

Zion St. John Lutheran Church
Being the Body of Christ

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April 27, 2025 9:00 am 2nd Sunday of Easter

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Firm Foundation

ZSJ Praise Team

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

OPENING SONG

Graves into Gardens

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**

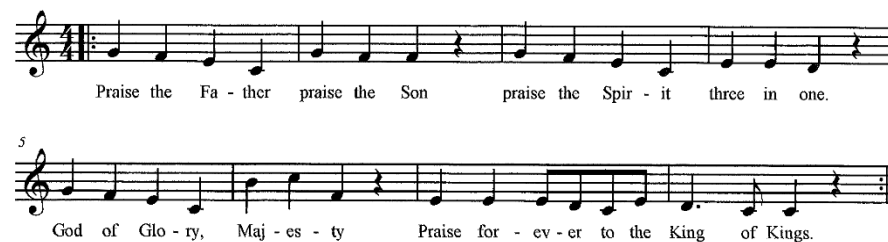
3. You turn mourning to dancing, You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory, You're the only one who can
You turn mourning to dancing, You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory, You're the only one who can

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, 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 5:27-32

²⁷ When they had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.
So it is to be. Amen.

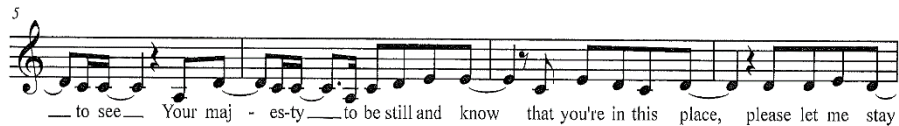
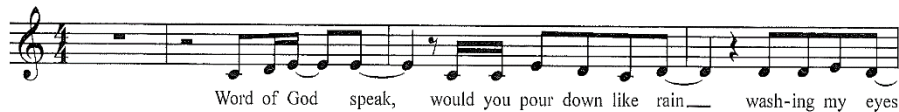
⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger

in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY *Living Hope*

1. How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation, I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness, your loving kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished, the end is written
Jesus Christ, my living hope
2. Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven
The king of kings calls me His own
Beautiful savior, I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Refrain:

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope **(repeat)**

- Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence, the roaring lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence, the roaring lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Jesus, Yours is the victory! **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

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition: Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen**

Sit

OFFERING *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

- O for a thousand tongues to sing, my great Redeemer's praise
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace.
My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim
To spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of Thy name

Refrain: So come on and sing out, let our anthem grow loud
There is one great love, Jesus

- Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease
Tis music in the sinner's ears, tis life and health and peace.
He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free
His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me

Refrain

- He speaks, and listening to His voice, new life the dead receive
The mournful broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.
Glory to God and praise and love, be ever, ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above, the church in earth and Heav'n

Refrain

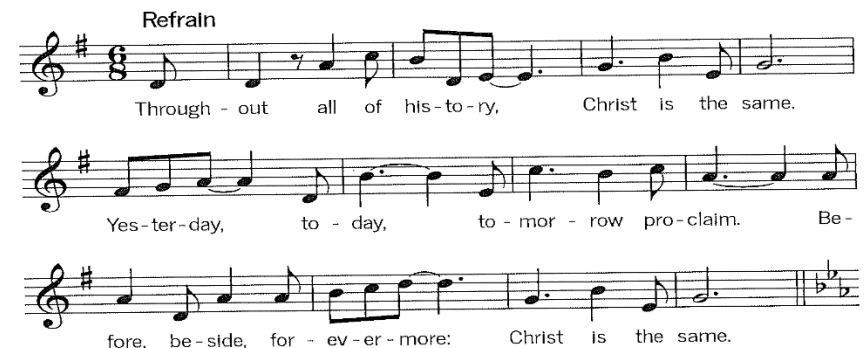
- There are so few words, that never grow old
There are so few words, that never grow old, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus

Refrain (2x)

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

OFFERTORY

Christ is the Same



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, 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**

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 (2x, praise team, then all; SS children are welcome to join)

The Lord bless you, and keep you.

Make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Amen, Amen, Amen

SENDING SONG *Sing Wherever I Go*

Refrain: All my life, all I know God's been good, good to my soul
Mountain high, valley low I'm gonna sing wherever I go

1. God is for me, He's not against me
I will hold to the plans He has for me
When I'm broken, He will fix me
I will call on the name of the Lord. **Refrain**
2. He's my heart song in my sorrow
He's my hope and my strength for tomorrow
And when the storms rise all around me
I will call on the name of the Lord (here we go) **Refrain (2x)**
3. I got joy, joy, joy deep in my soul
I will sing, sing, sing wherever I go. **Refrain (2x)**

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...Alice G

Greeters/ Fellowship...Don & Alice G

Audio/Visual...Scott C and Fred R

Our Time...

Apr 17...34 LSV...24 Apr 18...89 LSV...59

Apr 20, 6:30 am...102 LSV... 41 April 20, 9 am...64 LSV...57

And Our Possessions...

Apr 20 (both services)...\$6,587.00

...signs of your gracious love