

Blessed Savior Lutheran Church

1205 North Lincoln Ave
O'Fallon, IL
(618) 632-0126
www.mybslc.org
Worship –9:30 am.

Pastor Tony Troup (618-340-8375), Vacancy Pastor
Pastor Perry Schefelker (618-322-7498), Vacancy Pastor
Akoh Daniel Kofi, Lector
Cheryl Vohlken, Organist
Sunday School & Bible Class: 10:45 am

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024

AS WE GATHER

How far can the human voice travel? Scientists tell us that the normal outdoor range for an adult voice traveling through still air is about 180 meters or 590 feet. Communication in Silbo, a whistled language of Spanish-speaking inhabitants of the Canary Islands, can travel five miles under ideal conditions. The sound of a voice traveling across still water at night can range up to 10.5 miles. Voices can carry! The message that the voices carry is what is most important. The spoken message about Jesus shared by Philip the deacon with the Ethiopian stranger made an eternal difference in that man's life. The words that we speak and the messages that we share are of great importance and have the divine potential to "spread the reign of God the Lord" (LSB 830:1).



ENTRANCE HYMN NO. 465 "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
In praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
"Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift He brings,
Therefore our heart with rapture sings:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Now still He comes to give us life
And by His presence stills all strife.
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through Your triumph;
Grant grace sufficient for life's day
That by our lives we truly say:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Adoring praises now we bring
And with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most holy God,
All the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 66:1–4, 8–9; 40:5*

P: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
C: **sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

P: Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!
C: **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name."**

P: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,
C: **who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

P: You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!
C: **I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.
C: **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess, to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

P: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C: Amen.

P: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

INTROIT

P: A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.
C: **I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.**

P Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.

P: The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

P: All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, and all Your saints shall bless You!

C: My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever. 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.

P: A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Risen and ascended Lord, You are the vine and we are the branches. Apart from You there is no life. By Baptism You have grafted us into Your gracious life. Cause Your Word to abide in us and make us fruitful to the glory of Your Father, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING *Acts 8:26–40* (Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)

Now 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. 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 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, *Go over and join this chariot.* So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, *Do you understand what you are reading?* And he said, *How can I, unless someone guides me?* And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 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. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.

And the eunuch said to Philip, *About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?* Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 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?* And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 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. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 John 4:1–11* (An exhortation to lives of Christian love)

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. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 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. 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. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 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. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMNNo 571 "God Loved the World so that He Gave"

**God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.**

**Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.**

**God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.**

**Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood;
Your Baptism, grants the highest good.**

**If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.**

**Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!**

VERSE *Romans 6:9; John 14:23*

P: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

C: **Alleluia. If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *John 15:1–8* (Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.) (please rise)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 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. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. 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. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CONFESSION OF FAITH THE APOSTLE'S CREED

ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen *(Please be seated after Creed.)*

**At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious king,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from His pierced side.
Alleluia!**

**Praise we Him, whose love divine
Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.
Alleluia!**

**Where the paschal blood is poured,
Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
Through the wave that drowns the foe.
Alleluia!**

**Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love
Eat we manna from above.
Alleluia!**

**Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight
You have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!**

**Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And your saints in You shall rise.
Alleluia!**

**Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's power, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.
Alleluia!**

**Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days;
Three in One, Your name we praise.
Alleluia!**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Lord God, Your only Son came in the flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. Protect us from all false teaching and the spirit of the Antichrist, that we may always confess Christ to be our only true God and remain faithful to Him. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Heavenly Father, You have grafted us onto the vine of Your Son. Prune us and cut off from us all sin and dead works, that we may always draw life from Your Son and produce the fruits of faith and good works. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Savior of all people, in the water of Baptism You welcome sinners into Your kingdom and give them life. Grant that we would always honor and extol this gift, and let nothing prevent people from it. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Almighty God, give health and guidance to our president and all in authority, that they may serve honorably and in accord with Your good order. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Merciful God, You hear and answer Your children in their hour of need. [*Give aid to _____.*] Grant that they would bear their crosses with faith, ever looking to You, and so fix their hearts where true joy is found. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: O God, You are love, and You always reveal Your love through Your Son. Grant that all who come to Your feast of love may worthily eat of Christ's body and blood, so that whoever abides in this love forever abides in You and You in him. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Holy Father, You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Hear and answer our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, and Your saints shall bless You; for You live and reign with the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**ALL: 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 BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN NO 585 “Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide”

Lord, Jesus Christ, with us abide,
For round us falls the eventide.
Oh, let Your Word,
That saving light,
Shine forth undimmed into the night.

In these last days of great distress
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That we keep pure till life is spent
Your holy Word and Sacrament.

To hope grown dim,
To hearts turned cold
Speak tongues of fire and make us bold
To shine Your Word of saving grace
Into each dark and loveless place.

May glorious truths that we have heard,
The bright sword of Your mighty Word,
Spurn Satan that Your Church be strong,
Bold, unified in act and song.

Restrain, O Lord, the human pride
That seeks to thrust Your truth aside
Or with some man-made thoughts or things
Would dim the words Your Spirit sings.

Stay with us, Lord, and keep us true;
Preserve our faith our whole life through--
Your Word alone our heart's defense,
The Church's glorious confidence.

SENDING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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