

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 8, 2022

Hymn of Invocation

By Faith

By faith we see the hand of God in the
By faith our fa - thers roamed the earth with the
By faith the pro - phets saw a day when the
By faith the church was called to go in the
By faith this moun - tain shall be moved and the

light of cre - a - tion's grand de - sign, in the
pow'r of His prom - ise in their hearts, of a
longed - for Mes - si - ah would ap - pear with the
pow'r of the Spir - it to the lost to de -
of the gos - pel shall pre - vail, for we

lives of those who prove His faith - ful - ness,
ho - ly cit - y built by God's own hand,
pow'r to break the chains of sin and death
liv - er cap - tives and to preach good news
know in Christ all things are pos - si - ble

who walk by faith and not by sight, v. 2
a place where peace and jus - tice reign. chorus
and rise tri - um - phant from the grave. v. 4 We will
in ev - ry cor - ner of the earth. chorus
for all who call up - on His name. chorus

stand as chil - dren of the prom - ise; We will fix our eyes on Him, our
soul's re - ward, Till the race is fin - ished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

Text and tune: Stuart Townend; Kristyn Getty; Keith Getty

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Confession and Absolution

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Kyrie

- P** Lord, have mercy upon us.
C Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P** Let us confess our sin to God: O Lord, great God, whom we behold in awe and wonder, who has kept covenant and steadfast love with your people from age to age,
C **We have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and ordinances. We have known in our hearts what is right, and yet we did wrong anyway. We have been fascinated by evil, delighted with pleasing ourselves, satisfying our desires, serving ourselves with pleasures.**
- P** O Lord, great God, have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
C **We know you are a God who delights in goodness. Grant that we too might delight in goodness. We know you are a God who rejoices in peace and justice. Grant that we might be at peace with ourselves and each other.**
- P** O Lord, great God, grant that our hearts might be filled with a love of justice, with peace beyond understanding, with patience, with joy.
C **These prayers we present to you, O Father, in the name of Jesus, the Lamb who was slain and yet lives forever more.**
- P** Because of Jesus, God has forgiven all our sin. Hear the gospel of Christ from Psalm 103:
"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him."
C Amen

Reflection on God's Forgiveness

Zephaniah 3:14-17

- P** Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!
- C** **The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.**
- P** On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.
- C** **The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.**

Service of the Word

Psalm

Psalm 23

- P** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- C** **He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.**
- P** He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- C** **Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- P** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- C** **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

Gloria

To the tune Mendelssohn ("Hark! The Herald Angels Sing")

Angels, sing, and earth reply: "Glory be to God on high!"
God who flung the stars in space, God who formed the human race,
God the mind and God the cause, God the source of nature's laws,
God of wisdom, pow'r, and love, God of gods, all gods above.
Angels, sing, and earth reply: "Glory be to God on high!"

Angels, sing, and earth reply: "Glory be to God on high!"
God who saw your creatures fall, loved them still, and loved them all,
Gave your only Son to prove what is mercy, what is love;
And the Spirit, given free, recreates your family.
Angels, sing, and earth reply: "Glory be to God on high!"

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda

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Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 36:22–30

²²“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. ²³And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my just decrees. ²⁸You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. ³⁰I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase of the field abundant, that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

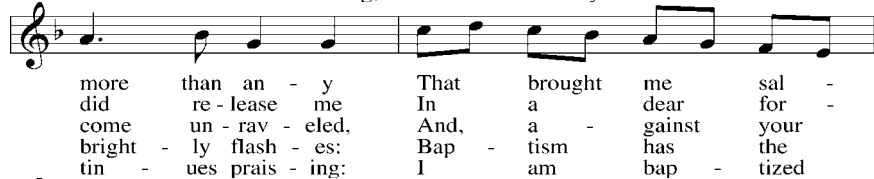
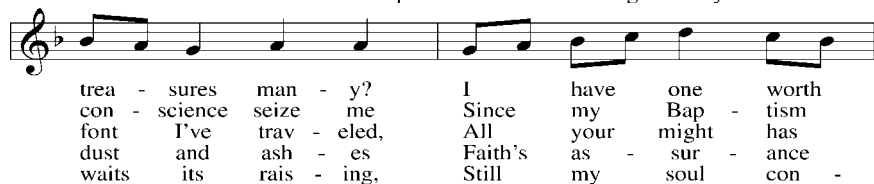
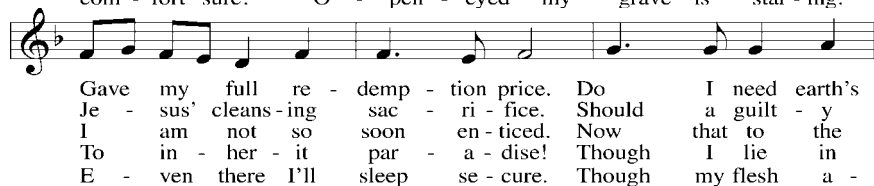
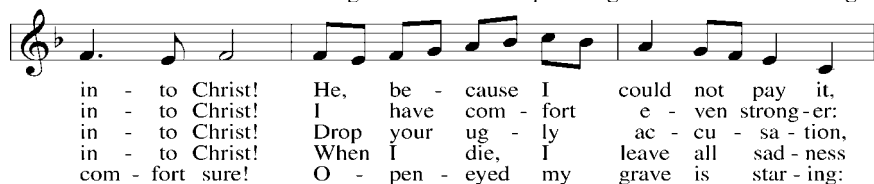
Epistle

Ephesians 5:25–32

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. ³¹“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



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Holy Gospel

John 3:1–16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.
²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.”
³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Credo

To the tune St Denio (“Immortal, Invisible”)

**Great God, our Creator, from whom all receive
Their being and blessing, in you we believe.
Almighty, all-knowing, all-gracious, all-true,
Provider and Father, our trust is in you.**

**And you, Jesus Christ, we affirm as our Lord,
True son of the Father, by angels adored;
Redeemer incarnate, you paid for our sins,
And, joined in your rising, our new life begins.**

**Free Spirit of wisdom and power and love,
On us, as on Christ, you descend from above;
You call us, you cleanse us, you open our eyes,
You keep us in peace, you restore paradise.**

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Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. But mainly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who was sacrificed for us and has taken away the sin of the world; who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again has won for us everlasting life. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious Name; evermore praising you, and singing...

Sanctus

To the tune Nicaea ("Holy, Holy, Holy")

"Holy, holy, holy!" all the saints in glory

Fill your temple with their song around your golden throne;

"Holy, holy, holy!" with them we adore Thee;

God in three persons, all in Christ as one.

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Lord's Prayer

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

Agnus Dei

To the tune Olivet ("My Faith Looks Up to Thee")

Meek, slaughtered lamb of God,
Bearing the sinners' load
To buy our peace:
Now risen and enthroned,
With life and glory crowned,
To all the lost and found
Please grant your peace.

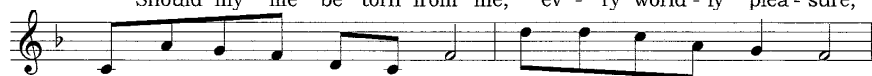
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Distribution Hymn

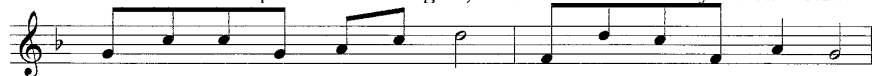
Lord from Sorrows Deep I Call (Psalm 42)



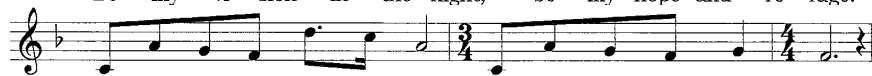
Lord, from sor - rows deep I call when my hope is shak - en;
Storms with - in my trou - bled soul, ques - tions with - out an - swers;
Should my life be torn from me, ev - 'ry world - ly plea - sure;



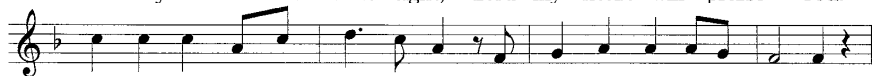
torn and ru - ined from the fall, hear my des - pe - ra - tion.
on my faith these bil - lows roll, God be now my shel - ter.
when all I pos - sess is grief, God be then my trea - sure.



For so long I've pled and prayed, "God come to my res - cue!"
Why are you cast down my soul? Hope in Him who saves you.
Be my vi - sion in the night; be my hope and re - fuge.



E - ven so, the thorn re - mains; still my heart will praise You.
When the fires have all grown cold, cause this heart to praise You.
'Til my faith is turned to sight, Lord my heart will praise You.



Oh, my soul, put your hope in God, my help, my rock, I will praise Him.



Sing, oh, sing, through the rag - ing storm; You're still my God, my sal - va - tion.

Tune: Matt Boswell; Matt Papa

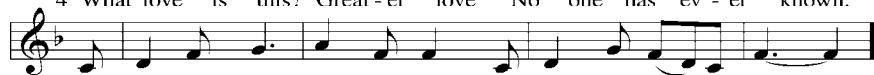
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Distribution Hymn #542

When I Behold Jesus Christ



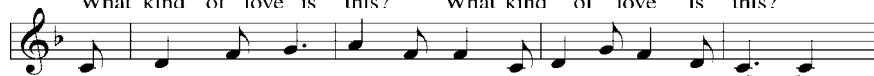
1 When I be - hold Je - sus Christ, True God who died for me,
 2 For me You gave all Your love, For me You suf-fered pain;
 3 You had no sin, ho - ly Lord, But You were tor-tured, tried;
 4 What love is this? Great - er love No one has ev - er known.



I won - der much at His love As He hung on the tree.
 I find no words, noth - ing can Your self - less - ness ex - plain.
 On Gol - go - tha there for all My sins You bled and died.
 My life with God— this I owe To You, and You a - lone.

Refrain

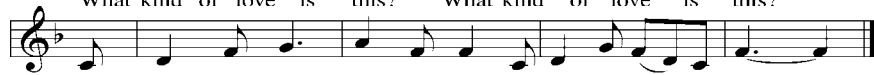
What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–3): tr. Hartmut Schoenherr, with Jim and Aurelia Keefer; (st. 4): Joseph Herl, 1959

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–3) and tune: Almaz Belhu

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Distribution Hymn #699

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to Me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light.



Lay down, thou wea - ry one, lay down Thy head up - on My breast."
 The liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, Stoop down and drink and live."
 Look un - to Me; thy morn shall rise And all thy day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, So wea - ry, worn, and sad;
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank Of that life - giv - ing stream;
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found In Him my star, my sun;



I found in Him a rest - ing place, And He has made me glad.
 My thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, And now I live in Him.
 And in that light of life I'll walk Till trav - ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89, alt.

Tune: Amanda Husberg, 1940

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The Dismissal

Closing Hymn #805

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



△ Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly



host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

Benediction

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- P** 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.
- C** **Amen**

Announcements

Today

- **Bible Study** 10:30 AM: Adults and Children meet downstairs
- **Sunday Evening Prayer** 5:30 PM
- [New Member Class 6:00 PM](#)

Tuesday

- [Men's Bible Study](#) 6:30 – 7:30 AM
- [Youth Group](#) 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Wednesday

- [Zoom Group Study "The Great Divorce" by C.S. Lewis - 7:00 PM](#)

Saturday

- [Women of Faith Bible Study](#) 9:00 AM
- [Family Service Opportunity – Landscape & Joy](#) 9:00 AM

If you still need to submit a picture for the [St. James Photo Directory](#), please email one to megrathert@gmail.com or Meg can take one before or after Bible Study on Sunday, May 15th or Sunday, May 22nd. Please sign up in the back of the church for either of those dates.

[High School Graduates & Confirmation](#) – We are planning a celebration of 2022 high school graduates and our Confirmands to be held May 22nd immediately following the worship service! If you have a senior high student graduating this year, please contact the office with the student's name, school, and date of graduation by May 1st so we can include them in the celebration.

[Ministry Fair](#) – May 22nd Immediately following Bible Study. We are growing and so are our ministry opportunities! Please join us in fellowship hall to learn about how you can be involved in our community – connecting-growing-serving one another.

Saturday, May 14 – [Family Service Opportunity](#). St. James is partnering with Home Depot and Thrivent to complete the Valley Ridge Senior Apartment landscaping project on May 14th. We will spread mulch, distribute flowers and spread cheer to the elderly. Please join us as we serve and spread joy in our community.



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