



APRIL 30, 2023

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

at The Falls Church Episcopal



PAUL'S MISSION

After the dramatic coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Gentiles in Caesarea (Acts 10:1-48), and the recognition of the church in Jerusalem that “God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life” (11:18), the mission to the Gentiles begins in earnest. The Lord announces the centrality of Saul/Paul to this mission when he is converted, saying “he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles” (9:15), but it is only in today’s periscope that Saul, with his companion Barnabas, is formally commissioned and sent out on this mission.

The commissioning makes clear that the mission is not instigated by Saul and Barnabas. Rather, it is initiated by the Holy Spirit, who for the only time in Acts speaks directly to the church community. This commission is confirmed by the community, which listens to the Spirit and responds in faith.

The events that take place in Lystra dramatically reinforce that it is the Spirit who is guiding the fledgling church throughout the book of Acts. By the time they reach Lystra, Paul and Barnabas have created a stir in several other cities, attracting converts to the faith but also stirring up opposition among mixed crowds of Jews and Gentiles. The city they visited just before Lystra drove them out with an attempt to stone them. But here in Lystra, the first place where they encounter a purely Gentile audience, the people react differently. When they witness the miraculous healing that Paul performs, they respond with an exuberance that contrasts sharply with the resistance Paul has encountered in mixed Jewish and Gentile communities. This excitement is perilous, though, because it quickly veers into idolatry. Steeped in myths of gods taking on human form and mingling with mortals, these Gentiles assume that Paul and Barnabas must be gods, and they want to worship them and offer sacrifices to them.

Fresh from their missionary work in other cities, where they faced life-threatening resistance to the message about Jesus Christ, it could have been rather gratifying to Paul and Barnabas to be received so positively in Lystra. On the contrary, however, they are horrified. As good Jews they know that to worship anyone or anything other than God is to commit the grave sin of idolatry, to violate the First Commandment and to transgress against the fundamental truth of the relationship between the God of Israel and God’s people: that there is only one God, and the creatures God created are most emphatically not God and are not to be worshiped as gods.

FULL COMMUNION

This worship service is a celebration of the “full communion” relationship between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Full communion was established between these two churches in 2001 through the ecumenical agreement, *Called to Common Mission*, the culmination of over 30 years of ecumenical dialogue. In full communion, the two churches commit themselves to making their unity visible through shared proclamation of the Word and celebration of the Eucharist.

In the Lutheran tradition, the assisting minister at the Eucharist is normally a layperson. This serves to emphasize the priesthood of all believers, a teaching at the heart of Lutheran faith and practice. It is also normative for the preacher, whether ordained or lay, to proclaim the gospel.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

C **Amen.**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us
clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

C **Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope.
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C **Amen.**

1 A might - ty for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2 If we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing turns to
 3 Though all the world with dev - ils fill and threat - en to dc -
 4 God's Word shall stand a - bove the pow'rs, shall end all their thanks-

fail - ing; our help - er frees us from the flood of
 los - ing; the righ - teous one fights by our side, the
 your us, we trem - ble not, we trust God's will: they
 giv - ing. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe,
 one of God's own choos - ing. You ask who this may be:
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Though Sa - tan rant and rage,
 God with us is liv - ing. Let goods and kin - dred go,

for - sworn to work us woe, with guile and dread - ful might
 Christ Je - sus, it is he, the Lord of hosts by name.
 in fierc - est war en - gage, this ty - rant's doomed to fail;
 this mor - tal life al - so; though all of these be gone,

(continued on next page)

is armed to wage the fight: on earth there is no equal.
 No other God we claim! None else can win the battle.
 God's judgment must prevail! One little word shall triumph.
 they yet have nothing won. The kingdom's our forever!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1805–1890, alt.
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG. Martin Luther
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GATHERING PRAYER

- P** God of all, you opened your gates wide to receive all your children into the heavenly kingdom. Help us to be vehicles of promise and proclamation for all who will listen, so that every soul might live in your grace. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18

Chapter 13

¹Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Chapter 14

⁸In Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet and had never walked, for he had been crippled from birth. ⁹He listened to Paul as he was speaking. And Paul, looking at him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, ¹⁰said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And the man sprang up and began to walk. ¹¹When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" ¹²Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. ¹³The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates; he and the crowds wanted to offer sacrifice. ¹⁴When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, ¹⁵Friends, why are you doing this? We are mortals just like you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. ¹⁶In past generations he allowed all the nations to follow their own ways; ¹⁷yet he has not left himself without a witness in doing good — giving you rains

from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filling you with food and your hearts with joy." ¹⁸Even with these words, they scarcely restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.


After the reading:

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God**

Children are invited to follow the Crucifer into Nicolson Hall for Children's Chapel.


CHILDREN'S MESSAGE HYMN.....Walk With Me



Walk with me, I will walk with you and build the land that



God has planned where love shines through. *Fine* We come to lis - ten and to learn what



God wants us to do. To share our love and share our gifts, to be di-sci-ples true. *D.C. al Fine*

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Please stand as you are able.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 10:40-42

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴⁰Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple — truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON.....Vicar Allison Vincent-Beckman

MESSAGE HYMN

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ELW 579

1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you

preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,

and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the

(continued on next page)

to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

Refrain

With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934
 Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991
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APOSTLE'S CREED

A Lord, help us comprehend and affirm our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

C **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 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A You are the shepherd who gathers us in your mighty and loving arms. Help your church to listen for your voice, especially when the voices of sin, idolatry, and oppression threaten to overpower us. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A The green pastures, still waters, and dark valleys of this earth all belong to you, O Lord. Sustain your creation with a love that is both mighty and just. Where there is destruction, bring healing. Where there is desolation, bring abundance. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A You proclaim shepherding love, comfort, and protection for all people and all of creation. Direct leaders in our own time to learn from your example and instruction. Give them servant hearts, that they generously seek the good of all. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A You journey with us wherever our paths may lead. We pray for those feeling overwhelmed by anxiety or depression or suffering in any way (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A You are the sheepgate that gives safety to your beloved flocks. Provide protection for refugees, victims of domestic violence, those who are imprisoned, and all people who are vulnerable to violence and mistreatment. (*Local concerns may be named.*) Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Watch over our military and members of agencies serving to keep us safe and free. Bless, strengthen, and defend them with your heavenly grace, give them courage in the face of peril, and grant them a sense of your abiding love and presence wherever they may be throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Watch over all your children, Lord, including any who have not felt welcomed by the members of your church. Help us to truly be a Reconciling in Christ congregation: a welcoming and safe community for all. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A You call your sheep by name and lead them through the valley of death. We give you thanks for those who have died and now dwell in your house forever (*especially*). Be with those who mourn, and give them hope in the promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
 C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of the risen Christ be with you.
 C And also with you.

OFFERING MUSIC

9:00 a.m.
 "The Lord is my shepherd"
 Howard Goodall (b. 1958)

11:15 a.m.
 "The Lord is my shepherd (Requiem)"
 John Rutter (b. 1945)

OFFERING HYMN

Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring

ELW 691

Verses 1 and 3

1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.

We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
 What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
 Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
 Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune; arr. Alice Parker, b. 1925
 Text © 1990 and arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P O Holy God, we give you thanks that on this day we have seen the resurrected face of our savior and redeemer Jesus the Christ. Through all generations you have sustained your people with new life.

After the chaos of the flood, you gave the olive branch and the rainbow to the barrenness of Abraham and Sarah, you gave a child in Egypt you heard Israel's cry and liberated them in the wilderness you sustained Israel's life through daily bread in the exile you promised your people hope of new pathways and in Jesus Christ you revealed the depth of your forgiving love.

In the night in which he was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, Broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take and eat! This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

C **O God of Life, you are faithful! We sing with new hearts to the glory of your holy and eternal name.**

P Through this gift of the body and blood and Jesus Christ, O Holy Spirit, call us to freedom, strengthen us for life through forgiveness, and empower us to share with others what you have freely given to us. God, through with and in Jesus Christ, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory, deliverance, and mercy are yours now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Walk us out of darkness and make us your holy people, as we pray the words you taught us.

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,

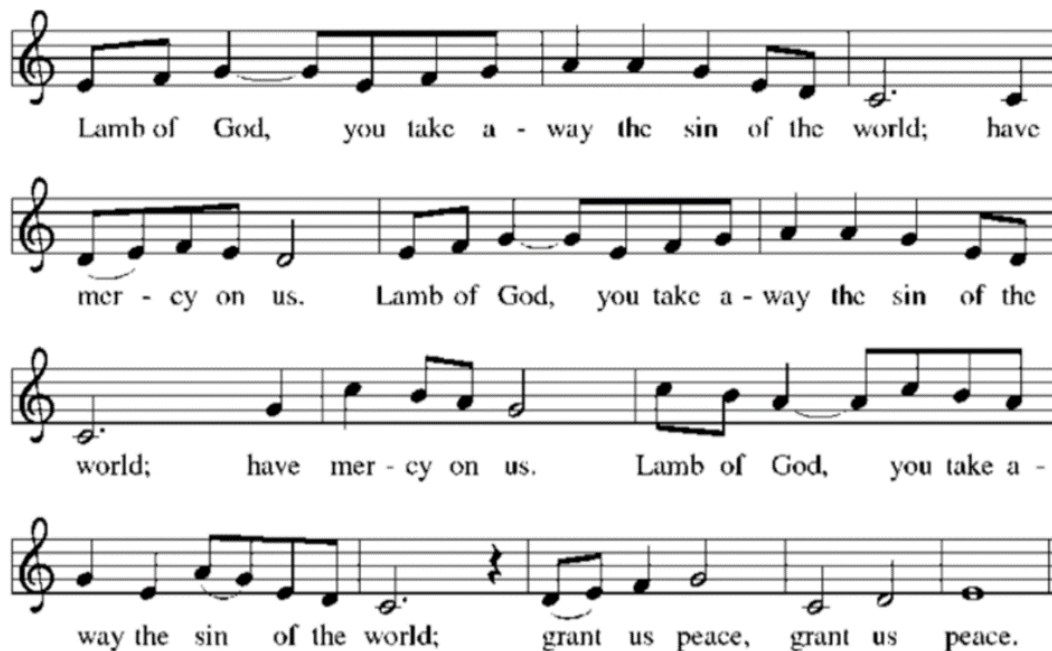
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

C **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

9:00 a.m.
"Steal Away"
Spiritual
arr. Malcolm Archer

11:15 a.m.
Partita 3, Adagio
G.P. Telemann
(1681-1767)

O sacrum convivium
Gerald Near
(b. 1942)



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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- 1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
- 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
- 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
- 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.
 so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
 You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
 but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

Text: Anonymous
 Music: LIVING GOD, Anonymous

PRAYER AFTER THE MEAL

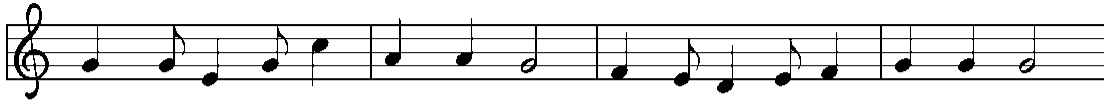
A Gracious God,
 in you we live and move and have our being.
 With your word and this meal of grace,
 you have nourished our life together.
 Strengthen us to show your love
 and serve the world in Jesus' name.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

P The God of all,
 who raised † Jesus from the dead,
 bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
 to live in the new creation.

C **Amen.**



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Refrain
 Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

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SENDING

P Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Michael D. Gutzler

Vicar Allison Vincent-Beckman

+ + + + +

The Parish Prayer List

For Healing in Body, Mind, and Spirit

Immediate Needs

Kendall, Kent

Long Term Prayers

Joanna, Liz, Michael, Robert, Tom

Family and Friends

Anne, Chris, Cindy, Dick, Grace, Heather, Judy

For the Repose of the Soul of

Angelo Artemas

+ + + + +



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Lifting Up, Reaching Out

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Eucharistic Prayer: <https://liturgicallylutheran.wordpress.com/2014/04/09/eucharistic-prayer-for-easter/>