

Fifth Sunday of Easter~ April 28, 2024  
Senior Recognition Sunday  
Esther Lutheran Church, ELCA

**Prelude**

**Bell**

**Special Music**     *"In the Garden"*

*Esther Harmony*

**Announcements**

*Gathering*

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

*Please stand as you are able*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Come let us serve one another in Christ.

**C: As Christ loved and served, so will we.**

P: Come let us serve one another in Christ.

**C: We will rejoice in the love of this community.**

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

P: Risen God,

**C: We confess to you, to ourselves, and to one another that we have caused harm by the things we have said and done, and by the things we have not said and not done. Take away our sins that we might fully embody your commandment to love you with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

P: In grace and mercy, God forgives all our sins, and with joy and expectation calls us into new life for the sake of the world, through Jesus Christ our savior. **Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN: "Be Thou My Vision"     (ELW 793)**

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,  
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

**\*GREETING**

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

**C: And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE (ELW pg. 213)** *congregation sings response*

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christe eleison: **Christ, have mercy.**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE**    *"Glory to God"*

**(ELW pg. 213)**

**Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
receive our prayer.  
Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.  
Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God,  
and peace to God's people on earth,  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**L:** God of community,

**C:** You call us into loving and supportive relationship with one another in our church family.  
Through the Holy Spirit, unify our hearts and minds, that together we might strive to  
bring your healing grace into the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Please be seated*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**    *"How Great Thou Art"*

*Esther Harmony*

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

### **First Reading: Mark 9: 34-35**

<sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”

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

### **Gospel Acclamation *sung* (ELW pg. 216)**

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?  
Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia. Alleluia

### **Preaching text: Acts 18:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup> For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

### **Childrens Story**

### **Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day “When Peace Like a River” (ELW 785)**

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

***Refrain***

It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,  
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. ***Refrain***

It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! ***Refrain***

It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so it is well with my soul. ***Refrain***

It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

## **Recognition of Graduating Seniors and Their Future Plans**

*Camryn Rae Schlosser*

*Seth Henry Sansness*

*Brody Dietrich Lenzen*

### **Presentation of Blankets and Senior Blessing**

*At this time we ask the graduates' parents to come forward and wrap their senior in their blanket as together we speak these words.*

Pastor: Each one of you is a special part of this congregation. No one else, in the whole world, is quite like you. We are proud of you, and we love you.

**Congregation: As a congregation, we bless you to grow in body, mind and spirit, and encourage in you, a growing commitment to Christ. May your hearts and lives always reflect God's love and truth.**

Pastor: We bless you to explore life, to be adventurous in discovering who God has created you to be. May you walk safely along the pathways of your dreams. May God's gentle hand guide the decisions you will make and the passions that you follow.

**Congregation: We promise to support you with our love, counsel and prayers, and will continue to walk with you on your journey of faith. May hope be a light within you that you carry into each new day.**

Pastor: Wherever you wander, no matter how dark the night, may the warmth of this blanket, the love of your parents, the fellowship of this church, the grace of God, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

Go with God's blessing. **Amen.**

### **PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE**

L: Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

L: Saving God, the message of the cross is utter foolishness to the powerful. Give us the strength and conviction to proclaim and to model your sacrificial love and leadership in all we say and do. God of new life,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

L: Your blessed creation is in need of our loving care and restoration. Unite us in our efforts to address pollution, climate change, and harmful practices throughout the world. God of new life,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

L: Guide physical and behavioral health professionals who care for those in our families and communities whose lives are affected by illness, injury, or grief especially Yvonne, Colleen, Kristy, Ernie, Georgia, Mike, Al, Luella, Ralph, Gary, Barb, Marsha, Ty, Woody, Cindy, Barb, and Jen. God of new life,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

L: With gratitude we remember all peacemakers throughout history who have united and strengthened the body of Christ by their calm guidance. May we, in turn, bring peace and unity to our own faith community. God of new life,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

L: We place in your arms all for whom we pray, out loud or in our hearts, confident in your mercy and grace, through Jesus Christ, our savior. **Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able*

**\*Apostles' Creed (ELW pg. 105)**

**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 power of 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

**\*Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always....**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING HYMN "The Church Song"**

*Refrain*

We are the church,  
the body of our Lord;  
we are all God's children.  
We have been restored.

- 1 The church is not a building  
where people go to pray;  
it's not made out of sticks and stones,  
and it's not made out of clay. **Refrain**

We are the church,  
the body of our Lord;  
we are all God's children.  
We have been restored.

- 2 The church is not a business,  
a committee or a board;  
it's not a corporation for  
the business of the Lord. **Refrain**

We are the church,  
the body of our Lord;  
we are all God's children.

We have been restored.

- 3 Well you can go to worship  
but you cannot go to church;  
you can't find a building that's alive  
no matter how you search. **Refrain**

We are the church,  
the body of our Lord;  
we are all God's children.  
We have been restored.

- 4 The church, it is the people  
living out their lives,  
called, enlightened, sanctified  
for the work of Jesus Christ. **Refrain**

We are the church,  
the body of our Lord;  
we are all God's children.  
We have been restored.

Text: Jay Beech  
© 1988 Jay Beech

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Generous God,

**C: You provide each of us and our church family with abundant resources. Accept these gifts out of what you have first given us, that we might work for the good of all that you have made. Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able*

#### **\*CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING (ELW 219)**

**Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.  
Great and wonderful are your deeds,  
O God of the universe;  
just and true are your ways,  
O Ruler of all the nations.**

Who can fail to honor you, Lord,  
and sing the glory of your name?  
Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
and blessed is the one  
whose name is the Word of God.  
All praise and thanks to you, holy God!  
Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

**\*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (ELW 220)**

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER *sung* (CLH 632)**

Our Father, which 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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.

**Sending**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to our neighbor in need*

**\*BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy;  
the Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
**Three-fold Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG "Christ Be Our Light"**

**(ELW 715)**

- 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see. *Refrain*

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

- 2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

- 3 Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

5 Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain*

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

**\*DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Yuvonne Anderson	Colleen Burquest
Kristy Fyhrie	Ernie & Georgia Hart
Mike Heiser	Al Pederson
Luella Thom	Ralph Townsend
Gary Borst – friend of the Andersons	
Barb Burns – sister of Jerry Anderson	
Marsha Clow - sister of Linda Arvidson	

Ty Hawes – friend of the McDaniels  
Woody Hoiseth – friend of the Thoms  
Ivy McKane – friend of Hagens and Guenthers  
Cindy Rachuy - sister of Dawn Kreidler  
Barb Tvedt – mother of Joan Burquest  
Jason Wehking – friend of Esther members  
Jen Wintheiser – friend of Esther members  
Family and Friends of: Cindy Skoglund, Mary Durling, and Lee Wesolowski

### **This Week at Esther**

#### **Sunday, April 28**

9 am – Sunday School  
9 am – Senior Recognition cake and punch reception  
10 am – Worship  
Coffee fellowship following worship

#### **Wednesday, May 1**

6 pm – Confirmation mentor and family potluck and dinner worship  
7:30 pm – Council

#### **Sunday, May 5**

9 am – Sunday School  
10 am – Worship with Holy Communion  
Coffee fellowship following worship

### **News and Notes**

**Senior Recognition Sunday, April 28.** Please join us in celebrating our three graduating seniors with a Cake and Punch Reception at 9 am. The seniors will be sharing about their future plans and receiving their blankets during the 10 am worship. The songs in our worship were the songs that were picked by this class for their confirmation service, and their confirmation verse is embroidered on each of their blankets.

**We recognize our seniors, who will all graduate from Parkers Prairie High School on May 24.**

***Brody Lenzen, son of Nolan Lenzen and Vanessa Garlitz***  
***Camryn Rae Schlosser, daughter of Justin and Jaci Schlosser***  
***Seth Henry Sansness, son of Ryan and Amanda Sansness***

**Newsletter articles** need to be emailed to the office by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Esther Youth** that are attending the youth gathering this summer are starting to actively sell stock. As a stockholder you are entitled to the following:

- 1.) Access to New Orleans updates! Stock holders will have exclusive access to communication with us during the trip via postcards and Facebook updates daily.
- 2.) An invitation to the Stockholder Presentation! After returning home from the Gathering, we will hold a Stock Holders presentation to which stockholders will be invited to come enjoy treats hosted by the Gathering participants as well as a presentation about the trip.
- 3.) An opportunity to pray for our youth! You can pray for our hearts and minds to be open to this experience, to learn something new, to deepen our faith & spiritual growth. Thank you for your support of Esther Lutheran Youth through your purchase of shares of stock.

**2024 DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE USHER TABLE.** We will not be labeling directories this year – please take as needed for you and your family.

**We are looking for people to join the Tech Team** to learn to run the worship slideshow and the audio/visual tasks during worship. If you are interested, please contact Mandy Arvidson, Mike Lage or Jewel Townsend.

**Parkers Prairie High School Student Council is planning for its annual Day of Caring.** On Friday, May 17, the students of PPHS will be ready, willing, and able to help out in the community. If you would like help with spring clean up or have a special project that needs to get done in the Parkers Prairie, Urbank, and Miltona area, contact the PPHS Student Council Advisor David O'Brien at [dobrien@pp.k12.mn.us](mailto:dobrien@pp.k12.mn.us).

**On Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> we will have a special worship service** to honor Pastor Scott and Jacey in appreciation for their years of care and service to Esther. There will be a potluck after worship. Pastor Scott's last day will be May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Thank you for worshipping with us today!** If you are interested in being on our weekly email list please contact [secretary@estherlutheran.net](mailto:secretary@estherlutheran.net) .

## **SERVING IN APRIL**

**Pastor:** Scott Hoecker

**Organists:** Marcia Guenther, Brad Lambrecht

**Altar Care:** Deb Koep

**Communion Assistant:** Steph Stueve, Amy Stanley

**Lay readers:** Deb Koep

**Ushers:** Larry Doll

**Acolyte:** NEED VOLUNTEER

**Birthday Card Sender:** Linda Arvidson

**Tech Team:** Mandy Arvidson, Mike Lage, Jewel Townsend

**Birthday Fellowship:** Jerry & Yuvonne Anderson, Ernie & Georgia Hart, Kyle & Lacey Grinager

### ***Esther Lutheran Church, ELCA***

*"Knowing Christ-Making Christ Known through Faith, Hope and Love"*

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