



Inviting All to Live the Gospel through Faith, Love, and Compassion

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Mission Partners with Usokami Parish, Iringa, Tanzania

Pastor Brent Erler and Amy Vigesaa, Intern Pastor



**May 7th, 2023
HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY
9:30 AM Worship**

PRELUDE

Solveig Englund

GREETING

GATHERING HYMN

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Diving”

ELW #774

*1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*2 O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]*

Refrain:

*Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]*

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

One: We believe in God, who made us in His image.

All: We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like Him.

One: We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

All: He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead.

One: We believe in the Holy Spirit, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son.

All: Our counselor, our guide, our motivator. He is our joy!

One: Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously, when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your children, when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world.

All: Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“This Is The Day”

2x

*This is the day, this is the day.
That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice, we will rejoice,
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, You have taken what we call impossible and turned it into possibility. You have brought us to sing springtime alleluias and called us into an undreamed of tomorrow. We praise you for this day! You are risen, you are risen indeed. **AMEN**

CHILDREN'S TIME

READING

Acts 9:1-9

Saul was breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

¹¹ The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³ "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: *Thanks be to God*

SERMON

Pastor Brent Eler and Intern Amy Vigesaa

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Let Us Talents and Tongue Employ"

ELW #674

*1. Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.*

Refrain:

*Jesus lives again;
earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around:
loaves abound!*

*2. Christ is able to make us one,
at his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. Refrain*

*3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God, Immanuel, everywhere. Refrain*

PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING/NOISY OFFERING

Saint Paul Area Synod Planting Hope

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord, in Your Mercy

C: Hear our prayer

HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS of INSTITUTION

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 the power and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.

BLESSING

PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"

ELW #860

1. *I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, (3x)*
singing glory, hallelujah,
Jesus lifted me.

2. *Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me (3x)*
singing glory, hallelujah,
Jesus lifted me.

3. *When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me (3x)*
singing glory, hallelujah,
Jesus lifted me.

4. *I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, (3x)*
singing glory, hallelujah,
Jesus lifted me.

POSTLUDE

Welcome to Family of Christ

You are welcome to participate in worship this morning the way you feel comfortable. This includes the invitation to join us for Holy Communion.

All Are Welcome, No Exceptions!

Everybody Is Somebody Here

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT FAMILY OF CHRIST?

Information is available from the ushers and in the literature stand outside the church office at the West entrance. If you are looking for a faith community, please fill out the insert or visit our website at www.familyofchrist.com.

KID ACTIVITY BAGS filled with coloring materials and other resources are available in the back of the worship space for those that would like them.

WELCOME FAMILIES!

We are glad that you are worshipping with your children and want you to feel welcome. There is a **"Pray Ground"** for quiet play in the front right of the sanctuary. We ask that families stay with their little ones and try to keep noise to a minimum.

If you or your little one needs "a break" or "louder play", there is a **"Listening Room"** on the West side of the sanctuary. You can see and hear the service from this room.

Arise: Walking in the Resurrection.

This Easter Season we will look at Jesus' resurrection and how it effects who we are as a people of God. Though Jesus conquered death itself, his rising starts all of us on a path to new life; not just in the future but right now. We too are "Risen" in fellowship, discipleship, worship, justice, service, and blessing.

Through storytelling and reflection we will walk the path of resurrection and new life.



"Everybody is Someone Here"

Worship 9:30am Sundays

Sunday School 10:45am Sundays

Confirmation and Youth Group

6:20 pm Wednesday Nights

*Worship Online at www.familyofchrist.com