



# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

*Christ Revealed - The Journey Continues*

## Ethiopian Eunuch Baptized

*Our words and actions have the potential to reach far beyond what we may imagine.*

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

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Prelude

"The Solid Rock"

Announcements

Call to Worship

Holy Risen One,  
we gather this day and we come as we are:  
seeking understanding, seeking knowledge of you.  
Accept all we bring forward to you today.  
Accept our worship, we pray.

Opening Song

**Word of God, Come Down on Earth**

Red ELW 510

**Word of God, come down on earth,  
living rain from heav'n descending;  
touch our hearts and bring to birth  
faith and hope and love unending.  
Word almighty, we revere you;  
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.**

Word eternal, throned on high,  
Word that brought to life creation,  
Word that came from heav'n to die,  
crucified for our salvation,  
saving Word, the world restoring,  
speak to us, your love outpouring.

Word that speaks God's tender love,  
one with God beyond all telling,  
Word that sends us from above  
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,  
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;  
Word of life, with one bread feed us.

## Confession and Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

Risen Lord,

**We admit that we are slow to believe, and even slower to follow where you lead us. We doubt your promise, divide your people, and fail to proclaim the power of your resurrection. We choose to live small lives when you have given us the biggest gift of all: your eternal life. Forgive us. Raise us up to a place where we can serve you faithfully.**

Christ is arisen, bringing gifts of life, mercy and pardon for sin! Believe that you are forgiven, and go out and live in the joy of your Lord's resurrection in the power of God's Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Prayer of Day

God of truth, You have revealed yourself to people of every time, place and situation. May we not put limits on where or how your Spirit might capture human hearts and spread the word of your gospel far and wide, for the sake of our risen Lord. **Amen.**

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## *God speaks to us in scripture, preaching & song*

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*When Philip was sent by an angel to a lonely wilderness road, he couldn't have known he would have an encounter with a man that had the potential to affect an entire kingdom.*

### Invitation to the Word

**Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I lift to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,  
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,  
from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;  
Lord, I lift your name on high.**

### Scripture Reading

Acts 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>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 silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

# Message

## Special Music

"In Thee is Gladness"

- arr. Beck

## 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 to the dead.

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 the People

Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord make us whole,  
peace to all people, hope for each soul.  
God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

The word which came through your servant Philip spread to places far beyond his own world. May your Spirit's power also magnify our witness and extend it well past the limits of our own reach.

*Prayer petitions response*  
God of truth, **hear our prayer.**

*Other petitions offered.*

Incline your ear to our prayers and fill us with power to begin living out our faith, by the power of your Son our savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

# Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

# Sharing God's Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

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*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

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# Blessing

May the message of the women who found the tomb empty, bless you with the death transforming love of our living Savior, Jesus Christ. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

# Song

## *Baptized in Water*

Red ELW 456

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:  
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,  
faithfully now God's praise we sing.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
marked with the sign of Christ our king:  
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;  
joyfully now God's praise we sing.**

# Sending

Be amazed! The tomb is empty! Christ is risen!

Go and share this good news.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

# Postlude

*"Just As I Am, Without One Plea"*

- arr. Sanborn



## **Participants**

- Pastors: Courtney Steitz, Michael TeKrony
- Prelude/Postlude/Special Music: Jordan Ortman
- Assisting Minister: Scott Ikenberry
- Liturgy leaders: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues, Matthew Mohrbacher, Del Felton, Bonnie Yockstick, Pat Mohrbacher
- Opening Song: Chancel Choir – Directed by Dave Gleason  
Susie DiPaolo, Brenda Gleason, Denise Ikenberry,  
Linda TeKrony, Mike Madsen, Ron Skabo, Scott Ikenberry
- Closing Song: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues
- Photographs: Ray Johnson, Michael TeKrony, Amy Evancheck,  
Winston Herbert