



# LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH FRIEDENSKIRCHE - CHURCH OF PEACE



Home Service for Exaudi 16 April 2021

Hear my cry, O Lord.

## Watchword:

Christ says: I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. John 12:32

## Opening

Good morning dear Congregation! A hearty welcome to you all to our Divine Service.

**Today we celebrate the Sunday called Exaudi which in Latin means "Hear!" "Hear my cry, O Lord!"** This is a 'conversational hearing'. As we call to God to hear us, God calls us to hear Him. As we call out to Him with all that we bring with us: our struggles, our joys, our hopes, and our fears, we listen to God's answer through the proclamation of his Word, in our prayers, in our singing, and by receiving his life-giving gift in Holy Communion. We hear the Voice of the Gospel, of forgiveness and grace and new life. For the Lord who has ascended into heaven is not far from us. He calls us to himself and He hears us when we call to him.

Let us call to God with our first hymn.

## Opening Hymn

1. As the deer pants for the water,  
So my soul longs after You,  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship You.

**Ref.**

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.

## As the deer pants for the water.

2. I want you more than gold or silver,  
Only you can satisfy,  
You alone are the real joy giver,  
And the apple of my eye.

**Ref.**

3. 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.

**Ref.**

## Introitus

P. In the Name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C. **Amen.**

P. Our help is in the Name of the Lord,

C. **who made heaven and earth.**

P. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,

C. **Lord, we pray, have mercy on us, forgive us our sin and lead us to eternal life.**

P. Thus says the Lord: When you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.

C. **Thanks be to God.**



# LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH FRIEDENSKIRCHE - CHURCH OF PEACE



## Psalm 27:

Let us call to God with words from Psalm 27:

P: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

C. **The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?**

P: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent.

C. **Hear me, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me.**

P: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. let us seek God's face together.

C. **Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord.**

C. **Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forevermore. Amen.**

## Kyrie

L. Kyrie eleison!

C. **Lord, have mercy!**

L. Christe eleison!

C. **Christ, have mercy!**

L. Kyrie eleison!

C. **Lord have mercy!**

L. Glory be to God in the highest!

C. **And on earth peace, to all in whom He delights.**

**All glory be to God on high! Who has our race befriended; to us no harm shall now come nigh, the strife at last is ended. God showeth His goodwill to us, and peace shall reign on earth again. O thank Him for His goodness!**

## Prayer of the Day

L. The Lord be with you!

C. **And also, with you!**

Lord Jesus Christ, King of Glory, you are exalted as victor and Lord over all the earth. We are afraid of so many things in these uncertain times. We pray that you do not leave us alone and without comfort but send us the promised Spirit that he will help us in all our struggles and bring us to where you have gone before us. Free us from all fear and help us to trust you, our Lord now and forever.

**Amen.**



# LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH FRIEDENSKIRCHE - CHURCH OF PEACE



## Epistle Reading

Ephesians 3:14-20

C: Hallelujah

## Hymn LH 423 1+2

1  
Jehovah, let me now adore you,  
For where is there a God such, Lord, as you?  
With joyful songs I come before you;  
Oh, let your Spirit teach my heart anew  
To praise you in his name through whom alone  
Our songs can praise you, through your  
blessed Son.

## Jehovah let me now adore You.

2  
Grant that your Spirit prompt my praises;  
Then shall my singing surely please your ear.  
Sweet are the sounds my heart then raises;  
My prayer in truth and spirit you will hear.  
Then shall your Spirit lift my heart in love  
To sing these psalms to you, my God  
above.

## Gospel Reading

John 15:26-16:4

## Hymn LH 423 3

3  
O Father, draw me to my Saviour  
That your dear Son may draw me then to you.  
Your Spirit guide my whole behaviour

## Jehovah let me now adore You.

And rule both sense and reason in me, too,  
That, Lord, your peace from me may ne'er  
depart  
But wake sweet melodies within my heart.

## Sermon

John 7:37-39

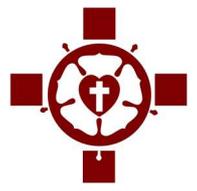
Grace and Peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

What the world has to offer against the true thirst of the human heart is shown by the example of Jesus Christ on the cross when He said, "I thirst." He was given a sponge soaked with gall and vinegar. Sour and bitter is what the world has to offer for our thirst. It is not the thirst for water, beer or wine that is meant here by Jesus. Nor does he mean our expectations and longings for love, honour, happiness, enjoyment, or justice. He means the thirst that arises when we realize that all these things do not last forever.



# LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH FRIEDENSKIRCHE - CHURCH OF PEACE



He is talking about our life being secure in Him and his saving work even when all these other things fall away, and even when these things seem to be falling apart even. Jesus means the thirst for what is everlasting and imperishable, - the thirst for God. Jesus offers himself as the spring that can quench this thirst. He calls those who thirst for this life. The comfortable and the satisfied in their usual business and enjoyment have a hard time hearing this call. But Jesus' call to come to him and drink is meant for each and every one, for all of us. His words of forgiveness and eternal life are for us "living water" in which our souls are refreshed and healed. Where there is water, there is life, and that life can thrive. The further away we move from a well, from a source of water, the thirstier we will be; drought, desert, and thirst are to follow.

The great feast where Jesus was and called out these words (Exaudi) was at the feast of tabernacles in Jerusalem. At this feast, the Jewish people remembered the time when they were wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, a place where water was scarce, where thirst was the order of the day and where they had to live in tents. We too are passing strangers on this earth, wandering in the wilderness of this world. We too need a well where we can come to and drink in order to survive this wilderness. The wilderness represents drought and thirst.

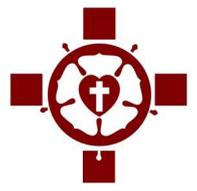
On this feast, the priest would take a golden jug and fill it with water at the well of Siloam. The crowds who were there would cheer as the priest carried this golden jug into the temple and then to the altar. Next, another golden vessel would be filled with wine and they both would be poured out together. The mixture of the water and the wine at the altar symbolized the life and joy associated with the Holy Spirit, the life-giving Spirit of God. This celebration of joy was combined with a word from the prophet Isaiah: "You will draw water with joy from the wells of salvation": (Isaiah 12:3). By acting as the well of the water of life, Jesus himself called out to the people at this particular feast, that this prophecy is fulfilled in Him.

He is the well of salvation. On the cross, when Jesus' side was pierced, water mixed with blood came flowing out. Both the water and the blood were poured out for our salvation, both flow from Christ to us in baptism and Holy Communion. Therefore, there is always this close connection between the water and the blood and the well of our salvation.

In order to receive and enjoy this life-giving gift, one only has to but "come" to this well, to Christ Jesus. To "come" involves going to the well. You cannot drink from a distance. For those who come, and drink will taste and see that the Lord is good. There is a reason why these words are spoken when Christ invites us to come to his table. We are called to the altar to receive from Him the eternal gifts that he has to give, gifts that we can see and taste. It is the invitation to come to him as the well of salvation to receive His life, His eternal life. "Take and drink" - we are asked to physically do this. It is not something that only takes place in our minds or in our hearts. It takes place in us physically partaking. By taking and drinking we receive the life given to us by Christ with joy.



# LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH FRIEDENSKIRCHE - CHURCH OF PEACE



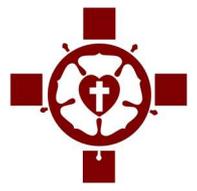
Many of us have experienced the time where we could not come to church and drink from the Lord's table as a time of thirst. We could not come to the altar, to the table of the Lord, and drink. Unfortunately, there are also many who have not experienced it in this way, who do not miss it at all. Some people may feel the thirst for living water, they even know the source where they can find it and drink, and yet they do not come. The world of sinners loved by God includes not just broken insiders seeking truth but also broken outsiders running from the truth. None of us are beyond the need of God's Grace and none of us are beyond the reach of God's Grace. We all find ourselves on this 'Covid thirst track'. Nothing is the same anymore for any of us and probably never will be again. We are reminded and we see how vulnerable and temporary this earthly life really is and that there are no guarantees here - not in the economic world, not in our personal life, not in social life, not in pleasure life. But we were even more fooled than before that we could live satisfying lives on our screens. The larger part of our lives these days is lived on screens. True and personal communion is increasingly being lost, both in personal life and in church life. The communion of the saints is particularly endangered in these times.

But God is a very personal God in more than one sense. He meets us in person here, in the flesh, so to speak, through his body and blood in bread and wine that we receive and drink at the altar, at his table. It is the personal communion with God that lets us taste salvation. And this is not something that takes place only in our souls. It does have a physical element to it. It is a physical experience, a physical communion with the Risen One, where we come before Him that has overcome death for our sake. When we come to him to drink from him, we engage in an action whereby we dare to say "yes" to him as our well of salvation. But we cannot say or give this to ourselves. It must be called out to us, as it were (Exaudi!) and physically given to us, just as Jesus called it out to the people at that feast, that He is the life-giving water. Just as He also gave this water to the woman at Jacob's well saying to her that whoever drinks this water from him will never thirst, so he gives us his life-giving blood to drink at his table saying whoever drinks this will have life in them and will live forever. This woman had spent most of her life running to broken cisterns that hold no water by getting caught up with one broken relationship after another. Jesus offered her the only water that would satisfy her thirst, and ours – the grace of the gospel. The gospel is not ethereal or abstract; it concerns real people and real places and real actions. In his very many encounters with people Jesus shows us that eternal life is not just about our life in heaven when we die; it is also about the life of heaven "welling up" in us while we live.

This life of heaven welling up in us is the living water of our faith. This faith is the gift of God through the Risen Christ. This faith needs food, needs to be fed and given drink. This cannot take place on a screen, nor can it take place on a high mountain or any other beautiful place in nature. Yes, God is present there too, of course, God is present everywhere, but He is not present everywhere in the same way. In the divine service where his word is proclaimed, at the baptismal font where his life-giving water flows, at the altar where his body and blood are given to us to eat and drink, these are the places where God has established Himself and promised to be there for us. Jesus is not present „for you" on



# LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH FRIEDENSKIRCHE - CHURCH OF PEACE



some mountain top or beside a river or by the ocean. He is to be found where he promised to be present – in the Divine Service, the place where his Word is preached, and his sacrament distributed. It is not a place of entertainment. It is where Christ has promised to be present for you in His Word and Sacrament; where His Word is being proclaimed **for you**, where His body and blood is given **for you** at His table. “Come unto me” involves an action. He is always waiting to meet us here. We need only but come, - come to the place where Christ has promised to be there **for us**.

When we drink Christ’s blood, we drink life itself; and since Christ is God when I drink Christ’s blood, I am drinking the very life of God. There is tremendous comfort and beauty in the fact that we take into our dying bodies the eternal life of God in the blood of Christ. Jesus’ Promise stands forever: “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day, for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink” (John 6:54+55).  
Amen.

## Hymn

## Let your living waters flow over my soul,

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Let your living water flow over my soul.<br/>Let your Holy Spirit come and take control, of every situation that has troubled my mind. All my care and burdens unto You I roll. Singing...<br/>    Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.<br/>    Father, Father, Father.<br/>    Spirit, Spirit, Spirit.</p> <p>2 Come now Holy Spirit and take control.<br/>Hold me in your loving arms and make me whole. Wipe away all doubt and fear and take my pride. Draw me to Your love</p> | <p>and keep me by Your side. Singing...<br/>    Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.<br/>    Father, Father, Father.<br/>    Spirit, Spirit, Spirit.</p> <p>3 Give your life to Jesus, let Him fill your soul. Let Him take You in His arms and make you whole. As you give your life to Him, He’ll set you free. You will live and reign with Him eternally. Singing...<br/>    Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.<br/>    Father, Father, Father.<br/>    Spirit, Spirit, Spirit.</p> |
|--|---|

## Church Prayer

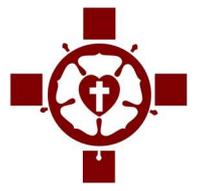
Jesus Christ, we come to you. You quench our thirst for life. Come and send out your life-giving Spirit. **Have mercy on us.**

Come and send your life-giving Spirit, that there may be peace, transform our hearts, and renew this world. You are the source of peace - **have mercy on us.**

Come and send your life-giving Spirit, to strengthen the weakened, the overburdened, the overwhelmed, the lonely, the afraid, the unemployed, the weary. You are the source of hope and strength, **have mercy on us.**



# LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH FRIEDENSKIRCHE - CHURCH OF PEACE



Come and send your life-giving Spirit, so that faith can be revived in your worldwide Church, in our congregations, in our children. Change doubt into trust and fear into confidence. Jesus Christ, we come to you. Renew our hope. Silence our longing. Quench our thirst. Send us your life-giving Spirit.

Have mercy on us today and every day.  
Amen.

## Holy Communion

### Hymn Sup 838, 1+2

1 I am the bread of life;  
they who come to me shall not hunger,  
they who believe in me shall not thirst.  
No one can come to me  
unless the Father draws them:

*Ref.*

*And I will raise you up,  
and I will raise you up,*

### I am the bread of Life,

*and I will raise you up  
on the last day.*

2 Unless you eat  
of the flesh of the Son of man,  
and drink of his blood,  
and drink of his blood,  
you shall not have life within you.

*Ref*

## Preface, Sanctus, Our Father, Words of Institution, Agnus Dei Distribution

### Post Communion Prayer

Thankful for the Presence of your Son through your Holy Spirit, we pray, God that the celebration of your love and presence in our lives in this meal may ignite the fire of your Spirit in us, that we may joyfully love and serve those who need love and care, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is One with You and the Holy Spirit, who lives and creates new life for all eternity. C. Amen.



# LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH FRIEDENSKIRCHE - CHURCH OF PEACE



## Announcements

Our **next Divine Service** will take place next week Sunday in English, with Holy Communion, at 09h30. The Service will be held by pastor em. Andreas Wernecke.

**Synod** will take place on 13-15 August 2021. Please keep this especially important meeting of Cape Church in your prayers.

**Friday Take-Out:** Thank you for your support! Any donations toward this initiative will be helpful to us. We would like to make this an ongoing source of raising funds for our congregation.

**Money Wall:** Please support us by filling the envelopes with the minimal amount printed on the envelope. One lucky winner will win R 500.

**Birthdays:** 18 May Christian Schönfeld  
19 May, Hannah Edinger  
21 Mai, Joshua Harmse  
22 May, Marion Gädke

May God bless you and have a happy and joyful birthday!

## Closing Hymn LH 156, 1+2 **Jesus, our Saviour of true joy the Giver,**

1  
Jesus our Saviour of true joy the giver,  
Alpha and Omega, lo he is here.  
Mighty Creator and strong to deliver,  
God and yet man, He to us draweth near.  
Christians, proclaim Him, the same now  
and ever.  
Jesus, our Saviour, of true joy the giver.

2  
Jesus our Saviour is come grace bestowing.  
Coming in mercy each longing to still.  
Life-giving waters for all are now flowing.  
Come you who thirst come and drink you  
who will.  
Wondrous the mercy and love He is showing:  
Jesus our Saviour is come grace bestowing.

## Blessing

- L. Depart in the peace of the Lord                      C. **Thanks be to God.**  
L. May we go into this week strengthened by the Word of God and His blessing:  
L: The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
The Lord look on you with favour and give you, His peace.  
C. **Amen, Amen, Amen**