

**EXILES: LIVING IN HOPE**  
**May 17, 2020**

**WELCOME** ..... Pastor Michael P. Dorn

**OPENING HYMN** ..... “Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom” ..... LSB 481

Scatter the darkness, break the gloom; Sun, reveal an empty tomb  
Shining with joy for all our sorrows, Hope and peace for all tomorrows,  
Life uneclipsed by doubt and dread: Christ has risen from the dead!

Bearing the standard from on high As the Lamb of God to die;  
He who for us, so cruelly treated, Lives again—our foes defeated!  
Where is your sting, O death and grave? Christ has shown His strength to save!

Banners of triumph, be unfurled! Trumpets, sound throughout the world!  
Crying and sighs, give way to singing: Life from death, our Lord is bringing!  
Let there begin the jubilee—Christ has gained the victory!

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**INVOCATION**

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

**CONFESSION** ..... LSB 167

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

**ABSOLUTION**

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;  
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners, Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev'ry dread disease,  
Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water To the desert's burning sand;  
From this Well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.

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**NEW TESTAMENT READING** . . . . . Acts 17:16-31

**R** The New Testament Reading is from the 17<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Acts.

**R** While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us, for “‘In Him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed His offspring.’

Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a Man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead.” (ESV)

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY** ..... Psalm 66:8-20

- R** Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,
- C** **who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**
- R** For You, O God, have tested us; You have tried us as silver is tried.
- C** **You brought us into the net; You laid a crushing burden on our backs;**
- R** You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet You have brought us out to a place of abundance.
- C** **I will come into Your house with burnt offerings; I will perform my vows to You,**
- R** that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
- C** **I will offer to You burnt offerings of fattened animals, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.**
- R** Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what He has done for my soul.
- C** **I cried to Him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue.**
- R** If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.
- C** **But truly God has listened; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.**
- R** Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me! (ESV)
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**ALLELUIA AND VERSE** ..... LSB 173

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

**HOLY GOSPEL** ..... John 14:15-21

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**
- P** [Jesus said:] “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.  
  
“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” (ESV)
- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH** . . . . . Apostles' Creed

**☑ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** . . . . . Michael Winckler

**MESSAGE** . . . . . Pastor Michael P. Dorn

**MESSAGE RESPONSE** . . . . . "You Are the Way; through You Alone" . . . . . LSB 526

You are the way; through You alone Can we the Father find;  
In You, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind.

You are the truth; Your Word alone True wisdom can impart;  
You only can inform the mind And purify the heart.

You are the life; the empty tomb Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,  
And those who put their trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.

You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant us that way to know,  
That truth to keep, that life to win Whose joys eternal flow.

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**MUSICAL OFFERING** . . . . . “Create in Me” arr. Michael Burkhardt . . . . . Quartet

Text: Psalm 51:10-12  
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**PRAYERS**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**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**

- P** The LORD bless you and keep you.  
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN** . . . . . “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” . . . . . LSB 655

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; Curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son And bring to naught all He has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow’r make known, For You are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend Your holy Church that we May sing Your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth, Send peace and unity on earth;  
Support us in our final strife And lead us out of death to life.

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**POSTLUDE** . . . . . “Erhalt uns, Herr” (Lord Keep us Steadfast in Your Word) . . Carla Barrows, Organ  
by Michael Burkhardt

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