



Sharing Christ's Love, Growing God's Family

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Welcome to Community of Joy! Please know that whoever you are and from wherever you have come, you are welcome in God's house! We are happy you are joining us!

We invite you to take a moment to **silence** your **cell phones**. Thank you!

Children are members of the church and we want them to be a part of worship. If you feel the need to step away for a moment, we have a nursery that is available for children aged 5 and younger.

During the Season of Easter we hear stories of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances. In these post-Easter stories, Jesus' interactions with his followers are invariably depicted as tender, reassuring, and hopeful. He rekindles his relationships with all those who loved him, and promises that even though he must depart in body, he will always be with them through the Holy Spirit. His followers will now have to learn to discern his invisible presence, as they learn to become his visible presence as the Body of Christ. Our mission is the same.

Welcome Table: Find everything you need at the Welcome Table outside the sanctuary doors, including bulletins, masks, and the offering basket. Receive communion at the altar during the service, or find prepackaged communion servings with wine, grape juice or GF on the table. Ask an usher if you need assistance in any way.

Ascension Sunday

May 12th, 2024

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME CARDS

MINISTRY MOMENT

Solar Project Update – Bill Kostel

GATHERING SONG

"I'll Fly Away"

Verse 1

Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away;
To a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away.

Verse 2

When the shadows of this life have grown, I'll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away.

Verse 3

Just a few more weary days and then I'll fly away;
To a land where joys shall never end, I'll fly away.

Refrain

I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away;
When I die, praise God, by and by,
I'll fly away.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP:

P: God most high, beyond our imagination, who dwells in the highest of heavens, we praise you!

All: We praise you!

P: All-loving Christ, God made flesh, who lived among us, we worship you!

All: We worship you!

P: Living-Spirit, moving in our lives, truly present in this world, we welcome you.

All: We welcome you! God, source of life, give us hope for the future and inspiration for today as we worship you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

PRAISE SONG

"The River"

Verse 1

To the river I am going,
bringing sins I cannot bear;
Come and cleanse me, come, forgive me;
Lord, I need to meet You there.
In these waters, healing mercy
flows with freedom from despair;
I am going to that river;
Lord, I need to meet You there.

Refrain

Precious Jesus, I am ready
to surrender ev'ry care;
Take my hand now, lead me closer,
Lord, I need to meet You there.

Verse 3

Come and join us in the river;
Come find life beyond compare;
He is calling, He is waiting;
Jesus longs to meet you there;
He is calling, He is waiting.
Jesus longs to meet you there.

THE BAPTISM OF AUTUMN MARIE ECKELBARGER

P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world. Who do you present today for this holy sacrament?

Sponsors: We present Autumn for baptism.

P: Autumn, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

Candidate: I do.

P: Family and friends, as you bring Autumn to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with the following responsibilities and commitments:

- † to live with Autumn among God's faithful people,
- † to bring her to the Word of God and the holy supper,
- † to teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
- † to place in her hands the holy scriptures,
- † to nurture her in faith and prayer,
- † so that Autumn may learn to trust God,
- † proclaim Christ through word and deed,
- † care for others and the world God made,
- † and work for justice and peace.

P: Do you promise to help Autumn grow in the Christian faith and life?

Family: We do.

P: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Autumn in Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: We do.

P: People of God, do you promise to support Autumn and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

All: We do.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: I ask you then, family and people of God, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

All: We renounce them.

P: Then let us together confess our faith in God. Do you believe in God the Father?

All: We believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All: We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, 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, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: We 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 SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

P: Let us baptize Autumn in the name of the triune God.

Autumn Marie, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

All: You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Thanks be to God. Amen.

WELCOME & PRESENTATION OF CANDLE & GIFTS

P: Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Let your life so shine before others, that they might see your good works and glorify our Father in heaven.

[Candle and other gifts are presented.]

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. With all God's people we give thanks and praise to God and receive you into our community of faith. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

P: I invite you to turn to the camera and share these words of peace with those worshipping with us online, as together we say...

All: Peace be with you!

P: And let us also share signs of peace with one another.

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

READINGS

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader: Word of God – Word of Life

All: Thanks be to God!

Luke 24:44-53

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Pastor Paul Schick

SONG of the DAY

"Down in the River to Pray"

Refrain 1

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way,
And who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord show me the way!

Refrain 2

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way,
And who shall wear the robe and crown?
Good Lord show me the way!

Verse 1

O brothers, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down,
O brothers, let's go down,
Down in the river to pray.

Verse 2

O sisters, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down,
O sisters, let's go down,
Down in the river to pray.

Verse 3

O children, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down,
O children, let's go down,
Down in the river to pray.

RESPONSE AND PRAYERS

THE PRAYERS

Intercessory Prayer

Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

P: Trusting in God's goodness, let us pray for ourselves, our human family, and all creation.

Risen Christ, long ago your disciples watched you depart this world in body and had to learn to find you in Spirit. And yet even as you left, you still remained present in Spirit through people who shared your love. We thank you for all the baptized who share your Spirit and your love, especially the newly baptized. Love this world through us, that we might be continuing signs of your presence. Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

P: Living Word, you are so many things: Mother and Father, King and Servant, Friend and Master. As we seek to share a love greater than ourselves, you call us to use actions, but you also tell us to use words. Bless our words that they might bring hope and healing. Reform our words when they limit and misguide. And remind us that you are always above and beyond any definition we can offer. Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

P: Nurturing God, on this Mother's Day, we especially thank you for mothers and for all those who offer mothering love. Send strength and mercy to all who nurture and care for others. Strengthen mothers who are overworked and unable to rely on the support of family or community. And let all of us who receive nurturing love be thankful, that we might be strong supporters of caregivers everywhere. Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

P: Incarnate God, you promise to make a home in broken people just like us. Be near to all those who face worries and suffering in any way. Bring peace to the grieving and the hopeless, healing to the sick and the anxious, and aid to all those who lack the basic needs of life. And hear us also as we lift up in prayer these friends and members who are close to our hearts:

All: Lynn Sampson, Dawn Flynn, Mary Kay Crown, Margy Barol and the family of Nick Barol, Elaine Gauden, Steve Gamrath, Teresa Maser, Charlotte Griffith, Josh Welbaum.

P: And finally we pray for all those persons and situations which we now name silently or aloud.

A time for individual prayers.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your goodness and healing power in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

All: Amen.

PRESENTATION of the GIFTS

"Doxology"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, Ye heavenly hosts;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. God with us and beyond us,

All: Like a gentle mother you love us, like a spring of water, you nourish us. Bless and multiply these gifts we return to you now, that they might bring our hearts closer to you, and your kingdom closer to this world. Amen.

THE MEAL

This is the Lord's Table and all persons who wish to receive are welcome.

Parents may decide if and when their children will partake. If you or your child wish to instead receive a blessing, please cross your arms or let your communion server know.

P: Welcome all to God's table, for all are welcome! This is the feast of Christ Jesus, who was begotten of the Creator's Love, came down to Earth for us, and then returned to heaven to rule all things.

All: And now the Holy One comes down once again to make a home in us. In this feast, Heaven and Earth touch. In this meal, God and humanity can find communion.

P: We praise you, O God, as with this bread and cup we remember your Son, Jesus; born of a woman, friend to the poor, lover of children, sinners, and the brokenhearted. With the disciples, Mary, Mary Magdalene, and all the host of heaven, let us join in God's endless song of hope and thanksgiving.

All: We praise you, Jesus! We welcome your presence, for when we receive your body, we become your body. Come to us now, as we remember the story of salvation.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

All: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

P: As we gather at your table, Lord, fill us with your presence, renew us with your grace, and show us your Kingdom.

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: 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.

DISTRIBUTION SONG

“Revelation Song”

Verse 1

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain;
holy, holy is He;
sing a new song to Him who sits on
heaven’s mercy seat.

Verse 2

Clothed in rainbows of living color,
flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder.
Blessing and honor,
strength and glory and power be
to You, the only wise King.

Refrain

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty
who was and is and is to come;
with all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;
You are my ev’rything and I will adore You.

Verse 3

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder,
at the mention of Your name;
Jesus, Your name is power,
breath and living water,
such a marv’lous mystery, yeah.

SENDING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Jesus, Lover of All,

All: From the cross long ago, to this meal today, you never stop giving yourself to us. Inspire us now to give ourselves back to you, that all our thoughts, all our acts, and all our days might give glory to your name and overflow with love. In Christ we pray, Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: May the God of grace bless you with his light, his truth, and his love, this day and forever.

All: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen!

SENDING SONG

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

ELW 543

Verse 1

“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you,
you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”

Verse 2

“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”

Verse 3

“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

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