

Zion St. John Lutheran Church
Being the Body of Christ

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April 28, 2024 9:00 am 5th Sunday of Easter

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE *How Deep the Father's Love for Us* ZSJ Praise Team

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK *150th Anniversary* Caitlin Tauro

Stand

OPENING SONG *Gardens into Graves*

1. I searched the world, But it couldn't fill me
Man's empty praise, And treasures that fade are never enough
Then You came along, and put me back together
And every desire is now satisfied, Here in Your love.

Refrain: Oh, there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You

2. I'm not afraid, to show You my weakness
My failures and flaws, Lord, You've seen them all
And You still call me friend.
'Cause the God of the mountain, is the God of the valley
There's not a place, Your mercy and grace won't find me again. **Refrain 2x**

3. You turn mourning to dancing, You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory, You're the only one who can
You turn mourning to dancing, You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory, You're the only one who can

4. You turn graves into gardens, You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways, You're the only one who can
You're the only one who can. **Refrain 2x**

GREETING

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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**

Sit

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

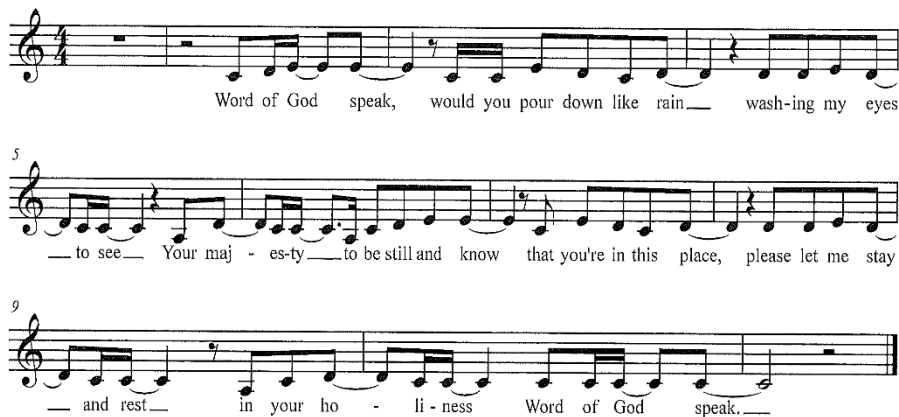
God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Word of God speak, would you pour down like rain, wash-ing my eyes

5
to see Your maj - es-ty to be still and know that you're in this place, please let me stay

9
and rest in your ho - li - ness Word of God speak.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY *King of Kings*

1. In the darkness we were waiting, without hope, without light
'Til from Heaven You came running, there was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfill the law and prophets, to a virgin came the word
From a throne of endless glory, to a cradle in the dirt.

Refrain: Praise the Father, praise the Son, Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty, Praise forever to the King of Kings

2. To reveal the kingdom coming, and to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation, you did not despise the cross
For even in your suffering, you saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus for our sake you died. **Refrain**
3. And the morning that You rose, all of Heaven held its breath
'Til that stone was moved for good,
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come, to the Father are restored.
And the church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old, shall not kneel, shall not faint
By His blood and in His name, in His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ, who has resurrected me. **Refrain**

Stand
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 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**

THE PRAYERS

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

After each petition: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen**

Sit
OFFERING

Go to www.zionstjohn.org to donate or download
VanCo Mobile app to your mobile device.

What a Beautiful Name

1. You were the Word at the beginning
One With God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation, Now revealed in You our Christ

Chorus: What a beautiful Name it is, What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is, Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is, The Name of Jesus

2. You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater

What could separate us now. **Chorus**

3. Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You
You silenced the boast, of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again
You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever, Now and forever, God you reign
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name, above all names. **Chorus**

OFFERTORY *Create in Me* Praise Team 1x, Congregation 2x



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. **Jesus, you are the bread of life. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

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**

BLESSING (*sung 2x*)

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
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

SENDING SONG *O Happy Day*

1. The greatest day in history,
Death is beaten, You have rescued me; Sing it out, Jesus is alive.
The empty cross, the empty grave, Life eternal;
You have won the day. Shout it out, Jesus is alive. He's alive!

Refrain: And O happy day, happy day,
You washed my sin away. O happy day, happy day.
I'll never be the same. Forever I am changed.

2. When I stand in that place,
Free at last, meeting face to face; I am yours, Jesus, you are mine.
Endless joy, perfect peace, earthly pain finally will cease;
Celebrate, Jesus is alive. He's alive! **Refrain**

3. What a glorious day, what a glorious way.
That you have saved me.
And O what a glorious day, what a glorious name. **Refrain**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sit

POSTLUDE

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Stewardship

...we offer with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given us

Our Selves...

Ministers...The Members of Zion St. John Lutheran Church
Music...ZSJ Praise Team Lector...Iffy R
Greeters/ Fellowship...Ron P
Audio/Visual...Scott C and Fred R

Our Time...

April 21...62 LSV...23 SS...22

And Our Possessions...

April 21...\$1,986.00 SS...\$76.00

...signs of your gracious love