Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

Welcome to the Family!

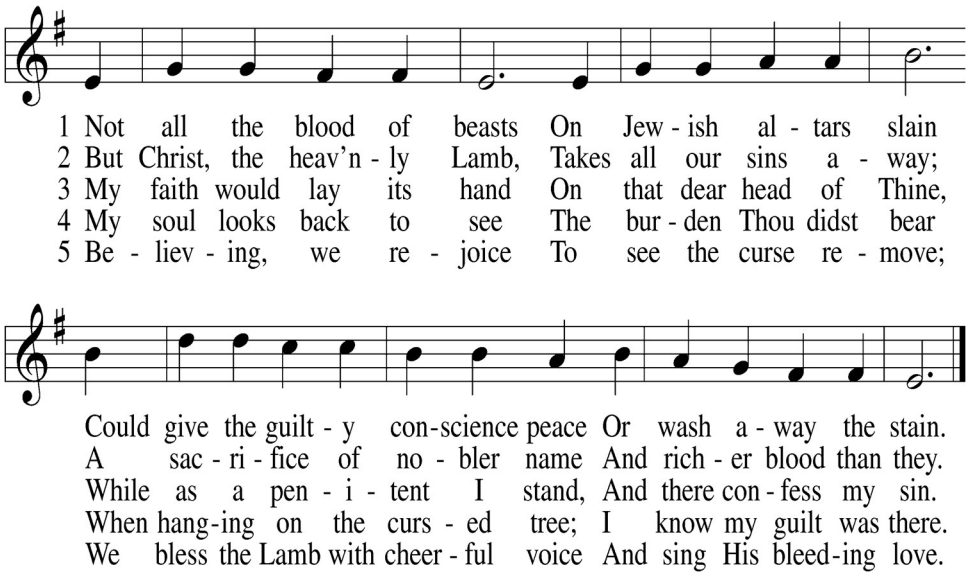
Sixth Mid-week Service in Lent

Reflections on Hymn #556: "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice"

March 24, 2021

Pastor's Greeting

Entrance Hymn "Not All the Blood of Beasts" *LSB 431*



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Phos Hilaron *(Hymn of Light)* *LSB 244*

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C: the light no darkness can overcome.

P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening, and the day is almost over.

C: Let Your light scatter the darkness, and illumine Your Church.

P: Joyous light of glory:

C: Of the immortal Father; heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ. We have come to the setting of the sun, and we look to the evening light. We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever. O Son of God, O Giver of life: the universe proclaims Your glory.

PSALMODY *Psalm 143*

P: Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

C: Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

P: For the enemy has pursued my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead.

C: Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.

P: I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.

C: I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

P: Answer me quickly, O Lord! My spirit fails! Hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit.

C: Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

P: Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord! I have fled to you for refuge.

C: Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

P: For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

C: And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies, and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul, for I am your servant.

All: 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.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: *Let us pray:* O Lord, our saving light and our shelter in the day of trouble, turn us not away in anger because of our sins. Calm our hearts, strengthen our faith, and lead us in Your straight paths until we see Your surpassing goodness in heaven with all those who live in Your Son,

Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

EPISTLE READING

R: The Epistle Reading is from the Book of Romans 8:31–39

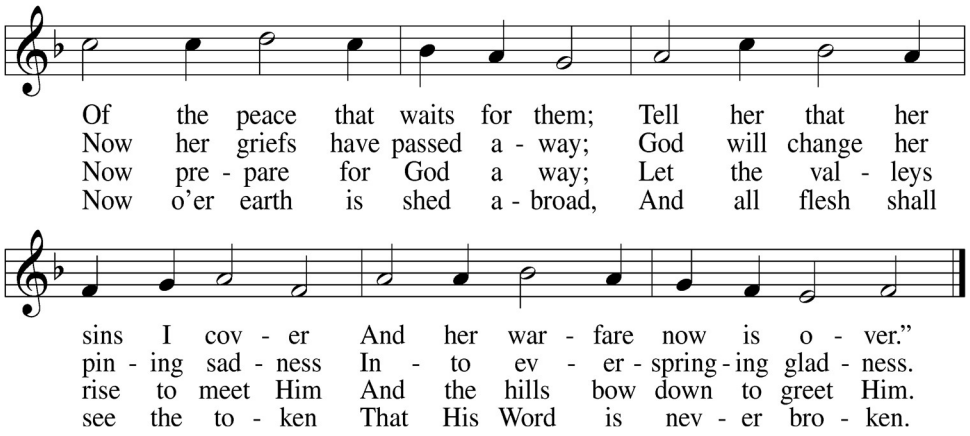
R: What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF THE DAY "COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE" LSB 347



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RESPONSORY *LSB 230*

P: Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

P: Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P: A Reading of the Holy Gospel according to John 16:1-33

C: Glory to You O Lord.

P: "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever

he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

"A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

"I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

P: This is the Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to You O Christ.

THE APOSTLES 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.

SERMON HYMN AND REFLECTION

"DEAR CHRISTIANS, ONE AND ALL, REJOICE" *LSB 556, STS.9-10*

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON *"IN TROUBLE HE WILL COMFORT YOU"*

LITANY FOR LENT *LSB 249*

P: God in His Divine Mercy has revealed His Glory through the lifting up of His Son on the Cross. Therefore, we can in confidence approach God with our petitions and supplications. In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our Synodical President, Rev. Matthew Harrison; our District President, Rev. Jameson Hardy; our Circuit Visitor, Rev. Nick Wirtz; and for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For President Joseph Biden; Governor Doug Ducey; for all public servants; for the government and those who protect us, those who serve as doctors and nurses, and all who work to bring healing and comfort that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, especially for an end to the killing of babies through abortion, an end to the politics of division, the defense of our constitution and concord among our people, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, that God would be comfort, strength and hope. To bring healing according to His gracious will and for those who have asked for our prayers: Tony Spano, Richard Baker, and all who have asked for our prayers, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the faithful who have gone before us who rest from their labors and resting in the peace of our Lord, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C: To You, O Lord.

Collect for Peace

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

P: *Let us pray*: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS *LSB 252*

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *LSB 252*

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

DEPARTING HYMN "WHEN IN THE HOUR OF DEEPEST NEED" *LSB 615*

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For the week of March 28th on KFUO.org, join us for Tre Ore service from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. CT on Good Friday 4/2, hear special Maundy Thursday edition of Joy! on 4/1 and Good Friday edition on 4/2 at 1:00 p.m. CT, and begin studying 1 Thessalonians on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Find programs on demand at **kfuo.org** or wherever you get your podcasts.

Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

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Serving at Family of Christ

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Admin@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Prayer Requests

Prayer@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Offerings can be mailed to the church or sent via Zelle® directly from your bank to:

familyofchristaz@gmail.com

Upcoming at Family of Christ

3/24– 4/4

Wednesday

6:00PM Mid-week Lenten Service

Thursday

5:30PM Confirmation Class at the Church

Friday

6:30AM **NO** Men's Bible Study

Palm Sunday (March 28)

9:30AM Palm Sunday Divine Worship
NO Bible Study

Maundy Thursday (April 1)

5:30PM **NO** Confirmation Class
6:00PM Maundy Thursday Service

Friday (April 2)

6:30AM **No** Men's Bible Study
6:00PM Good Friday Service

Sunday (April 4)

6:00PM Easter Sunday Divine Worship
Light refreshments after service

PLEASE NOTE*: Church Services and Bible Studies are currently offered in person and via Zoom. In-person meetings follow all CDC-recommended protocols and procedures.*

Pastor is available upon request for: *(call the Church office or Pastor's cell to schedule)*

- ✝ Individual Confession and Absolution
- ✝ Home, hospital or nursing home visits
- ✝ Communion
- ✝ Prayer