The Fourth Sunday of Easter – Jubilate

The people of God are pilgrims and sojourners in this world, looking ahead to a destination yet to come. (1 Peter 2:11-20) Though we are now children of God, the fullness of what we shall be has not yet been revealed. (1 John 3:1-3) We are those who wait on the Lord. *"The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him."* (Laminations 3:22-33) Jesus tells us that the wait is just a little while. *"A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father."*(John 16:16-22) Though you must experience sorrow for a time, though you must live as strangers in a world that is at enmity with Christ, yet your sorrow will be turned to joy when He returns. *"Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength."* (Isaiah 40:25-31) The little while of weeping shall be replaced with an eternity of rejoicing in the presence of Christ the crucified and risen Savior. *"And your joy no one will take from you."*

Introit: (Psalm 147:1-11; antiphon: vs. 5)

Pastor: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

Congregation: His understanding is beyond measure.

P: Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

C: The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel.

P: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

C: He determines the number of the stars; He gives to all of them their names.

P: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.

C: The LORD lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked to the ground.

P: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!

C: He covers the heavens with clouds; He prepares rain for the earth;
He makes grass grow on the hills.

P: He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.

C: His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor His pleasure in the legs of a man,

P: but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, Is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

C: His understanding is beyond measure.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth so that they may return to the way of righteousness. Grant faithfulness to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church that they may avoid whatever is contrary to their confession and follow all such things as are pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

+ Isaiah 40:25-31 +

To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. (26) Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing. (27) Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? (28) Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. (29) He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. (30) Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; (31) but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

(From Quasimodo Geniti through the week following Pentecost, the Gradual is omitted and the Alleluia Verse is lengthened)

+ 1 Peter 2:11-20 +

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. (12) Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. (13) Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, (14) or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. (15) For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. (16) Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. (17) Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. (18) Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. (19) For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. (20) For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

The Lutheran Confessions Responsive Reading: The Augsburg Confession

P: What do we believe, teach, and confess Of Civil Affairs? (Article XVI)

C: Of Civil Affairs they teach that lawful civil ordinances are good works of God, and that it is right for Christians to bear civil office, to sit as judges, to judge matters by the Imperial and other existing laws, to award just punishments, to engage in just wars, to serve as soldiers, to make legal contracts, to hold property, to make oath when required by the magistrates, to marry a wife, to be given in marriage.

P: They condemn the Anabaptists who forbid these civil offices to Christians. They condemn also those who do not place evangelical perfection in the fear of God and in faith, but in forsaking civil offices, for the Gospel teaches an eternal righteousness of the heart.

C: Meanwhile, it does not destroy the State or the family, but very much requires that they be preserved as ordinances of God, and that charity be practiced in such ordinances. Therefore, Christians are necessarily bound to obey their own magistrates and laws save only when commanded to sin; for then they ought to obey God rather than men. Acts 5:29.

Verse: (Psalm 111:9a; Luke 24:46b)

P: Alleluia! He sent redemption to his people; Alleluia!

C: "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things
and enter into His glory?" Alleluia!

+ John 16:16-22 +

"A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." (17) So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" (18) So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." (19) Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? (20) Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. (21) When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. (22) So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.