

Welcome to Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Pastor Don Short

Fourth Sunday after Easter

May 2, 2021

## **THE 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.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,  
The keeper of the covenant,  
The source of steadfast love,  
Our rock and our redeemer  
**Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

Fountain of living water,  
**Pour out your mercy over us.**  
**Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**  
**Rebuild what we have ruined**  
**and mend what we have torn.**  
**Wash us in your cleansing flood.**  
**Make us alive in the Spirit**  
**to follow in the way of Jesus,**  
**as healers and restorers of the world you love.**

**Amen.**

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of Jesus Christ, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

**Amen**

### ***Gathering Hymn~~We Know that Christ is Raised~~ELW #449***

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
Em-braced by death, he broke its fear-ful hold,  
And our de-spair he turned to blaz-ing joy.

Hal - le - lu - jah!

We share by wa-ter in his sav-ing death.  
Re-born, we share with him an Eas-ter life,  
As liv-ing mem-bers of our Sav-ior Christ.

Hal - le - lu - jah!

The Fa-ther's splen-dor clothes the Son with life.  
The Spir-it's fis-sion shakes the church of God.  
Bap-tized, we live with God the Three in One.

Hal - le - lu - jah!

A new cre-a-tion comes to life and grows  
As Christ's new bod-y takes on flesh and blood.  
The u-ni-verse re-stored and whole will sing:

Hal - le - lu - jah!

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Text: John B Geyer, b. 1932

Music: Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

Text © John B. Geyer

### **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.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### READINGS

#### A reading from Acts 8:26-40

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards 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, 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.<sup>40</sup> But 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.

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#### Let us read Psalm 22:25-31 responsively

<sup>25</sup> **From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.**

<sup>26</sup> The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live for ever!

<sup>27</sup> **All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;**

**and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.**

<sup>28</sup> For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup> **To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
and I shall live for him.**

<sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

<sup>31</sup> **and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.**

*A reading from 1 John 4:7-21*

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In 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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So 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. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There 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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those 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. <sup>21</sup>The 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.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Al-le-lu-ia! Lord to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia.**

**The Holy Gospel according to John 15:1-8**  
Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes\* to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed\* by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide 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. <sup>5</sup>I 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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become\* my disciples.

**This is the Gospel of our Lord.**  
Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

### Hymn of the Day~~~~ELW #379

Now the green blade rises  
from the bur-ied grain,  
Wheat that in dark earth  
Man-y days has lain;  
Love lives a-gain,  
That with the dead has been;  
Love is come a-gain  
like wheat a-ris-ing green.

In the grave they laid him  
Love by ha-tred slain,  
Think-ing that he would  
Nev-er wake a-gain,  
Laid in the earth  
Like grain that sleeps un-seen;  
Love is come a-gain  
like wheat a-ris-ing green.

Forth he came at Eas-ter  
Like the ris-en grain,  
He that for three days  
In the grave had lain;  
raised from the dead,  
My liv-ing Lord is seen;  
Love is come a-gain  
like wheat a-ris-ing green.

When our hearts are win-try,  
Griev-ing, or in pain,  
Your touch can call us  
Back to life a-gain,  
Fields of our hearts  
That dead and bare have been;  
Love is come a-gain  
like wheat a-ris-ing green.

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Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958  
Music: French Carol  
Text © Oxford University Press

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hear us O God ....

**Your mercy is great.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

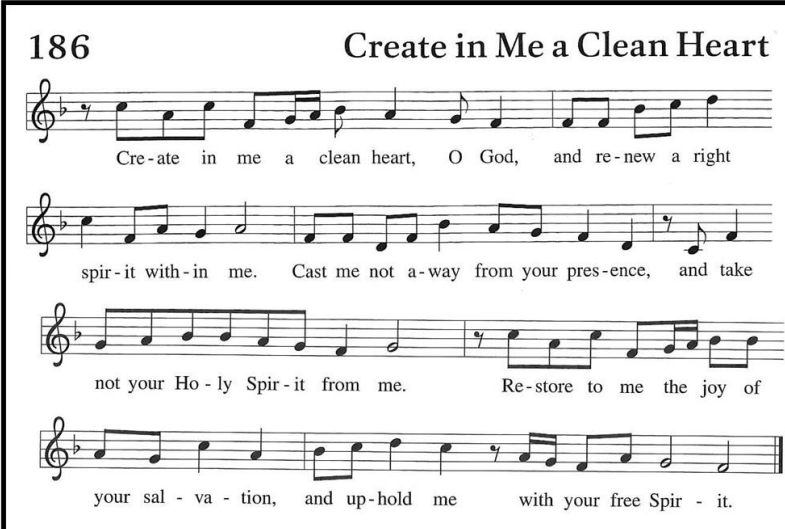
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY HYMN

186                      Create in Me a Clean Heart



The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Create in Me a Clean Heart'. It consists of four staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 7/8 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff concludes the hymn with a double bar line. The lyrics are: '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.'

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.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of love,

**You call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING~~ELW pg 152

**The Lord be with you.**

And also with you.

**Lift up your hearts.**

We lift them to the Lord.

**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

... We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### *Hymn of Thanksgiving*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 OF COMMUNION***

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**God of steadfast love,  
At this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world.  
Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us  
new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

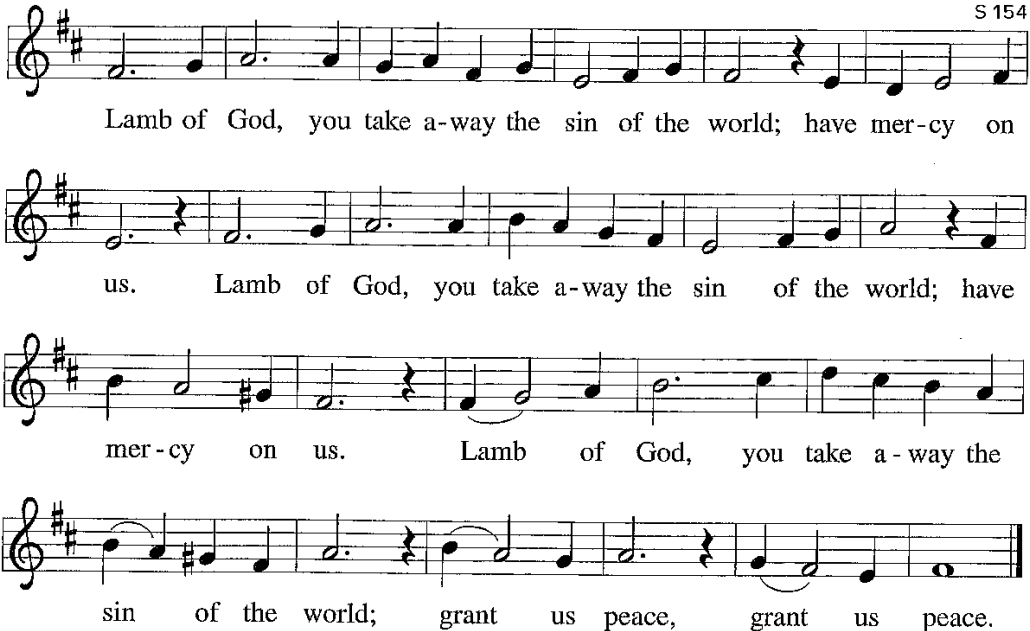


## POST COMMUNION HYMN

### Communion

*The assembly may be seated. Music may accompany the communion, and may begin with:*

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Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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## BENEDICTION

May the Lord Bless you and keep you  
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you  
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

**SENDING HYMN~~Shout To The Lord~~ELW #821**

***Sing twice through***

My Je-sus, my Sav-ior,  
Lord there is none like you.  
All of my days I want to praise  
The won-ders of your might-y love.  
My com-fort, my shel-ter,  
tow-er of ref-uge and strength;  
Let ev-'ry breath all that I am  
Nev-er cease to wor-ship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the Earth; let us sing  
pow-er and maj-es-ty, praise to the King.  
Moun-tains bow down and the seas will roar  
at the sound of your name.  
I sing for joy at the work of your hands;  
For-ev-er I'll love you for-ev-er I'll stand.  
Noth-ing com-pares to the prom-ise I have in  
you.

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Text: Darlene Zschech, b 1965

Music: Darlene Zschech

Text and music © 1993 Darlene Zschech/Hillsong Publishing admin in USA & Canada Integrity's Hosanna!  
Music

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Confirmation will meet May 5 at 3:30; please confirmation students get your sermon notes into the pastor.

We still have spots for people to sign up to volunteer: Ushers, Greeters, and a reader, and communion assistant. The communion assistant hands out the bagged communion kits. Sacristans bag the communion kits. If you are interested in learning how to be a Sacristan, please let Fay or Anna know; it is easy and hardly takes any time. We have spots for acolytes as well.

**Pentecost Vigil—May 22, 6 pm, at the parsonage.**

**Pentecost Sunday-May 23, wear red! Celebrate Pentecost with our confirmands!**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed!

Go in peace. Share the Good News. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God**

## **Lectionary Readings for Next Sunday**

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

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