

## Easter 5, May 2, 2021, Order of Worship

### Easter Shout of Joy: (repeat 3 times)

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

### Announcements, Concerns, Joys

**Call to Worship, Psalm 22:25-31** (Note: This psalm begins with words Jesus later spoke from the cross: **My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?** We don't know what the psalmist suffered, but we recognize from today's words that he trusted and praised God even after that bleak beginning.) The Psalm is read. Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed, alleluia!**

### **\*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. **Amen.**

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.

Most merciful God, **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 by 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.**

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. **Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn**     *Beautiful Savior* (public domain)     LBW 518, ELW 838, HP 1862

***Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.***

***Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flowers of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.***

***Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.***

**\*The Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

**\*Prayer of the Day** O God, you give us your Son as the vine, and we cannot live apart from him. Nourish our life in his resurrection, so 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 Message**

**A reading from Acts, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter (8:26-40)**

After the reading, Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed, alleluia!**

**Hymn of Praise** *On Our Way Rejoicing* (public domain)

LBW 260, ELW 537, HP 1604

*On our way rejoicing, gladly let us go.*

*Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe.*

*Christ without our safety; Christ within, our joy;*

*Who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?*

**REFRAIN:** *On our way rejoicing; as we forward move,  
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love.*

*Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing;*

*unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring;*

*Unto God the Spirit bow we and adore,*

*On our way rejoicing now and evermore. REFRAIN*

**A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> John, the 4th chapter (4:7-21)** Note: We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love (*Sundays & Seasons*, Augsburg Fortress, 2020, p. 175).

After the reading, Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed, alleluia!**

**\*Alleluia!** *Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!*

**\*Gospel**

**John 15:1-8**

Before the gospel: ***Glory to you, O Lord!***

After the gospel: ***Praise to you, O Christ!***

**Sermon**

**\*Hymn of the Day** ***My God, How Wonderful*** (public domain) LBW 523, ELW 863, HP 1868

***My God, how wonderful thou art, thy majesty how bright!  
How beautiful thy mercy seat in depths of burning light!***

***No earthly father loves like thee; no mother, e'er so mild,  
Bears and forbears as thou hast done with me, thy sinful child.***

***My God, how wonderful thou art, thou everlasting friend!  
On thee I stay my trusting heart till faith in vision end.***

**\*The Apostles' Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

***ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN!***

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

**\*The Prayers of the Church** (from *Sundays & Seasons*, 2020, p. 175, Augsburg Fortress)

Alive in the risen Christ, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear and answer us in steadfast love.

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth, so that it may bear fruit and witness to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, help us to see the connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give to all leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, so that they lead not by fear, but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

### **Holy Communion**

**Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer (traditional)**

**Receiving the body and blood of Jesus**

**Communion blessing &**

**Prayer after communion**

### **Benediction**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, Son, and Holy spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn**      *Thine Is the Glory* (public domain)    LBW 145, ELW 376

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.*

**Refrain:** *Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.*

*No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;  
Life is nought without thee; aid us in our strife.  
Make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love;  
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.    Refrain*

**\*Dismissal** Now go in peace and share the good news! Alleluia! **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**