



*Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch*, by Herbert Boeckl; located in Angel's Chapel, Seckau Abbey, Styria, Austria

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021 | 11 am



St. John's Lutheran Church | Salisbury, NC



# Gathering

*The Holy Spirit gathers us as the people of God*

## Prelude

## Prayers of Confession

*We make the sign of the cross as a reminder of our baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Heavenly Father, **you call us to live and serve in community as one body. Nevertheless, we confess that we fail to see each other equally or accurately. We tend to think that some are more gifted, more attractive, even more godly than others. We judge one another, even ourselves, on worldly merit. Forgive us, Lord. Redeem us from our wrong-thinking. Open our eyes to your perfect plan for the church — the Body of Christ — that we might graciously work together as one. We pray this humbly in Christ's name. Amen**

## God's Promise of Forgiveness

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May Almighty God strengthen you with his light, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

**Hymn 853**

*Praise to the Lord, The Almighty*  
(See Page 8)

LOBE DEN HERREN

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**Kyrie.** *A centering prayer asking for God's mercy and peace as we gather for worship.*  
*Congregation sings the parts in **bold**.*

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.**

### **Hymn of Praise**

*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

LASS UNS ERFREUN

Now all the vault of heaven resounds

In praise of love that still abounds:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!

Repeat their song glory here:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### **Prayer**

Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live.  
As we gather in worship, nourish us with your Word and Sacrament, that we may bear  
the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



# Word

*We hear God's word in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

## **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 the 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!**

## **Solo Response**

*Shepherd of My Heart*

Written by Dick Tunney and David Baldwin  
Ondria Durocher- Witt, Soloist

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <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. **Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

Pastor Rhodes Woolly

**Hymn 449**

*We Know That Christ Is Raised*  
(See Page 9)

ENGELBERG

**Apostles’ Creed.** Gathered as God’s people across time and space, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles’ Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession.** *Each petition ends: Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.***



## **Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

**Preparation of the Lord’s Table:** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav’nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Please stand*

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise. ... And join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n 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.

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

### **The 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.**

**Distribution of Holy Communion.** *You will be invited forward one row at a time. Please take an empty glass, into which the wine will be poured. Grape juice is available in pre-filled cups. All bread in our communion celebration is gluten-free. Welcome to the Lord's Table!*

## **Communion Hymns 154**

*Lamb of God*

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, grant us peace.

**472**

*Eat This Bread* (See Page 10)

**Piano Meditation**

Rosemary Kinard

**744**

*Lord, Be Glorified* (See page 11)

*Please stand*

## **Blessing and Prayer**



# Sending

*Forgiven and nourished, we are now sent into the world to share God's love.*

## Benediction

**Sending Hymn 543**

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*  
(See Page 12)

AR HYD Y NOS

## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

*Please be seated. During the postlude, ushers will dismiss one row at a time so that good social distancing can be maintained. Thank you for joining us in worship this morning.*

## Postlude

*Unless otherwise indicated, today's service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship and is reproduced by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies annual license #26999.*

# Altar Flowers

Are given to the glory of God and in memory of Lorna Reasor, by Scott Rhodes.

# Worship Participants

**SOLOIST:** Ondria Durocher-Witt

**SONG LEADERS:** Willi and Donna Beilfuss, Diane Goodnight, Corinne Mauldin, Kathy Norris, Dennis and Karen Rogers, Betty Roof, Sacha Witt, Rosemary Kinard

**READER:** Kathy Norris

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** Dennis and Karen Rogers

**SOUND:** Mike Agee

**VIDEO:** Taylor Hutchins

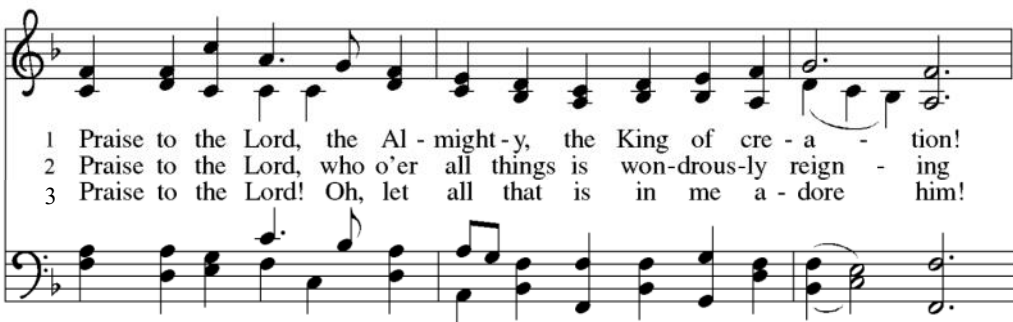
# Join Us In Prayer For The Following:

**THIS WEEK'S PRAYER CONCERNS** — Beth Boger, Brenda Munday, Linda Phillips, Carol Pomeroy

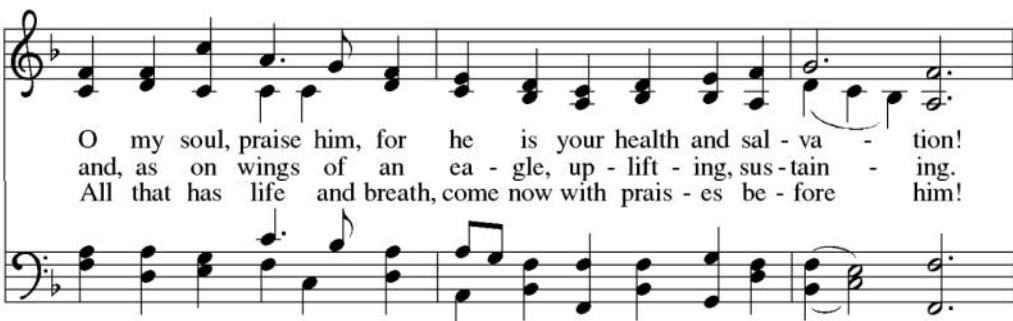
**ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS** — Betty Denker, Dianne Agner, Randy Overcash, Dean Safrit, Rachel Safrit, Fran Lawson, Pat Nelson, Tom and Nancy Austin, Marge Fuertinger, Roger Alexander, David Wilson, Phyllis Edwards, Robin Cohen, Richard (Dick) Petherick, Benny Banks, Karen Shelton, Gerald Jones, John Myers, Jane Shuping, Barbara Rufty, Walter Tatum, Jim Rabon, Matt Stahl, Nancy Parrish, Thomas Livesay, Gene Myers, Kent Brown

**HOMEBOUND** — Anita Foreman, Peggy Taylor, Lois and Paul Carter, Alda Smith, Margaret Ketner, Sonny Allen, Dottie Bedford, Hal Furr, Fran Hoke, Sherry Morgan, Ermine Peeler, Shirley Smith, Peggy Smith

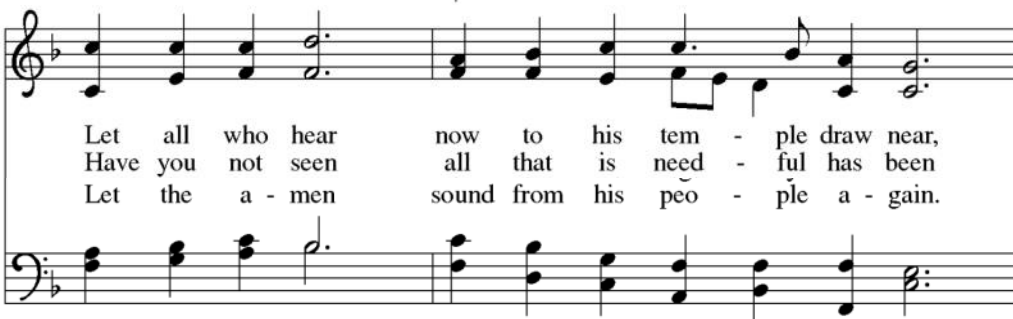
## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing  
 3 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Erneuertes Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665



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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!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

Text © John B. Geyer.

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# Eat This Bread

## *Jesus Christ, Bread of Life*

*Refrain*

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.  
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”  
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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## Lord, Be Glorified

1 In my life, Lord, be glo-ri - fied, be glo-ri - fied;  
 2 In our song, Lord, be glo-ri - fied, be glo-ri - fied;  
 3 In your church, Lord, be glo-ri - fied, be glo-ri - fied;  
 4 In your world, Lord, be glo-ri - fied, be glo-ri - fied;

in my life, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.  
 in our song, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.  
 in your church, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.  
 in your world, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.

Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952

Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick

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## Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.  
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.  
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."  
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*

