

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude

GATHERING

Call to Worship

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

C: Amen.

Confession

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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

Silence

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 us 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: Thanks be to God! Amen.

1. To be your presence is our mission here,
to show compassion’s face and list’ning ear,
To be your heart of mercy ever near, alleluia!
2. To be your presence is our mission bold,
to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold,
To be your hands of justice, right uphold, alleluia!
3. To be your presence is our mission blest,
to speak for all the broken and oppressed,
To be your voice of hope, your love expressed, alleluia!
4. We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice,
to serve your people is our call and choice,
And in his mission we, the church, rejoice, alleluia!

**Greeting*

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

C: And also with you.

**Prayer of the Day*

P: Gracious God, in this season of Easter, we celebrate the resurrection and new life you bring every day. By the death and resurrection of your Son, you raise us to new life. As you raised the Apostle Paul from his acts of persecution, so give us faith to follow you and a passion to share the gospel with our families, our friends, our neighbors, and all the way to the ends of the earth.

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

**Great is the Lord, he is holy and just. By his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true. By his mercy he proves he is love.
Great is the Lord and worthy of glory. Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord, I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice.
Great is the Lord, great is the Lord. Repeat**

WORD

Reading: Acts 9:1-22

Reader: Kelly Hartz

¹Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

⁵“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. ⁶“Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

⁷The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered.

¹¹The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹²In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”

¹³“Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

¹⁵But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

¹⁷Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

¹⁸Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” ²²Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

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

**Gospel Reading: Luke 24:44-47*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

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

⁴⁴He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

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

Song: “Change My Heart, O God”

(piano)

Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, May I be like You.

You are the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, This is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, May I be like You.

Sermon: "Every Morning is Easter Morning"

Song of the Day – "Ablaze"

(piano)

**1. Cold is the wind that blows in the night.
The darkness is deepest where there's no light.
Who will You send to carry the flame? Who will proclaim your name?
People are lost and don't even know it.
If we know the way, then why don't we show it?
Ignite the flame, O Lord fan the spark that we may shine in the dark.**

*Chorus: Set us ablaze, O Lord. Set us ablaze to tell Your story.
Shout aloud the hope of glory so that the lost will find the way.
Set us ablaze, O Lord, and fill your church with holy fire,
To share your love our one desire All our days. Set us ablaze.*

**2. For You, Lord, alone are the one who can save.
Your cross alone, and Your empty grave.
Hearts to renew, and sins to forgive that all of the world might live.
Ignite the flame, O Lord, send your Spirit,
that we proclaim, and that they may hear it
Send us to show them the way that is true. Send us to lead them to You.**

Chorus twice

**I've got a calling. I've got a mission.
Out of the boat and on with the fishing, Ablaze!
Hearts that are burning, minds that are learning,
filled with a yearning to see lives turning. Ablaze!**

**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

“Living Hope,” by Phil Wickham
Marilyn Dichsen

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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**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

“You Are Mine”

(piano)

1. I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, Be still and know I am here.

2. I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in me.

*Refrain: Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me. I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.*

3. I am strength for all the despairing, Healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see, The lame will all run free, And all will know my name.

Refrain

4. I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, Embracing all your pain, Stand up, now walk, and live!

Refrain

“All Creatures, Worship God Most High” ELW 835 *(organ)*

1 All creatures, worship God most high!

Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright; sing, sister moon and stars of night:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain

you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear sister water, useful, clear, make music for your Lord to hear:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong,

drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, so rich in care, praise God in colors bright and rare:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain and sorrow grieve: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
still make your song amid the tears:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**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: As you leave this place, know that God is with you in every messy middle, and go with God's blessing. 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 – “Here I Am, Lord” ELW 574*

(piano)

1. **I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

*Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

2. **I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? Refrain**
3. **I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? Refrain**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The altar plants are given today by the Dichsen family
in honor of Marilyn's graduation and in thanksgiving for our Moms

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Hallie Mayner

Greeter: Liddy Stark

Reader: Kelly Hartz

Usher: Liddy Stark

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Susan Roegge

Pianist: Jean Welch

Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Kelly Hartz & Patty Nelson

Chancel Committee: Kris Roth

Coffee Host: Karen Sibert



Singers:

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| Benen Dichsen | Terri Kimler | Kris Roth | Melissa Street |
| Kelly Hartz | Adam Krohe | Cole Street | |

Church Council Members:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Malinda Carlson | Marilyn Dichsen | Greg Kimler | Monica Proefrock |
| Ken Devlin | Kelly Hartz | Patty Nelson | Kay Schnitker |
| | | | Kelly Street |

Song Credits

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What’s Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, May 11, 9:30am: Worship

Wednesday, May 14, 6:00pm: Women of Faith Craft Night in the Great Room

Sunday, May 18, 9:30am: Worship

11:00am: Bible Study in the Justice Room

1:00pm: Spirit of Faith Service & Ice Cream

Wednesday, May 21, 10:00am: Discipleship Group in the Faith Library

Thursday, May 22, 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting

News Updates

Faith’s Little Flock

Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-7. We also welcome Big Kid Helpers (ages 8 and up) to help the little ones with the more difficult parts of the crafts, and our older adults to read the scripture story to the children. Contact Melissa Street if you would like to take a turn reading the story to the children. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far! The children all return to the sanctuary for the communion blessing. Word-finds, crossword puzzles, and other activity sheets are available in the gathering area for the older children (and adults) to help reinforce the message of the day. We look forward to seeing all of the children in May!

Bible Study on the Apostle Paul

Following worship, join Pastor Adam for Bible study in the Justice Room. Through May and into June, we will be reading from Acts and Galatians. The book of Acts was also written by Luke and tells the story of the Holy Spirit and the early Church through Paul and the other apostles. No preparation necessary... just come to ask questions, listen, and share.

Women of Faith Craft Night

Join us on Wednesday, May 14th at 6:00pm for a Women of Faith craft night! We'll be making bookmarks/bracelets that will help us remember and celebrate the women who have made an impact on our lives. No special skills required. All supplies and food will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Discipleship Group

Join us in the Faith Library at **10:00am on Wednesday, May 21**, for Bible study and great conversation. Have questions or need more info? Contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or email khartz@sompo-intl.com. Can't wait to see you there!

Music at Faith

As always, we would love to have more people involved in the music ministry at Faith. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts at our worship services – all are welcome! jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

Outdoor Contemporary - June 1, 9:30 a.m.

Contemporary worship is often identified by a style of music, but “contemporary” simply means that it pertains to the current time. This contemporary service will incorporate some current music heard on Christian radio as well as some from our files. Marilyn Dichsen will help select and lead the music, utilizing her love for worship music and desire to lead. We won't have our Faith Singer choir, but invite anyone to help lead the singing. We will share a list of songs and rehearsal schedule as we get closer. The rest of the service can best be described as “Lutheran casual” with a familiar Lutheran structure, but less scripted. Bring a chair or a blanket, and stick around for fellowship afterwards. This is a great opportunity to expand your worship horizons. Bring a friend and invite them to get to know our church.

Indoor Traditional -- June 1, 11:00 a.m.

Good traditional worship is still “contemporary” as it speaks to us in our current time. Our Lutheran heritage is rich in theology and worship that connect with us today. This service

will draw from the more traditional aspects of worship such as sung liturgy, familiar hymns, and all organ all the time. Our liturgy will come from the Lutheran Book of Worship (the green hymnal). For communion, we will gather around the altar by table with the option to kneel or stand. This is also a great opportunity to expand your worship horizons. Invite a friend to worship and rediscover our Lutheran heritage.

Summer Vacation Bible School

It has been a few years since Faith has offered Vacation Bible School, and we have many children who are asking for it to return. Our Discipleship Core Team would like to offer a VBS program that extends through the summer, choosing a day or two each month when we can gather for songs, lessons, games, and food. At this point, we are looking for helpers. If you would like to help in any of these areas, please contact Pam Devlin, Carol Freesen, Celeste Hill, or Pastor Adam. We need to know your interest and availability so we can have our dates set by the end of May. Stay tuned, and we look forward for some great times to come!

Doorbell Dinners - May 19-23

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 signup counter by the Fair Trade coffee sales.

Praise and Worship and Ice Cream and Cookies

This probably sounds like a weird combination, but we're going to enjoy both of these on **Sunday, May 18**. This is the first of many Jacksonville Conference of Churches' events that are being planned for this summer. A day filled with praise and gospel music, and much more with all who want to join us at Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen, 105 E Dunlap St. Bring your voices to sing with the choir! If you don't want to sing, please join us for the service.

Since no good bowl of ice cream should be served without a cookie - we will be **baking cookies on Saturday, May 17 at The Soup Kitchen** - so we're looking for helpers with that. **Time to be determined.**

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!*