

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

11:00 A.M. April 24, 2016

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Let us prepare for worship by praying,
meditating and listening to the organ prelude.

The Ringing of the Church Bell

The Prelude

The Welcome and Concerns of the Church

The Choral Introit

THE GATHERING

*The Call to Worship

Leader: Come to praise God, all you faithful people!
Come, for God welcomes you and offers to draw close.

**People: Praise to God, who rules over all the earth.
Praise to God, who is as near as our next breath.**

Leader: Sun and moon and stars shine in praise to God.
God created them and established for each a place.

**People: God has a place for us in this world; we have come that
God may instruct and equip us.**

Leader: Mountains and hills, trees and animals praise God. Let all
the rulers of the earth do so as well.

**People: God provides abundantly for our needs. God makes of one
family all who dwell on the earth.**

*The Hymn No. 141

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

*The Prayer of Confession

We admit, holy God, that we have to hear your promise of new life. Even when we are dissatisfied with our lives, it is easier to cling to what we know than to risk the unknown. You challenge us to accept people who are different from us, but we are not eager to associate with them. You command us to love one another, but some people are not lovable. O God, melt our defenses so we can accept your love and let it flow through us. Grant us courage to embrace newness. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God promises to dwell with us, to ease our pain and wipe the tears from our eyes. Dare to trust, for God accepts us as we are, that we might become all we are meant to be.

People: God offers us the opportunity to repent. It is the gift that leads to new life.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news! Accept God's offer of new life in Christ, for through him we have been forgiven! Amen.

THE WORD

The Children's Time

The Choral Anthem

The Prayer of Illumination

The New Testament Lesson

Philippians 1:9-11

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

"Excellence That Love Approves"

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Choral Response

*The Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

*The Gloria Patri

The Bringing of the Tithes, Offerings and Gifts

The Offertory

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

*The Hymn No. 33

"From All That Dwell Below the Sky"

*The Charge and Benediction

Congregation Response

Lift High the Cross

*Come, Christians follow where the Savior trod. The Lamb victorious,
Christ the Son of God. Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.*