

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023

We welcome Pastor Tom Hillertz this morning

Greetings and Welcome

*Prelude by Sharon Zuiderveld – “Agincourt Hymn,” by John Dunstable
and “Blessed Jesus We Are Here,” by Walther (a cousin of Bach)*

GATHERING

**Confession and Forgiveness*

P: Returning again to the waters of baptism, we begin in the name of the Father and of the
+ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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

Silence

P: Gracious and merciful God,

**C: We confess to you the truth of our broken lives. We have not trusted your promises
or walked in your ways. We have hoarded and squandered the gifts of your
creation. We have failed to welcome the stranger and the outcast, and to make
room at the table for the homeless and the hungry. We have neither worked to
release the oppressed nor admitted our own captivities. Forgive our sin, heal our
lives, and set us free that we might live with your whole creation in the justice and
joy of your promised future.**

P: God, who is merciful and kind, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, hears the
cries of all who plead for mercy and, in these last days, has sent Christ Jesus to announce
the good news of forgiveness and release to all who are bound by guilt or broken by
shame, that they might praise God and serve the world with glad and generous hearts.

P: For freedom Christ has set you free.

C: Thanks be to God.

**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 – “God of Grace and God of Glory” ELW 705 (organ)

1. **God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow’r;
Crown your ancient Church’s story; bring its bud to glorious flow’r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**
2. **Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
for the living of these days**
3. **Cure your children’s waring madness; bend our pride to your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom’s goal,
lest we miss your kingdom’s goal.**
4. **Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of Praise: “Come and Gather Beneath the Tree of Life” (piano)

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.

Rooted in the rich earth of your Gospel,

May we bear the fruits your Word has planted deep within our hearts. *Refrain*

WORD

Reading: Romans 6:1-14

Reader: Carol VanderKloot

¹What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹²Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

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

**Gospel Reading:* Matthew 6:24

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

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

Sermon: "What to say? What to do?"

Song of the Day – “Crucified With Christ”

(piano)

Refrain: I've been crucified with Christ. Oh Christ alive in me. And the life I live, I live by faith in the Son who died for me.

I've been crucified with Christ. Oh Christ alive in me. And the life within my body now's the life He lives in me.

I bring nothing but a heart that's full of sin and ripped apart and I can't even make a start of walking in Your way.

But in Your cross Your love I'm given. On Your cross my sins forgiven.

By Your cross new life I'm living, rising ev'ry day. Refrain

Help me stand, I'm full of weakness. Help me speak, I'm full of meekness.

Help me shine through all the bleakness, trusting only You.

Without You, I'm just not able. Take me, Lord, up to Your table.

Feed me, fill me, Lord, enable me to follow You. Refrain

Crucified with Christ. Crucified with Christ.

Crucified with Christ. Crucified with Christ.

Refrain

**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

**"Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone," arr. Chris Tomlin
by the Faith Singers**

–Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew–

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

"Your Grace is Enough"

(piano)

**1. Great is your faithfulness, O God of Jacob;
you wrestle with the sinner's restless heart.**

You lead me by still waters into mercy where nothing can keep us apart.

*Refrain: So remember your people, remember your children,
remember your promise, O God.*

*For your grace is enough, your grace is enough, your grace is enough,
your grace is enough for me.*

**2. Great is your love and justice, God of Jacob; you use the weak to lead the strong.
You lead us in the song of heaven's vict'ry, and all your people sing along.**

Refrain twice

"I Know that My Redeemer Lives " ELW 619 (organ)

- 1 I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my ever-living head!**
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save;
he lives exalted, throned above; he lives to rule his church in love.**
- 3 He lives to grant me rich supply; he lives to guide me with his eye;
he lives to comfort me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's complaint.**
- 4 He lives to silence all my fears; he lives to wipe away my tears;
he lives to calm my troubled heart; he lives all blessings to impart.**
- 5 He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.**
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; he lives and loves me to the end;
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!**
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there.**
- 8 He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same;
what joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!**

**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: “By Your Hand, You Feed Your People ELW 469 (organ)

1. **By your hand you feed your people, food of angels, heaven’s bread.
For these gifts we did not labor, by your grace have we been fed:**

*Refrain: Christ’s own body, blessed and broken, cup o’erflowing, life outpoured,
Given as a living token of your world redeemed, restored.*

2. **In this meal we taste your sweetness, bread for hunger, wine of peace.
Holy word and holy wisdom satisfy our deepest needs. Refrain**
3. **Send us now with faith and courage to the hungry, lost, bereaved.
In our living and our dying, we become what we receive: Refrain**

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 – “I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me” ELW 860 (piano)

1. **I’m so glad Jesus lifted me. I’m so glad Jesus lifted me.
I’m so glad Jesus lifted me, singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**
2. **Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me. Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me, singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**
3. **When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me. When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me, singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker

Greeter: Hallie Mayner

Reader: Carol VanderKloot

Usher: Pat Glyshaw

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Pianist: Jean Welch

Organist: Sharon Zuiderveld

Drummer: John Demien

Financial Assistants: Greg Kimler & Mike Oldenettel

Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw

Coffee Host: Kay Schnitker



Singers:

Benen Dichsen

Rigby Dichsen

Adam Krohe

Carol VanderKloot

Louis Dichsen

Kelly Hartz

Kris Roth

Marilyn Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Melissa Street

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

Kris & Bishop John Roth in celebration of their 41st wedding anniversary on May 23

and

by Jill Waggener in memory of Lynn

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, May 21, 9:30am: Worship
10:45am: Sunday School

Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, May 23, 6pm: Ministry Support Structure Meeting

Wednesday, May 24, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group
6pm: Council Retreat

Thursday, May 25, 6pm: Church Council Meeting

Sunday, May 28, 9:30am: Worship – Confirmation Sunday

Monday, May 29, 11:15-12:30: Doorbell Dinner Delivery

Tuesday, May 30, 11:15-12:30: Doorbell Dinner Delivery

Wednesday, May 31, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group
11:15-12:30: Doorbell Dinner Delivery

Thursday, June 1, 11:15-12:30: Doorbell Dinner Delivery
5:15pm: Parish Worship Committee Meeting

Friday, June 2, 11:15-12:30: Doorbell Dinner Delivery

News Updates

Music Update

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*

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!*

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.

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 Today**.

Bishop John's Retirement Party

As you may know, Bishop John Roth will be retiring at the close of his term as bishop on August 31, 2023. You are invited to a Retirement Dinner in his honor on Saturday, July 15, 5:00-7:30pm at Erin's Pavilion, Southwind Park, in Springfield. Tickets are \$30 each, and reservations can be made at csis-elca.org/retirement **by July 1**. Additional donations toward the cost of the dinner are being accepted and can be included when you make your reservation. Any donations beyond the expenses of the dinner will support our companion synods in the Malagasy Lutheran Church in Madagascar.

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.

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.

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).