

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Outdoor Service**  
May 7, 2023

*Greetings and Welcome*

*Prelude by the Faith Singers – “Our God Is an Awesome God,” arr. Smith*

**GATHERING**

*\*Call to Worship and Confession*

P: “The heavens declare the glory of God;

**C: The skies proclaim the work of God’s hands.”** (Psalm 19:1)

P: “In the beginning, God laid the foundations of the earth,

**C: And the heavens are the work of God’s hands.”** (Psalm 102:25)

P: “O Lord, how manifold are your works!

**C: In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.”**  
(Psalm 104:24)

P: “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.

**C: For God founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.”** (Psalm 24:1-2)

P: We praise God for the beauty of creation and the blessing of this day. At the same time, we see the brokenness and despair that are the result of sin. We repent of the ways that we have contributed to this brokenness in our lives and those around us.

**C: “My help comes from the Lord, creator of heaven and earth.”** (Psalm 121:2)

*Silence for Reflection and Confession*

P: Holy and gracious God,

**C: We confess that we have sinned against you this day. Some of our sin we know – the thoughts and words and deeds of which we are ashamed – but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, we ask forgiveness. “Create in us clean hearts and renew our spirit.”** (Psalm 51:10)

P: By the tender mercy and grace of God, your sins are forgiven. “Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice:

**C: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it:**

P: Let the field exult, and everything in it.

**C: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord.”**

(Psalm 96:11-12)

P: “This is the day that the Lord has made;

**C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.”** (Psalm 118:24)

*\*Sharing of the Peace*

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

**C: And also with you.**

*All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.*

*Gathering Song – “Here I Am to Worship”*

**Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see.  
Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.**

*Refrain: Here I am to worship; Here I am to bow down;  
Here I am to say that You’re my God.*

*You’re altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.*

**King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above.  
Humbly you came to the earth you created, all for love’s sake became poor. Refrain**

**And I’ll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross.  
And I’ll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross. Refrain**

*Children’s Sermon*

*Hymn of Praise: “Come and Gather Beneath the Tree of Life”*

*Refrain: Come and gather beneath the tree of life.  
Come and gather beneath the tree of life –  
Root of wisdom, branch of peace, fruit of healing and release.  
Come and gather beneath the tree of life.*

**Come and drink the waters of salvation,  
Come and die to sin, rise up to life within the Reign of God. Refrain**

## WORD

*Reading:* Romans 1:1-17

Reader: Kelly Hartz

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>8</sup>First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. <sup>9</sup>For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, <sup>10</sup>asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. <sup>11</sup>For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— <sup>12</sup>or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. <sup>13</sup>I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as I have among the rest of the Gentiles. <sup>14</sup>I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish <sup>15</sup>— hence my eagerness to proclaim the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

<sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup>For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, 'The one who is righteous will live by faith.'

P: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

*\*Gospel Reading:* Matthew 9:10-13

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>10</sup>And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' <sup>12</sup>But when he heard this, he

said, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup>Go and learn what this means, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’

**P:** The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sermon:* “Paul’s Powerful Proclamation”

*Song of the Day* – “Yet Not I”

1. **What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer,  
There is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom,  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,  
For my life is wholly bound to His.  
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine!"  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.**
2. **The night is dark but I am not forsaken,  
For by my side, the Savior He will stay.  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,  
For in my need, His power is displayed.  
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me,  
Through the deepest valley He will lead.  
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.**
3. **No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven,  
The future sure, the price it has been paid.  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,  
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.  
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated,  
Jesus now and ever is my plea.  
Oh the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free!"  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.**

4. **With every breath I long to follow Jesus,  
For He has said that He will bring me home.  
And day by day I know He will renew me,  
Until I stand with joy before the throne.  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,  
All the glory evermore to Him.  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.**

**To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,  
All the glory evermore to Him.  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me,  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me,  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.**

*\*The Apostles' Creed*

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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*

*Stewardship Time*

**“Take My Life/Holiness,” arr. Underwood  
Faith Singers**

*–Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder provided by the Ushers–*

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion are gifts of God's grace to claim and sustain us in our lives as disciples of Jesus. Baptism proclaims our identity, that we are beloved children of God, called to love God and our neighbors. Holy Communion reconnects us to the Body of Christ and nurtures our lives of faith with forgiveness and life.

**C: We give thanks to God as we receive this gift of grace anew today.**

*\*Great Thanksgiving*

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 our thanks and praise.**

*\*Words of Institution*

P: 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 for the 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 for the remembrance of me.

*\*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.**

Communion Songs

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

**Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us.**

*Refrain: You came from heaven to earth to show the way,  
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,  
from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky,  
Lord, I lift your name on high.*

**Yours the glory risen Lord; Now the stone's been rolled away.  
Yours the vict'ry over death. Angels sing with us today. Refrain**

"Canticle of the Turning" ELW 723

- 1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?**
- 2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.**

*Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

- 3. From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.**
- 4. Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.**

*Refrain*

*\*Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
C: **Amen.**

*\*Closing Prayer*

\*Song: “Darling Jesus”

**Darling Je-e-sus, darling Jesus, O my darling Jesus  
You are wonderful Lord.**

**I love you so much, darling Jesus, O my darling Jesus  
You are wonderful Lord.**

**Hey-o-ay-o... Hey-o-ay-hey-o-bom, bom, bom  
Hey-o-ay-o... Hey-o-ay-hey-o-bom, bom, bom**

## SENDING

*\*Benediction*

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face to shine on you  
and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
C: **Amen.**

*\*Sending Song – “And He Shall Reign”*

*Refrain: And he shall reign for ever, his throne and crown shall ever endure.  
And he shall reign for ever, and we shall reign with him.*

- 1. What a vision filled my eyes, one like a Son of man.  
Coming with the clouds of heav’n he approached an awesome throne. *Refrain***
- 2. He was given sov’rign power, glory and authority.  
Every nation, tribe and tongue worshipped him on bended knee. *Refrain***
- 3. On the throne for ever, see the Lamb who once was slain;  
wounds of sacrificial love for ever shall remain. *Refrain***



*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Ken Devlin

Greeter: Lillian Korous

Reader: Kelly Hartz

Usher: Larry Kuster

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Pianist: Jean Welch

Drummer: John Demien

Financial Assistants: Ken Devlin & Kelly Street

Chancel Committee: Karen Sibert

Coffee Host: Outdoor Picnic



Singers:

Benen Dichsen

Kelly Hartz

Kris Roth

Marilyn Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Melissa Street

Rigby Dichsen

Adam Krohe

Carol VanderKloot

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson

Kelly Hartz

Patty Nelson

Monica Proefrock

Ken Devlin

Greg Kimler

Mike Oldenettel

Kelly Street

The plants at the altar today are donated by Pat & Kim Heise celebrating 4<sup>th</sup> birthdays for Arlo Heise and Drew Cornell (grandsons)

### Song Credits

“Here I Am to Worship,” words and music by Tim Hughes, ThankYou Music © 2001. CCLI#973583

“Come and Gather Beneath the Tree of Life,” Holy Communion Tree of Life Setting, by Marty Haugen; © 2000,

GIA Publications, Inc., used by permission.

“Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me” by Robinson, Farren, & Thompson, © 2018 CityAlight Music, Farren Love and War Publishing and Integrity’s Alleluia! Music. Used by permission.

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” [verse 2 words by John Roth], from **The Source**, Kevin Mayhew Limited, © 1998. CCLI#973583

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship**, © 2006 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission.

“And He Shall Reign,” from **The Source**, Kevin Mayhew Limited, © 1998. CCLI#973583

## What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, May 7, 9:30am: Outdoor Worship  
10:30am: Outdoor Picnic  
5:30pm: Confirmation Class

Wednesday, May 10, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

Sunday, May 14, 9:30am: Worship  
10:45am: Sunday School

Monday, May 15, 11:30am: Potluck lunch  
12:00pm: Movie: "His Only Son"

Wednesday, May 17, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group  
10am: Discipleship Group in the Library  
6pm: Women of Faith at El Patron (*901 W. Morton, #111*)

## News Updates

### Outdoor Worship and Picnic Today

A summer staple for our Faith Family has been our outdoor worship service. The fresh air, breeze blowing through the trees, and barking dogs provide a beautiful sanctuary. Last year we experimented with outdoor worship once each month with a picnic and games... it was a hit! Join us again this summer today, June 4, July 2, August 6, and September 3. To assure all can participate, there will be seating and communion stations on the grass, on the parking lot, and indoors (with worship visible through windows), as well as being live streamed. Following the service, we are providing a cookout picnic and time for games and activities for all. Our hope is that this will not only be a time of vibrant worship and blessing to our Faith Family, but also to others, so please invite a friend and join us for these wonderful times together!

### Music Update for Choir and Exaltation Ringers

I wish everyone a safe and fun summer, and we will meet again in the fall. If anyone is interested in doing something musical during the summer, please contact me.

Jean Welch, *Director of Music*

## Community Outreach Opportunity

Prairieland United Way has kicked off a community food drive that will continue through May 26. Community members are being asked to donate food to help kids in need of food through the summer months when school is out. Though participants may donate any nonperishable foods, items most needed include:

Juice	canned soups	jelly
Gatorade	Ramen noodles	breakfast cereal
canned chicken	canned pasta and meat	macaroni and cheese cups
fruit	peanut butter	oatmeal
Jell-O or pudding cups		

Faith members may put their donations in the Blue Box found in the Mission and Ministry area; the **deadline for donations is Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**.

## Men's Breakfast

Join us on Saturday, **May 6** for some delicious food and fellowship with the guys! Come at 8:00 to help in the kitchen and at 9:00 for food and conversation.

## Faith and Film

Do you like the ways movies nurture and challenge our faith? Come check out this new small group as we gather for fellowship and lunch, then watch a movie and have discussion. Our next potluck and movie will be on **May 15 at 11:30am**. The movie will be ***His Only Son***, a dramatization of the story of Abraham and Sarah. It specifically focuses on God's call to Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. It stirs deep emotions and conflicts of faith while calling to our minds and hearts the sacrifice of the cross and the death of Jesus... "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son..."

## Discipleship Group

Join us at **10am on Wednesday, May 17**, in the Faith Library as we meet for great conversation and fellowship time. If you haven't attended before, now's a great time to give it a try! For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at [khartz@sompo-intl.com](mailto:khartz@sompo-intl.com).

## Women of Faith Fellowship Night

Join us on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm for dinner out at El Patron. Please RSVP to Monica **by Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>** if you plan to come.

## **Doorbell Dinners — May 29-June 2**

Help us deliver meals in the community. We are in need of drivers & deliverers to cover the needs of five routes — time commitment is 11:15-12:30 each day. For more information and to sign up, visit the sign-up counter by the Fair Trade coffee sales.

## **Sign-Up Sheets**

are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

## **Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea**

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50** regular; **\$7.50** decaf & flavored; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate—milk & dark; **\$5.50** coffee pods; **\$6.25** cashews). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

## **Faith Telephone Directory**

A new Faith Directory is available in the gathering area on the Coffee Sales counter by the Mission & Ministry Center for all to take home (1 per household, please).

## **Contribution Envelopes for 2023**

are in the gathering area at the Coffee Bar. If you don't see a box with your name on it, please mention this to Barb Davenport, Pam Devlin, or Kris Roth. We will happily provide you with a box. If you would like to register for our easy, **automatic online giving service**, contact the church office.