



Epiphany Lutheran Church  
2375 GA Hwy 20 SE, Conyers, GA 30013  
(770) 483-6222  
www.conyerselc.org

May 21, 2023 – 10:00 AM

Seventh Sunday of Easter

**WELCOME VISITORS!** We welcome all who believe in Jesus Christ to the Lord's Supper as we partake in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. For those who would prefer, grape juice is available in the center ring of each serving tray. If you do not wish to receive communion you are invited to come forward for a blessing. God's forgiveness and love is for everyone.

We are honored that you are with us today and we ask everyone to please sign the ***Friendship Register*** in each pew. Visitors are asked to also complete a ***Visitors Card*** from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Again, Welcome!

**\*Invites the Congregation to stand.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

*"Now the Feast and Celebration"* - Musical Setting by Marty Haugen

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### \*Thanksgiving for Baptism

[P] Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

[C] Amen.

[P] Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**[C] Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

[P] Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

**[C] Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn:** *"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"* ELW #392  
*As the hymn begins, the congregation turns toward the entrance to face the processional cross.*

### \*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.**

\*Kyrie

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

(continued on page 4)

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

\*Hymn of Praise

“Now the Feast”

*Refrain*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion  
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;  
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!  
1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has  
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.  
2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and  
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.  
3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of  
God; to make all things new.

\*The Prayer of the Day

- [P] The Lord be with you.
- [C] **And also with you.**
- [P] Let us pray.  
O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- [C] **Amen**

Children’s Message

Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner

**Children’s Church** (*Children are invited to the Fellowship Hall for further worship/education.*)

The First Lesson: Acts 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] <sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”  
<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They

said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

[L] The Word of the Lord.

[C] **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:** 47:1-9; refrain, Ps. 47:5  
(Congregation sings verses in ***bold*** print only.)



Psalm 47:5  
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress  
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<sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, | all you peoples;  
shout to God with a | joyful sound.  
<sup>2</sup>**For the LORD Most High is | to be feared:**  
**a great king over | all the earth,**  
<sup>3</sup>who subdues the | peoples under us,  
and the nations un- | der our feet;  
<sup>4</sup>**who chooses our inheri- | tance for us,**  
**the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves. R**  
<sup>5</sup>God has gone up | with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound | of the ram’s horn.  
<sup>6</sup>**Sing praises to | God, sing praises;**  
**sing praises to our | king, sing praises. R**  
<sup>7</sup>For God is king of | all the earth;  
sing praises | with a song.  
<sup>8</sup>**God reigns o- | ver the nations;**  
**God is en- | throned on high.**  
<sup>9</sup>The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the | God of Abraham.  
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is high- | ly exalted. **R**

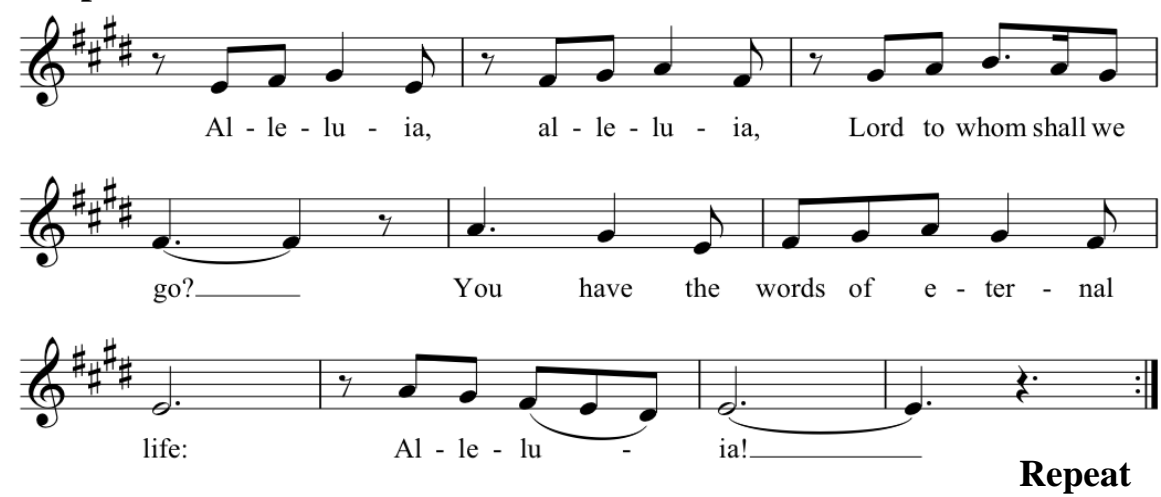
**The Second Lesson:** *Ephesians 1:15-23*

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

[L] The Word of the Lord.

[C] **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**



**\*The Gospel: Luke 24:44-53**

[P] The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 24<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

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

<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

[P] The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner

**\*The Hymn of the Day:** “*Praise, Praise! You Are My Rock*” ELW #862

**\*The Apostles’ 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 into hell. 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 Intercession**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Ever-present God, root your church firmly in you. Let us neither become entranced staring up into the heavens, nor distraught by the suffering of the world. Teach us to see you in every face, every place, and every moment. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of the cosmos, you cradle creation in your loving arms and anoint it with signs of your presence. In the budding of flowers, the birth of a baby, and the formations of the land and sky, reveal your abundant life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, your reign is above us, around us, beneath us, and beside us. As you rule the cosmos with justice and mercy, pour out your Spirit upon those in authority, that they serve humbly and justly. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of companionship, provide clarity and direction for those experiencing life transitions—in births and deaths, new employment and new relationships, divorces and departures. We pray for those receiving new diagnoses or undergoing treatment for illness or injury (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Immanent God, in you we live, move, and have our being. Draw us closer to you and clothe us in your power. Encourage those preparing for baptism, those affirming their baptism, and all who are assuming new roles in this congregation’s ministries (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of welcome, you call us to feast at your eternal banquet. We give thanks for those who came before us, (*especially Erik, King of Sweden, and all*) whose lives witnessed to your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ’s resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*The Peace** is shared by all.

[P] The peace of the Lord be with you always.

[C] **And also with you.**

*The minister and congregation greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.***

**The Offering**

**Offertory Anthem**  
**Chapel Choir**

*“Risen Today!”*

Dan Forrest

**\*Offertory Hymn**

*“As the Grains of Wheat”*

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

**\*Offering Prayer**

[A] Let us pray together,

[C] **Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*The Great Thanksgiving

Presider:

Congregation:

Presider:

Congregation:

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.

[P] It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you God of po - wer and

might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the

One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the

high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

[P] In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

[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.

The Communion *Please follow the instructions of the ushers in coming to receive communion.*

The Congregation is invited to sing “Lamb of God”.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: you are God's word of pro-mise made flesh: have

you are the way of jus - tice and peace: you are the way of mer - cy and love:

mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Hymns:

*“I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me”*

ELW #860

*“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” (2x)*

ELW #857

## \*Post-Communion Blessing

[P] Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

**[C] Amen.**

**\*Praise to You, O God of Mercy**

1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -  
2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -  
3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -

ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:  
ev - er! Truth jus - tice you have taught us:  
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:

3rd time to Coda  1 2  
thanks be to you for - ev - er! ev - er!  
thanks be to you for -  
thanks be to you for -

Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -

mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us. *to stanza 3*

 Coda  
ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

**\*Post-Communion Prayer**

[A] We give you thanks, most gracious God, that you have fed us with the bread of heaven and given us a foretaste of Paradise. Enliven us to be your body in the world and to serve those who are in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**[C] Amen.**

### \*Benediction (Blessing)

May the Lord, loving Lord, bless and keep you forever.  
Grant us peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.  
Lift up your eyes and see God's face, and His grace forever.  
May the Lord, loving Lord, bless and keep your forever.

**\*Recessional Hymn:**     *“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”* ELW #579

*As the cross is carried out during the singing of the hymn,  
the congregation turns to face the cross.*

## \*Dismissal

**[All] Follow Christ, Live Faithfully, Serve All. Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude:

*“Psalm 19”*

Benedetto Marcello

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