

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

9:30am Worship

The Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Prayer

*** Confession & Forgiveness p. 94-96**

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

*P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are 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.

*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 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.***

*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 #556**

“Morning Has Broken”

*** Greeting p. 147** *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 p. 147** *P: 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: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen.***

*** Glory to God p. 148**

*** The Prayer of the Day (all pray) **O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, 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.****

First Lesson: Acts 8:26-38

²⁶ 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. ²⁷ 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 ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² 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. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ 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?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading – Psalm 22:25-31

L:25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

C:26 The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever!

L:27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

C:28 For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

L:29 All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

C:30 Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

ALL:31 they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

Second Lesson: 1 John 4:7-12

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

* **Gospel Acclamation** p. 151

*** Gospel Announcement**

* Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

*** The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:1-23**

¹³ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear."

¹⁰ Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says:

""You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive."

¹⁵ For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Hymn #509

"God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"

The Sermon

"The Parables of Jesus"

Part 1 – "The Sower, The Seed, And The Soil"

(sermon text: Matthew 13:1-23)

Pastor William Shields

* **Apostle's Creed** p. 105

The Hymn of the Day #661

“I Love To Tell The Story”

Offering

*** Offering Response #186**

“Create In Me A Clean Heart”

Prayers

*** The Lord’s Prayer p. 154 **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**

*** Sending Hymn #881**

“Let All Things Now Living”

*** Dismissal *P:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**

***C:* Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Announcements:

Altar Flowers
Given in honor of the April
birthdays for Jo, Cooper, Tom Jr. &
Madison.
63rd wedding anniversary of
Tom & Jo Kloster
By Tom & Jo Kloster

**Old Wheels Meeting
Saturday – May 4
8:00am
Scruggs Pond**

Yearbook
Pick up your 2024 Yearbook in the back
of church. If you don’t find one labeled
for you, please ask June or Cindy, they
will get one for you.

Weekly Schedule of Activities
Tues. 4/30 7:00am Jr. High Study
Wed. 5/1 6:30am Men’s Bible Study
7:00am Sr. High Bible Study
11:00am Pastor’s Bible Study
1:00pm Prayer Group
7:00pm Choir
Thurs. 5/2 6:00pm Pastor’s Study
Sat. 5/4 7:00am Gideon’s
8:00am Old Wheels Mtg.
Sun. 5/5 **9:30am Worship/ Comm.**
Coffee Fellowship & Sunday School

**Baby Bottle Collection
begins
May 12, Mother’s Day.
Bottles will be in the back of church
soon.**

**Pentecost Geranium
Order forms included in your
bulletin inserts.**

Pictorial Directory!
It’s time to do another one, **it’s our 170th year!**
Consider ways you can volunteer to help with
this project.
Photo dates are scheduled for **Tuesday, June 4th &
Wednesday, June 5th.**
If you need to submit a photo, you may email to
the office or bring one in and it can be scanned and
will then be submitted before printing.