



**MOUNT  
OLIVE**  
Saint Paul

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April 28, 2024 // 11:30am

**Sunday Worship** // *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*Pastor Joel Gawrisch*

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**Welcome // Introduction // Call to Worship**

### **Call to Worship**

1 As a deer pants for flowing streams,  
so pants my soul for you, O God.

2 My soul thirsts for God,  
for the living God.

When shall I come and appear before God?

3 My tears have been my food  
day and night,  
while they say to me all the day long,  
“Where is your God?”

4 These things I remember,  
as I pour out my soul:  
how I would go with the throng  
and lead them in procession to the house of God  
with glad shouts and songs of praise,  
a multitude keeping festival.

5 Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you in turmoil within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my salvation and my God.

8 By day the Lord commands his steadfast love,  
and at night his song is with me,  
a prayer to the God of my life.

11 Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you in turmoil within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my salvation and my God.

## **Opening Praise // As the Deer**

Words and music: Martin Nystrom 1984 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing CCLI #1431

♪ **1 As the deer panteth for the water  
So my soul longeth after Thee  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship Thee**

### **Refrain**

♪ **You alone are my strength, my shield  
To You alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You**

♪ **2 You're my friend and You are my brother  
Even though You are a King  
I love You more than any other  
So much more than anything**

### **Refrain**

♪ **You alone are my strength, my shield  
To You alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You**

## **Prayer of Confession**

P(astor): Faithful God, We come to you today as deeply forgetful people. You have been so much better to us than we deserve, faithfully fulfilling your commitment to give us good things in Christ. Yet we quickly forget all the wonderful gifts that you have already given us, and feel angry and bitter when you won't answer our prayers the way in which we want you to. Instead of remembering your deliverance and running to you daily as our shield of refuge, the anchor of our souls, we prefer to remain in bondage to our idols, because we love our sins and it seems too hard to fight against them.

**C(congregation): We doubt your goodness and power many times each day and resent the race of obedience that you call us to run. Father, forgive us.**

P: Jesus, thank you for remembering the truth faithfully on our behalf. You worshiped your Father daily, with unwavering faith and unshakable hope in his goodness. Cherishing the Father's unchangeable character, you submitted to his perfect wisdom and trusted him completely in all the circumstances of your life, even when it was most painful. You took refuge in him often in your times of need and never turned toward false gods. Now your obedience becomes our strong encouragement to hope in the midst of continuing weakness, and you continue to advocate our cause as our heavenly High Priest.

**C(congregation): We have no other hope, nor do we need one. Christ, our source of of truth and life, hear our prayer.**

P: Holy Spirit, we need your power at work in us to stir up our hope. Help us to know and worship our God as he is, the unchangeable, sovereign King, who has sworn by himself to save us in spite of our perverse foolishness. Cause us to know the certainty of God's great love for us, until we are transformed into people who love him deeply, and are able to run the race with strong confidence and joyful hope in Christ.

**C(congregation): Open our lips to join the heavenly worship service, and help us look forward to the triumphant coming of our heavenly King. Amen.**

## **Forgiveness of Sins**

P: Dear brothers and sisters, our God has heard our prayer.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

How, and why?

Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:4- NIV)

So let us then continue to praise him with our singing and remain in His love knowing our sins are forgiven, in Christ, our True Vine.

## **Song of Redemption // As the Deer**

♪ **2 You're my friend and You are my brother  
Even though You are a King  
I love You more than any other  
So much more than anything**

### **Refrain**

♪ **You alone are my strength, my shield  
To You alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You**

## **Kids' Message**

### **God's Word - First Lesson // Acts 4:32-37 ESV**

32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. 36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

### **God's Word - Epistle Lesson // 1 John 3:18-24 ESV**

18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. 19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; 20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 Whoever keeps his commandments abides in

God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

### **Verse of the Day** // John 15:11

Alleluia! “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” Alleluia!

### **God’s Word - Gospel Lesson** // John 15:1-8 ESV

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

### **Hymn of the Day** // Christ the Vine

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♪ **1 Christ the vine, source of truth and life,  
In the Father's garden sown.  
We the branches in love are giv'n  
All the nutrients to grow.  
As disciples, your Word is home;  
To this vine our faith connects,  
Bearing fruit, bringing truth and grace,  
To a world lost and distressed.**

♪ **2 On the cross, Christ yielded to death;  
In the tomb, his body laid.  
Yet this seed buried in the ground  
Sprung up to life in days.  
Like a sprout breaking through the soil,  
Shooting up from death, he lives!  
To his life, we the branches**

**By grace are grafted in.**

**♪ 3 Christ our life, may we still abide**

**Under hardship of the shears.  
Prune and shape to expand our faith,  
Growing fuller with the years.  
When assailed by uncertainties,  
In this confidence, we rest:  
You are good! Plant this truth in us.  
In your Word we are refreshed.**

**♪ 4 As we're nurtured and tended  
The awful storms begin.  
These secure, rooted branches  
Endure the wind and live,  
For our faith is established  
In the true and living vine.  
Plant us deep when our faith is weak;  
To your strength our faith will bind.**

**♪ 5 When our lives, in this earthly plot,  
Are waning to their ends,  
We continue to flourish;  
Through faith we shall extend  
Into joy spent eternally  
With the source of our fruit  
Clinging only to Jesus,  
Bearing love, all doubts removed.**

## **Sermon Message**

### **Profession of Faith // Apostles' Creed**

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**

## Prayer of the Church

### Lord's Prayer

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### Offering // Blessing

### Closing Praise // O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer

Music and words by Nathan Stiff

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CCLI: #7096627

🎵 **1 O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Greatest treasure of my longing soul  
My God, like You there is no other  
True delight is found in You alone  
Your grace, a well too deep to fathom  
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach  
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom  
My highest good and my unending need**

🎵 **2 O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Strong defender of my weary heart  
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver  
And my shield against his hateful darts  
My song when enemies surround me  
My hope when tides of sorrow rise  
My joy when trials are abounding  
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night**

🎵 **3 O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Gracious Savior of my ruined life  
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders  
In my place You suffered bled and died  
You rose, the grave and death are conquered  
You broke my bonds of sin and shame**

**O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
May all my days bring glory to Your Name**