

# Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 12, 2024

*Greetings and Welcome*

*Prelude by Jean Welch – “The Risen Christ,” arr. Tornquist*

## GATHERING

*\*Call to Worship and Confession*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

*Silence for Reflection and Confession*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*\*Mother’s Day Prayer with the Children*

*\*Call to Worship* – “Beautiful Savior” ELW 838

*(organ)*

- 1 **Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,  
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**
- 2 **Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,  
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**
- 3 **Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,  
bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels in the sky.**
- 4 **Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine!**

*\*Greeting and Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray ...

**C: Amen.**

*\*Sharing Christ's 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.*

*Children's Sermon*

*Hymn of Praise* – “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

*(piano)*

**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**

## WORD

*Reading:* 1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57

*Reader:* Carol VanderKloot

<sup>1</sup>Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

<sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup>If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have died

in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

<sup>21</sup>For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; <sup>22</sup>for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

<sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>51</sup>Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’

<sup>55</sup>‘Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?’

<sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

*\*Gospel Reading:* Mark 12:26-27

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>26</sup>And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said to him, “I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob”? <sup>27</sup>He is God not of the dead, but of the living; you are quite wrong.’

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

*Sermon:* "Our God of New Beginnings"

*Song of the Day* – “Bless the Lord, O My Soul”

*(piano)*

*Refrain: Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul; worship His Holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your Holy name.*

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;  
it's time to sing Your song again.  
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,  
Let me be singing when the evening comes. *Refrain***

**You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger.  
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.  
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing --  
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. *Refrain***

**And on that day, when my strength is failing,  
the end draws near, and my time has come;  
still my soul will sing Your praise unending --  
ten thousand years and then forevermore!**

*\*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 of Intercession*

*Stewardship Time*

Sandi Watts, *organ*

Stewardship is about our grateful response to God's grace for us. How do you respond? If you would like to financially support our ministry together, you can place a donation in

an offering box or through our website. If you would like to support our ministry together through service, you can find a list of ministry teams online or on our ministry team menu. Consider joining a ministry team, or starting a new one, today!

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

*\*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*

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today” ELW 365 (organ)

- 1 **Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**
- 2 **Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**
- 3 **But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**
- 4 **Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!  
praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

“Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks” (piano)

*Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.*

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth; he is the King of creation. Refrain**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen. Refrain**

**We have been crucified with Christ; now we shall live forever. Refrain**

**God has proclaimed the just reward: life for all people, alleluia. Refrain**

**Come, let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior. 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*

## SENDING

*\*Benediction*

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.**

*\*Sending Song – “My Redeemer Lives”*

*(piano)*

**I know He rescued my soul, His blood has covered my sin. I believe, I believe!**

**My shame is taken away, my pain is healed in His name. I believe, I believe!**

**I’ll raise the banner ‘cause my Lord has conquered the grave!**

**My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives!**

*Repeat verse*

**My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives!**

**You lift my burdens, I’ll rise with You. I’m dancing on this mountaintop to see  
Your kingdom come!**

**My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives!**

*Repeat*

*\*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Song Credits

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## Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Pam Devlin  
Greeter: Hallie Mayner  
Reader: Carol VanderKloot  
Usher: Hallie Mayner  
Pastor: Adam Dichsen  
Music Director: Jean Welch  
Organist: Sandi Watts  
Pianist: Jean Welch  
Drummers: Marilyn Dichsen & Louis Dichsen  
Financial Assistants: Ken Devlin & Kelly Hartz  
Chancel Committee: Mary Jane Esslinger  
Coffee Hosts: Verla Buckner & Laura Sweatman



### Singers:

Benen Dichsen	Kelly Hartz	Kris Roth	Carol VanderKloot
Louis Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Cole Street	
Marilyn Dichsen	Adam Krohe	Melissa Street	

### Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kelly Hartz	Gaylon Martin	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Greg Kimler	Patty Nelson	Kelly Street
Marilyn Dichsen			

## What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, May 12, 9:30am: Worship

10:45am: Sunday School

Wednesday, May 15, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

10:00am: Discipleship Group in the Library

6:00pm: Church Council Meeting

Sunday, May 19, 9:30am: Worship + Baptism of Olivia Street

10:45am: Sunday School + Book Club Discussion

Wednesday, May 22, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

## News Updates

### Sunday School

Calling all kids! After worship, fellowship, and snacks, we will gather for music and then head to our classes. We have two classes this year, one for pre-K through Kindergarten and the other for early elementary. If you have questions or are interested in helping, contact Patty Nelson at 217-653-3105.

### Discipleship Group

Join our monthly discussion at 10:00am on **Wednesday, May 15**, in the Faith Library. We will explore the Bible, enjoy some tasty treats, and continue to strengthen our relationships. For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at [khartz@sompo-intl.com](mailto:khartz@sompo-intl.com).

### Book Discussion – Sabbatical Book #3 - “What Makes You Come Alive”

**By Lerita Coleman Brown**

Our third book is about Howard Thurman, a spiritual adviser to Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders and activists in the 1960s. He championed silence, contemplation, common unity, and nonviolence as powerful dimensions of social change. Lerita Coleman Brown beckons readers into their own apprenticeship with Thurman, walking us through Thurman's inimitable life and commitments as he summons us into centering down, encountering the natural world, paying attention to sacred synchronicity, unleashing inner authority, and recognizing the genius of the religion of Jesus.

Books are available for \$10 in the gathering area. Join Karen Dean **on May 19**, at 10:45am, in the Justice Room for the Discussion.

### Doorbell Dinners

Our next times to deliver are **May 27-31**. A sign-up sheet is available in the gathering area on the counter by the Coffee Sales. May 27 is Memorial Day, but we will still deliver meals that day.

### 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!*

## **Summer Youth Camps**

**Performing Arts Camp** (PAC) at Green Pastures Christian Retreat Center is for youth entering grades 5-12 and will take place on June 14-15, 21-22, and 28-29. Cost is \$50/camper.

**Fire in Our Hearts** (FIOH) at Green Pastures is for youth entering grades 5-12 and will take place on July 8-12 and 22-26. Cost is \$135/camper.

If needed, scholarships are available.

Registration link: <http://www.greenpasturesretreatcenter.org/registration>.

For more information call: 217-584-1374

Email: [contact@greenpasturesretreatcenter.org](mailto:contact@greenpasturesretreatcenter.org)

## **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; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

## **A Liturgy Before Giving**

*Every Moment Holy - Volume 1.* By Douglas Kaine McKelvey

In truth, I have nothing but you, O Christ, nothing that I might call my own. So let that good confession now compel a better stewardship.

First, teach me to treasure you, Jesus, above all things. Then let that increasing devotion be increasingly demonstrated in a joyful generosity – for to give is to live out the declaration that you alone are my provision and supply. I need not fear what comes tomorrow.

When I give to meet the needs of others, when I give to the work of those who serve the poor, the sick, the oppressed, when I give to the service of your Body and your Kingdom, I give not what is mine, but only what is already yours. With every charitable act I am simply practicing the fact that nothing which passes through my hands has ever belonged to me. You are my generous master. Make me your faithful trustee, teaching me to live as a wiser conduit of this liberal grace, learning to hold loosely the things of this world, never hoarding that which is yours, never seeking the mere preservation of my own comforts. Rather let me love well in my giving, even as you, O God, have loved me so well by giving me all things in Christ.

Let me make each offering without thought of temporal gain. Let me give precisely because I believe your promises are true. If you are my shepherd, then I am freed to live generously, knowing I will never want for any needful thing.

So why should I grasp at that which I cannot keep? This body will sleep in death and what I now hold so briefly will pass into the keeping of another. I own nothing here. I have no claim. Dispel the myth of my possessions. Rather let me learn, while I draw breath, to live with open hands and joy-filled heart, investing your resources in your good works.

**Bless now, O Lord, this gift and its benefits, that it might be received as evidence of your mercies, and multiplied in effectiveness for your kingdom. Through this and other acts of giving, train my heart toward a greater generosity, that the habits of my stewardship might be ever more pleasing to you, and ever more expressive of your love.**

**All that I have is yours, Lord Christ. All that I have is you.**

**Use this small gift for works of love and mercy, and unto the increase of your glory. Amen.**