

# The Fourth Sunday of Easter

05/11/2025

Greg Fetzer, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

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

**C** **Amen**

**P** Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**C** **We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.**

**P** Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as your children, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**C** **We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

**P** To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C** **Amen**

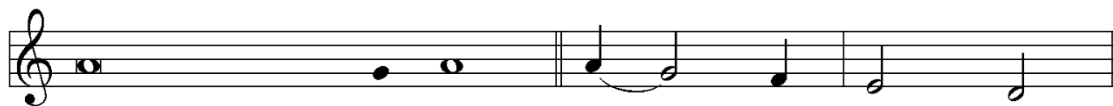
**GATHERING HYMN:** [ELW#380 "Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!"](#)

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

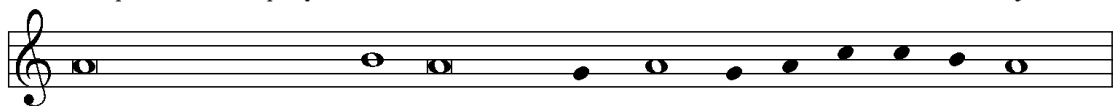
**C** **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

## C And also with you.



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



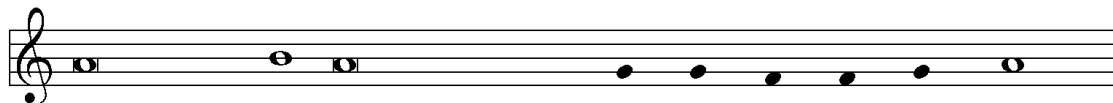
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **G** A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE: [Glory to God in the Highest](#)



**A** Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



**B** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. Lord our God, we come before you with thanksgiving and praise, for you have created us as your people and you sustain us with your hand. Nourish us in your rich pasture and keep us in your steadfast love, that we may bless your name and serve you with gladness day after day; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen**

*Please be seated.*

### **PSALM 100**

**L** <sup>1</sup>Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands!

**C** <sup>2</sup>**Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.**

**L** <sup>3</sup>Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong;  
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

**C** <sup>4</sup>**Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;  
give thanks and bless God's holy name.**

**L** <sup>5</sup>Good indeed is the Lord, whose steadfast love is everlasting,

**C** **whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

### **ACTS 8:26-39**

**L** A reading from Acts: <sup>26</sup>Then an 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.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied,

"How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer, so he does not open 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>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As 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?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When 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.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** [ELW#445 "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"](#)

**SERMON:** [\(Sermon Audio Link\)](#)

*Please stand, as you are able.*

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

**C** **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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

OFFERING\*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

*The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.*

RESPONSE: ["Create in Me"](#)

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -  
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the  
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

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

*A brief silence.*

**L** You guide your people to the waters of life. Make your church a nourishing place for all who are thirsty for hope and healing. Renew us in the waters of baptism, and send us forth as signs of your love. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**L** You tend to the earth, sustaining life in all places. Revive fragile ecosystems and restore species in danger of extinction. Teach us new ways of living in balance and harmony with our non-human neighbors. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**L** You lead all peoples along right pathways. Grant wisdom and compassion to judges, lawyers, mediators, and legal advocates. Dismantle systems of mass incarceration, empower processes of restorative justice, and encourage all who strive for healing in our communities. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**L** You wipe the tears from every eye. Tend to all who struggle with anxiety or depression, loneliness, or despair. Enfold all who are in any need in your shepherding care. We pray for Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, Michelle Drayson, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Mark Hughes, Charlotte Leer, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Claudia Schober, D. J. Singer, the Spiegler family, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**L** This Mother's Day, bless mothers, grandmothers, and all who offer mothering care. Come close to those whose relationships with their families are difficult, and console all who grieve the loss of mother figures or the loss of children. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**L** For whom else shall we pray?

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**L** You are the source of everlasting life. In deep gratitude for all your saints, we rejoice in the joy and hope of the resurrection made known to us in Jesus, your beloved child. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**L** 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.

**C** **Amen**

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C** **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**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C** **Amen**

**SENDING HYMN:** [ELW#537 "On Our Way Rejoicing"](#)

**P** Go in peace. Love and serve God and neighbor.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

\*Offering to be sent to

Robert Brackbill

10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane

Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church

9122 Sybert Drive

Columbia Hills



Ellicott City, MD 21043

<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: [https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithe/give-one-time/2627291](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe/give-one-time/2627291)

### **Upcoming Recitals**

If you are interested in supporting a recital, please contact Ed Hawkins

| <b>Date</b>                   | <b>Time</b>   | <b>Recital Type</b> | <b>Name</b>     |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Saturday, May 24, 2025</b> | 3:00p - 5:00p | Violin and Piano    | Lena Seeger     |
| <b>Sunday, June 1, 2025</b>   | 5:00p - 8:00p | Cello Recital       | Nicole Boguslaw |
| <b>Sunday, June 8, 2025</b>   | 3:00p - 7:00p | Piano Recital       | Debbie Bondhus  |

### **Upcoming Worship**

| <b>Date</b>   | <b>Liturgical Day</b> | <b>Preaching Texts</b>       | <b>Worship Leader</b> |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>May 25</b> | Easter 6              | Galatians 1:11-24; 2:15-21   | Monica                |
| <b>June 1</b> | Easter 7              | Galatians 3:23-29            | Heidi and Bob         |
| <b>June 8</b> | Pentecost             | Acts 2:1-21, Galatians 4:4-7 | Julie and Dave        |

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