

Zion Lutheran Church, 15 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Harrisburg, PA / [www.zionharrisburg.org](http://www.zionharrisburg.org)

April 28, 2024, 5th Sunday of Easter

10:15am Service of the Word

**Prelude** “Lift High the Cross” – Sydney Nicholson, 1916, arr. Lloyd Larson

### **Easter Greeting**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C** He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

### **Welcome & Announcements**

### **Invocation**

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

**C** Amen.

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence is kept for personal confession.*

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.  
**Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

**I Love to Tell the Story**

Sun Sch 297

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;  
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true,  
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.  
I love to tell the story! 'Twill be my theme in glory—  
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story—'tis pleasant to repeat  
What seems each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet;  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.  
I love to tell the story! 'Twill be my theme in glory—  
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest;  
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,  
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.  
I love to tell the story! 'Twill be my theme in glory—  
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.

**Greeting**

**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.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray: O God, you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will. Grant that your people would love what you command and desire what you promise, that, among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **First Reading: Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent, so he opens not 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>And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

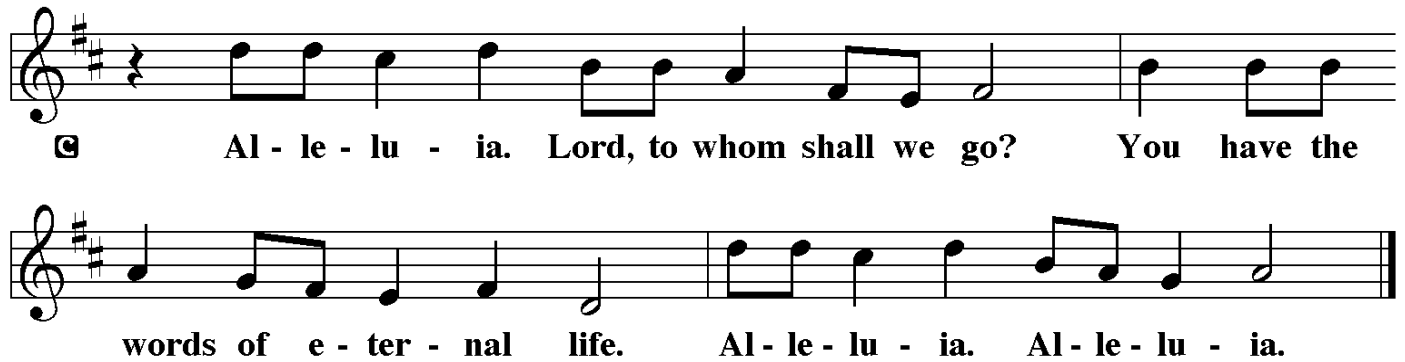
## Psalm 150

- <sup>1</sup>Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!  
<sup>2</sup>**Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!**  
<sup>3</sup>Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!  
<sup>4</sup>**Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!**  
<sup>5</sup>Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!  
<sup>6</sup>**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!**

## Second Reading: 1 John 4:1-21

<sup>1</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. <sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that 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 have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides 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 testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup>By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also 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 been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has

seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.



**G** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### **Gospel: John 15:1-8**

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

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>{Jesus said,} “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. 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. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Doxology**

Sun Sch 625

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him, above ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **Children's Sermon**

## Sermon

**Anthem** “The Lord’s My Shepherd” – James Irvine, arr. David Grant  
Ann Pacey, Alto & Ricky Perrine, Soprano

## Nicene Creed

**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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

## The Prayers

**P** Let us pray for the Church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

*A brief silence for prayer*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**P** Lord in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

*The prayers conclude:*

P Into your hands, merciful Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

### **Benediction**

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.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn**

### On Our Way Rejoicing

Red 195

On our way rejoicing Gladly let us go;  
Conquered hath our Leader, Vanquished is the foe.  
Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy;  
Who, if we be faithful, Can our hope destroy?  
On our way rejoicing As we forward move,  
Hearken to our praises, O thou God of love!

If with honest hearted Love for God and man,  
Day by day thou find us Doing what we can,  
Thou who giv'st the seed time Wilt give large increase,  
Crown the head with blessings, Fill the heart with peace.  
On our way rejoicing As we forward move,  
Hearken to our praises, O thou God of love!

Unto God the Father Joyful songs we sing,  
Unto God the Saviour Thankful hearts we bring,  
Unto God the Spirit Bow we and adore,  
On our way rejoicing Now and evermore.  
On our way rejoicing As we forward move,  
Hearken to our praises, O thou God of love!

### **Dismissal**

**P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

***A time of fellowship with those attending online directly follows the worship service.***

***Sharing the Peace of Christ with one another following worship is encouraged.***

***Offerings may be placed in the designated boxes at the bottom of each staircase in the main entry way.***

### **Serving in Worship Today:**

<b><i>Presiding Worship Leader &amp; Lector:</i></b>	<b><i>Pastor Karin Pejack</i></b>
<b><i>Minister of Technology:</i></b>	<b><i>Catherine Germann</i></b>
<b><i>AV on Site:</i></b>	<b><i>Bob Haas, Jeff Springer, John Cooper</i></b>
<b><i>Minister of Music:</i></b>	<b><i>Norma Swain</i></b>
<b><i>Anthem:</i></b>	<b><i>Ann Pacey &amp; Ricky Perrine</i></b>
<b><i>Lector:</i></b>	<b><i>Mike Megoulas</i></b>
<b><i>Cantor &amp; Responsive Reader:</i></b>	<b><i>Ricky Perrine</i></b>

### **Next Week's Readings:**

Acts 10:34-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-17