

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Prelude

"Praeludium in E-flat" by Carl Gottlieb Umbreit

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

C: He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

Opening Hymn:

ELW 881 *"Let All Things Now Living"*

- 1 Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

- 2 God rules all the forces:
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

P: The grace of our risen Savior, 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: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, 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.

Children's Message

Hymn of Praise – Setting 3

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:25-31 *(sung by musicians)*

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Setting 3)

P: The Gospel according to St. John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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

Gospel Acclamation (Setting 3)

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

ELW 449 " *We Know that Christ is Raised*"

- 1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Hallelujah!
- 2 We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life,
as living members of our Savior Christ.
Hallelujah!
- 4 A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole will sing:
Hallelujah!

Apostle's Creed

A: Let us confess our faith:

C: 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 into hell.
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

A: We are united to Christ in his death and resurrection through our baptism. As members of his risen body, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

A: Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Hear us, risen Lord.

A: Holy God, you raise up leaders in your church who preach salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ. Inspire us to go and tell this good news throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Holy God, we pray for the resurrection of our world when Christ will rule and the establishment of your kingdom will bring an end to war, violence, injustice and death. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Holy God, as Christ's presence in our community, you call us to love and serve our neighbors. Bless the ministries of Concordia Church, Concordia Place and Concordia Day with the spirit of our risen Lord that your saving grace may fill the lives of all we serve. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Holy God, you wipe away the tears of all who cry to you in distress. Bring healing to all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, and comfort those who struggle and seek your presence, especially those we now name before you *Carol, Nancy, Pastor Steve Swanson, Betty, Bob, Rev. Arnie, Jean, Roger, Lupe, Guy, all those diagnosed with COVID-19, and those we hold in our thoughts.* Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Holy God, you have swallowed up death forever through the resurrection of your Son. Speak to those who mourn with the promise of new life in Christ with those they love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers and hopes, and fill us with the risen life of Jesus Christ, your Son.

C: Amen.

Anthem

"Ego Sum Resurrectio et Vita" by Orlando di Lasso

Eucharist Liturgy

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.

Preface

Sanctus

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

P: Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

P: With this bread

we remember our Lord's passover from death to life

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us

and on this gift of bread
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Communion Distribution

You are invited to come to the altar for Holy Communion. Places are marked where you may stand. Communion will be by the distribution of bread alone. After you have communed, please return to your place in the pews. We ask that everyone observe the protocols of social distancing and wear your mask when approaching and leaving the altar.

Lamb of God – Setting 3

Post Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Life-giving God,

in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection
you send light to conquer darkness,
water to give new life,
and the bread of heaven to nourish your people.
Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection
that we may show your glory to all the world;
through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

Recessional Hymn

ELW 821 "Shout to the Lord"

My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord, there is none like you.
All of my days I want to praise
the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength;
let ev'ry breath, all that I am
never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands;
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Blessing

P: May God who has brought us from death to life
fill you with great joy.
Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

A: Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Improvisation on “*Shout to the Lord*”

Announcements

- This week we welcome Rev. Linnea Wilson to preach and preside while Pastor Zook is away. We are grateful to have her with us!
- We invite you to join us for worship each week, either in-person or virtually. Please note that registration is required for in-person attendance. Read our safety protocols for worship and reserve your spot at www.concordiafaith.org/worship . All services will still be available virtually either by livestream via YouTube or recordings will be available later on our YouTube channel: Concordia Church Chicago.
- Get ready for the **First Annual Concordia Place Golf Classic**, a benefit for Concordia Place. This year’s event will be on Monday, June 28, 2021, at River Forest Country Club in Elmhurst, IL. Proceeds from the outing will help in supporting Concordia Place’s mission to create involved communities where all our neighbors can gather, learn, and grow.

Concordia Place serves approximately 800 individuals from ethnically, linguistically, and economically diverse Chicago communities. They serve single parent and low-income families through a sliding scale tuition model. Since 1981, Concordia Place has strengthened the community by fostering individual growth and opportunity for all, especially low-income or disadvantaged.

To read more details and/or to register, visit: concordiaplace.org/golf

- Support Concordia Place through the CLEF Dream Awards! Items needed for centers or classrooms are funded through donations raised by Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation’s Annual Gala (virtual this year). Visit <https://e.givesmart.com/events/jtf/i/> to view the teachers’ dreams and make a donation!
- Do you have pictures of past Concordia Church events? We would love for you to share them with us for use in our service slideshows. If you have any photos of Concordia Church, members engaged in church activities, or other memories from

past years, please send them to Desirae in the church office at ddiehl@concordiafaith.org .

- We appreciate your continued gifts to Concordia Church! Remember, you may give in three ways:
 1. Text-to-give: Text“Concordia”to73256 and follow the link you receive
 2. Give online at onrealm.org/concordiafaith/give
 3. Send a check via mail to the church