

MISSION LIBERTY HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 28th, 2024

Worship Song:

“Abide with Me”

*Text and Music: Public Domain*

*Abide with me fast falls the eventide  
The darkness deepens Lord with me abide  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee  
Help of the helpless O abide with me*

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day  
Earth's joys grow dim  
its glories pass away  
Change and decay in all around I see  
O Thou who changest not  
abide with me*

*I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness  
Where is death's sting where grave thy victory  
I triumph still if Thou abide with me*

*Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes  
Shine through the gloom  
and point me to the skies  
Heav'n's morning breaks  
and earth's vain shadows flee  
In life in death O Lord abide with me*

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Responsory:

*Selections from Psalm 27*

Pastor: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
**People: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**  
Pastor: One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:  
**People: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,**  
Pastor: To gaze upon the beauty of the Lord  
**People: And to inquire in his temple.**  
Pastor: I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
**People: I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**  
Pastor: You have said, “Seek my face.”  
**People: My heart says to you, “Your face, Lord, do I seek.”**  
Pastor: Wait for the Lord;  
**People: Be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**

Worship Song:

“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”

*Tomlin, Newton, Giglio ©2006 sixsteps Music, Vamos Publishing, CCLI #4768151*

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I'm found. Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear. And, grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.*

*Chorus: My chains are gone, I've been set free.  
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.  
And, like a flood, His mercy rains. Unending love, amazing grace.*

*The Lord has promised good to me. His Word, my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.*

**Chorus 2x**

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow. The sun forbear to shine.  
But God who called me here below  
Will be forever mine. Will be forever mine.  
You are forever mine.*

**Confession and Forgiveness of Sins**

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

People: **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful, and we have not always lived as Your thankful and joyful people. We have indeed turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, blot out our sins, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our lives so that we serve You in true faithfulness. Grant us steadfastness among all the changes of this world and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Pastor: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a victorious life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. As well-loved Easter people, rejoice and be glad! You are free indeed!

People: **Amen.**

**Our Statement of Faith:**

*The Nicene Creed*

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

**Should I Receive Communion Today?**

*Christ commands us saying, "Do this in remembrance of Me." Forgiveness, life, and salvation are truly offered to all who eat the Lord's body and blood in the Sacrament, but only through faith can we receive the blessings offered there.*

Therefore, we should ask ourselves these questions to personally examine our hearts before communion:

+Do I believe in Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior from sin?

+Do I repent of all my sins in thought, word, and action?

+Do I believe that I receive the very true body & blood of Jesus Christ in, with, and under the bread & wine?

+Do I rely on Jesus's promise that all my sins are forgiven as I receive this Holy Supper?

+Do I believe that I am one with my fellow communicants in accepting all of Jesus' teachings?

+Will I rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to change my sinful life?

Source: Luther, Martin. *Luther's Small Catechism, with Explanation*. Concordia Publishing House, 1991.

## The Words of Institution

**Pastor:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**People:** **And also with you.**

## Distribution Song:

*"Goodness of God"*

*Words and Music by Jenn Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Ben Fielding, and Brian Johnson*

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*I love You, Lord. Oh, Your mercy never fails me.  
All my days I've been held in Your hands.  
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head,  
I will sing of the goodness of God.*

***Chorus: All my life You have been faithful.  
All my life You have been so, so good.  
With ev'ry breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God.***

*I love Your voice. You have led me through the fire.  
In darkest night, You are close like no other.  
I've known You as a father, I've known You as a friend.  
I have lived in the goodness of God. **Chorus***

*Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.  
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.  
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now; I give You ev'rything.  
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me. (repeat)*

**Chorus**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Pastor:** Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to us in this Holy Sacrament. Keep us in Your faith and favor that we may live in You even as You live in us. May Your body and blood preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting. Hear us for the sake of Your name.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **Our Prayer for the Church of Jesus Christ**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray for the whole church, that the message of salvation may joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world and the forgiveness of sins be celebrated around the globe. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for the nations of the world, that governments would be a source of blessing to those who are governed and that oppression in all forms may be hindered, bringing a sense of security and well-being in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for ourselves in this amazing season of our Lord's great victory that we may truly be Easter people all year long, radiating the light of Christ in our homes, workplaces, and communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for all who serve us through their callings, especially those who deal with special challenges or dangers on a regular basis, including police officers, firefighters, and other emergency personnel. Also, we remember at this time the military forces of our nation, those stationed both at home and abroad, whose efforts serve to defend our nation in challenging times. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized, those who grieve, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill and shut-in, and all others whose needs are known to us, whom we name at this time... Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Merciful God, we bless You for having placed into our lives faithful Christian people to guide us. We remember those no longer among us on earth, who have completed their earthly races and have won the final victory in Christ. Lead us to follow in their way, that we may rejoice together eternally with saints and angels. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer. Amen.**

## **The 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 power and the glory forever ever. Amen.**

## **Scripture Reading:**

*John 15:1-8*

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

## **New Member Welcome**

**\*\*Dismiss for JAM Time**

**Worship Song:**

*“In Christ Alone”*

*Words & Music: Keith Getty, Stuart Townend, Kristian Stanfull. ©2001 Thankyou Music. CCLI #3350395, License #11234369.*

*In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light my strength my song  
This Cornerstone this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand*

*There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ*

*No guilt in life no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand*

***I find my strength, I find my hope  
I find my help in Christ alone  
When fear assails, when darkness falls  
I find my peace in Christ alone  
I give my life, I give my all  
I sing my song to Christ alone  
The King of kings, the Lord I love  
All heaven sings to Christ alone***

*Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand*

**The Message**

Rev. Mike Cofer

*“Abide... and Grow”*

**Closing Prayer**

**The Benediction**

**Worship Song:**

*“Cornerstone”*

*Myrin, Morgan, Liljero, Bradbury, Mote ©2011 Hillsong Music Publishing CCLI Song #6158927, License #11234369*

*My hope is built on nothing less, Than Jesus's blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly trust in Jesus's name.*

***Chorus: Christ alone. Cornerstone.  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.  
Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.***

*When darkness seems to hide His face. I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale.  
My anchor holds within the veil. My anchor holds within the veil.*

***Chorus***

*When He shall come with trumpet sound. Oh may I then, in Him be found.  
Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless I stand before the throne.*

***Chorus 2x***

### **Credits**

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