubt and dread:  
Christ has risen from the dead!

2 Bearing the standard from on high  
As the Lamb of God to die;  
He who for us, so cruelly treated,  
Lives again—our foes defeated!  
Where is your sting, O death and grave?  
Christ has shown His strength to save!

3 Banners of triumph, be unfurled!  
Trumpets, sound throughout the world!  
Crying and sighs, give way to singing:  
Life from death, our Lord is bringing!  
Let there begin the jubilee—  
Christ has gained the victory!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955  
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**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**C** Amen.

### POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**P** Let us pray.

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.

**C** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

LSB 166

**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 ACCLAMATION

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

## CLOSING HYMN “ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! HEARTS TO HEAVEN”

LSB 477

1 Alleluia, alleluia!  
Hearts to heav’n and voices raise:  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,  
Sing to God a hymn of praise;  
He who on the cross a victim  
For the world’s salvation bled—  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,  
Now is risen from the dead.

2 Alleluia, Christ is risen!  
Death at last has met defeat:  
See the ancient pow’rs of evil  
In confusion and retreat;  
Once He died, and once was buried:  
Now He lives forevermore,  
Jesus Christ, the world’s Redeemer,  
Whom we worship and adore.

△ 3 Alleluia, alleluia!  
Glory be to God on high:  
Alleluia to the Savior  
Who has gained the victory;  
Alleluia to the Spirit,  
Fount of love and sanctity!  
Alleluia, alleluia  
To the triune Majesty!

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## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in God's peace; love and serve your neighbor!

**C** Thanks be to God!