



179 Midway Road  
Lexington, SC 29072

# Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024

*Lutheran Book of Worship  
Holy Communion Setting Two*

## **GOD GATHERS US AS HIS HOLY PEOPLE.**

Hymns Today: **LBW #148, LBW #364, LBW #558, & LBW #565**

PRELUDE: "Thine is the Glory" – Wind Ensemble

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RESURRECTION GREETING

Alleluia, Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*In remembrance of Baptism, you may sign a cross on your chest or forehead.*

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (LBW p. 77)

*Matthew 28:19; 1 John 1:8-10*

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. **Amen.**

We confess our sins in the assurance and joy of God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage 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.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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. **Amen.**

### OFFERING OF PEACE

*John 20:19-21*

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Having been reconciled to God in Christ, we share His peace with others.*

GATHERING HYMN “Now the Green Blade Rises” (LBW #148)

AFFIRMATION OF PURPOSE

*Matthew 28:18-20, 22:36-39; Mark 12:30-31*

We are Joy Mission Church, missionary-disciples of Jesus Christ.  
We love God, love neighbor, and serve with joy in Jesus’ name.

APOSTOLIC GREETING (LBW p. 78)

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

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

HYMN OF PRAISE (LBW pp. 81-82)

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29; Mark 16:19; Acts 7:55-56; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 8:1, 12:2*



Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Ⓑ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



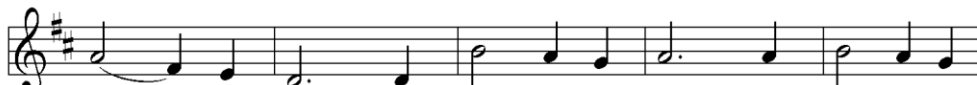
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together: **O God, you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will. Grant that your people would love what you command and desire what you promise, that, among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD.

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” <sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 150 - *Sung responsively with the cantor. (Psalm tone #9)*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise God in his | holy temple;\*

praise him in the firmament | of his power.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise him for his | mighty acts;\***

**praise him for his ex- | cellent greatness.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise him with the blast | of the ram’s horn;\*

praise him with | lyre and harp.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise him with tim- | brel and dance;\***

**praise him with | strings and pipe.**

<sup>5</sup>Praise him with re- | sounding cymbals;\*

praise him with loud | clanging cymbals.

<sup>6</sup>**Let everything | that has breath\***

**praise the Lord. | Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:1-21

<sup>1</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. <sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup>By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

VERSE (LBW p. 83) *John 6:68*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL ANNUNCIATION (LBW p. 83)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the fifteenth chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-8

<sup>1</sup>{Jesus said,} "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL RESPONSE (LBW p. 83)



*Please be seated.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

**GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND IN FAITH.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Son of God, Eternal Savior" (LBW #364)

NICENE CREED (LBW p. 84)

*Genesis 1-2; John 3:16; Luke 2; Acts 2*

Living together in the trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven;**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people as they have need...

*Each petition ends with these words: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*The prayers conclude with these words: ...through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.***

## OFFERING OF TITHES & ADDITIONAL GIFTS with SPECIAL MUSIC as available

*We offer our time, talents, and treasure in gratitude for all of the blessings God has given us.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### OFFERTORY HYMN: "Let the Vineyards" (LBW p. 86)

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER (LBW p. 87)

Let us pray... Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.

**Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING (LBW p. 88)

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE (LBW p. 68) *Sung or spoken by the pastor.*

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (“Holy” LBW p. 89)

*Psalm 118:25-26; Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9; Mark 11:9*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (LBW MDE p. 261) *1 Cor. 11:23-26; Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20*

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,

that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (LBW p. 91)

*Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray...

**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.**



☞ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please be seated.*

### JESUS OFFERS US HIMSELF IN HIS HOLY SUPPER.

*All who are baptized and trust that Christ is truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine may come forward by families or groups to commune. The usher will direct you and offer you hand sanitizer.*

- *If you require gluten-free wafers or abstain from wine, indicate so to the pastor.*
- *To receive the Sacrament in your seat, notify the usher and it will be brought to you.*
- *If you abstain from the Sacrament altogether, you have full forgiveness of sins by God’s Word alone.*

The body of Christ given for you. **Amen.** The blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

*After the elements are covered, please stand as you are able.*

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & CANTICLE (LBW pp. 92-93)

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



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-’ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-’ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



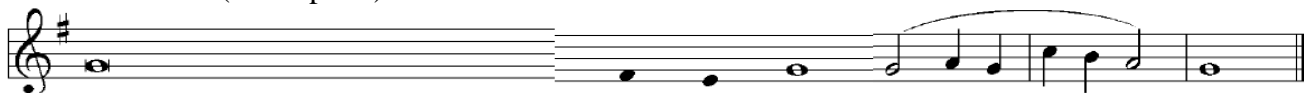
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (LBW p. 94)

Let us pray together. **Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BENEDICTION (LBW p. 95)



☩ 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.

**GOD SENDS US FORTH TO SERVE.**

SENDING HYMN: “Earth and All Stars” (LBW #558)

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (LBW #565)

DISMISSAL

Alleluia, Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
Go in peace to share this good news. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

**WELCOME!** We are delighted to have you join us for worship today!

Love God. Love neighbor. Serve with joy in Jesus’ name.

As a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church we strive to be:

**Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, & Congregationally Focused.**



Ministers: Joy Mission Church and all the people of God

Parish Administrator: Scheri Force

Volunteer Director of Music: Laurie Lackey

Pastor: Rev. Paulette McHugh

Pianist/Organist: Lavenia Hentz

Website: [www.joymission.church](http://www.joymission.church)

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