

The Falls Village Congregational Church

May 7, 2023 10:00 a.m.

5th Sunday of Easter

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Church Bell

Choral Prelude -- *Jesus, Feed Us* - B. Wentzel

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship (from Psalm 121)

I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from
this time on and forevermore.**

Let us worship God.

Prayer for God's Presence:

**Give us this day, o Lord, humility to listen to your word, wisdom
to understand your word, obedience to follow your word, through
Jesus Christ who is the word, who came to dwell among us, full of
grace and truth. Amen.**

Hymn # 15 *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*"

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Redeeming God: you sent Jesus to live among us and to give
us new life by his death and resurrection. We confess that we keep
this good news to ourselves. We are silent when we could tell others
of your love. We fail to invite others into fellowship with you and
with your people. Forgive our selfishness and enable us to be your
faithful witnesses to those around us every day, for the sake of Jesus
Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you

And also with you.

Let us pass the peace of Christ.

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Readings: Acts 9:1-9

John 14:1-14

Rowena Fenstermacher

Rich Reifsnnyder

Prayer

Sermon: "Changed!"

Rev. Richard Reifsnnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Hymn of Preparation #413 "*Take our Bread*"

The Communion Prayer:

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your heads

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God

It is right, and a good and joyful thing

(The Minister continues the prayer)

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(Please partake of the bread individually, when it is received, as a sign of our individual relationship to God, but hold the cup so we may drink together, as a sign of our unity before our God)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE CHURCH DISPENSES TO SERVE

Closing Hymn: #528 "Give Thanks"

Benediction

Benediction Response

God Be with You till We Meet Again

.....
 You are invited to place your offerings as you leave in the plate at either entrance to the church.

1. Re - joice, you pure in heart; lift prais - es to the sky;
 2. Bright youth and snow-crowned age, strong souls and spir - its meek,
 3. With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 4. Yes, on through life's long path, still sing - ing as you go,
 5. Praise God who rules all worlds; the ris - en Christ a - dore.

1. your fes - tive ban - ner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!
 2. raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song, God's won - drous prais - es speak.
 3. send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an - cient days.
 4. from youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe.
 5. Praise God the Spir - it, Ho - ly Fire, one God for ev - er - more!

Refrain

Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks and sing.
 Re - joice, re - joice,

Scripture Lessons for May 7, 2023

ACTS 9:1-9

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

JOHN 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

413 Take Our Bread

Refrain (Unison)

C Am Dm7 G7

1. Take our bread, we ask you; take our hearts, we love you.

C Dm G G7 C Fine

Take our lives, O Fa-ther, we are yours, we are yours.

C Am C Am

1. Yours as we stand at the ta - ble you set;
2. Your ho - ly peo-ple stand-ing washed in your blood,

C F Dm G7

yours as we eat the bread our hearts can't for-get.
Spir - it-filled yet hun-gry we a - wait your food. We are

C Am C Am

We are the sign of your life with us yet,
poor, but we've brought our - selves the best that we could;

Dm7 G D.C.

we are yours, we are yours.

Give Thanks

528

Unison

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One, give

thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ his Son. Give

Son. And now let the weak say "I am strong"; let the

poor say "I am rich" be-cause of what the Lord has done for

us And us. Give us. Give thanks!