

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

**Theme:** 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.

## PRELUDE

### CALL OF WORSHIP

Open our ears, O God

**And give us understanding.**

Hold a light before your word

**And illuminate your truth.**

Pour over our heads the water of life,

**And we will praise your abundant mercy.**

### GATHERING SONG

*You Are Mine*

"I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear.

You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be still and know I am here."

"I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see.

In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in me."

**REFRAIN:** "Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.

Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine."

"I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame.

All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know my name." **REFRAIN**

"I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give.

I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand up, now walk and live!" **REFRAIN**

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: **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**

### FIRST READING:

Acts 8:26-39

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### GOSPEL:

Luke 24:44-53

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The reading concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

### SERMON

**Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
 Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!  
 Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open our eyes;  
 breaking our bread, giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.  
 Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**Jesus the vine, we are the branches; life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;  
 heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing to me  
 Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb, river of life,  
 saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM!  
 Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. God of Truth, **Hear our prayer**

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, who taught us to pray...

### LORD'S PRAYER

**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

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen, holy, beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

*Blessed Assurance*

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**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

**REFRAIN: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long:  
 this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
 angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. REFRAIN**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
 watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. REFRAIN**

### DISMISSAL

**Alleluia! Christ is risen! Go in peace to share the good news! Stay safe, and be safe!  
 Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

### POSTLUDE