

Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2015

10:15 A.M.

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## PREPARATION AND PRAISE

Prelude: "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"  
"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

Sewell  
Birchwood

Welcome and Announcements

## ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING

Silent Prayer and Preparation

- \* Call to Worship: Psalm 100  
Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who has made us, and we are his.  
**Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.**
- \* Hymn: PH 400 "Praise the Savior, Now and Ever" UPP, MIN TUNGA
- \* God's Greeting:  
Grace and peace be to you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**Who made heaven and earth.**  
Blessed be God,  
**And blessed is his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**
- \* Prayer of the Day:  
**O God of love, who in baptism have received us into the congregation of Christ's flock, and have sealed us as your own, grant that we may never be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, but may fight boldly under his banner against sin, the world and the devil, and may we continue as faithful soldiers and servants until our life's end, through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

# THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism of Reagan Elena Kitchen, daughter of Joshua and Sarah Kitchen

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN

This morning we celebrate the baptism of  
Reagan Elena Kitchen,  
daughter of Joshua and Sarah Kitchen

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Let us hear our Lord's command concerning the sacrament of holy baptism. After he had risen victorious from the grave, Jesus said to his disciples: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matt. 28:18-20). In obedience to this command, the church baptizes believers and their children.

### The Promise of Scripture

Let us hear the promises of God which are confirmed to us in baptism.

The Lord made this great promise to Abraham in the covenant made with him: "I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you" (Gen. 17:7).

After Jesus had risen from the dead, the apostle proclaimed: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, for all whom the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:38, 39).

The apostle Paul writes, "In Christ you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead" (Col. 2:11, 12).

### The Teaching of Scripture

Let us also remember the teaching of Scripture concerning the sacrament of baptism.

In baptism God seals the promises he gave when he made his covenant with us, calling us and our children to put our trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

God graciously includes our children in his covenant, and all of his promises are for them as well as for us. Jesus himself embraced little children and blessed them, and the apostle Paul said that children of believers are holy unto the Lord. So, just as children of the old covenant received the sign of circumcision, our children are given the sign of baptism. We therefore teach little ones that they have been set apart by baptism as God's own children. Baptism is a means of grace in which our children receive the covenant blessings of our God that lead them to put their trust in Christ.

## The Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God our Father, we pray that you will never destroy us in our sin as with the flood, but save us as you saved believing Noah and his family, and spare us as you spared the Israelites who walked safely through the Red Sea on dry ground. We pray that Christ Jesus, who went down into the Jordan River and came up to receive the Holy Spirit, who sank deep into death and was raised up as the Lord of life, will always keep us and our little ones in the grip of his hand. We pray, O holy Father, that your Spirit will separate us from sin and openly mark us with a faith that can stand the light of day and endure the dark of night. Prepare us now, O Lord, to respond with glad hope to your promises so that we, and all entrusted to our care, may drink deeply from the well of living water, through the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Baptismal Vows

*To the parents:*

In presenting this child unto the Lord for holy baptism, you are called upon to affirm these vows in the presence of God and his congregation.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, accept the promises of God, and affirm the truth of the faith which is revealed in Scripture and confessed in this church of Jesus Christ? *We do.*

Do you believe that your child, though sinful by nature, is received by God in Christ as a member of his covenant, and therefore ought to be baptized? *We do.*

Do you, on behalf of this child, renounce the devil and all of his works and vain glory, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that you will not follow or be led by them? *We do.*

Do you promise, in reliance upon the Holy Spirit and with the help of the Christian community, to do all in your power to instruct this child in the faith and to lead her by your example to be Christ's disciple? *We do, God helping us.*

*To the congregation:*

Do you, the people of God, promise to receive this child in love, pray for her, help instruct her in the truth of Scripture, and encourage and sustain her in the fellowship of this community? **We do, God helping us.**

## The Sacrament of Baptism

Our Lord said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Reagan Elena Kitchen, in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Prayer of Consecration

Lord God our Father, forever faithful to your promise, we thank you for assuring us again that you forgive us and receive us as children in Christ Jesus. Grant wisdom and love to these parents, and to all of us, as we fulfill the vows that have been made this day. We ask that you will guide our children as the Shepherd King of their lives. Enable them by your grace to respond in faith to the gospel, and fill them with your Spirit and make their lives fruitful in your kingdom. Give them strength in trials and power to triumph over the evil one. And when Christ returns in glory, let them celebrate with all the people of God your greatness and goodness forever in the joy of your new creation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

**Almighty Father, we confess that we have often failed to respond to your purpose for our lives that you have revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. We have not faced our own sin and brokenness, and have fled from your grace and resisted your mercy. We acknowledge that our sinful ways go much deeper than the irreverent behavior of our lives. We have sought to hide from the light of your Word that searches the thoughts and intentions of our hearts. Forgive us for our self-deception, our stubborn hearts and our avoidance of your truth. In your mercy, keep us from a false confession and an empty repentance. Give us strength to confess our sins and turn from the idols of our hearts. By your grace, may we bring forth fruit unto eternal life, for the glory of your name.**

Silent Prayer and Confession      Minister: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Isaiah 53

Congregational Prayer

### THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

\* Hymn: PH 269

“Baptized in Water”

BUNESSAN

[Children age 3 - grade Pre-K may leave after the hymn.]

Reading from the Scripture:

Colossians 2:8-15

Sermon: *Why We Baptize our Children*

Prayer

\* Hymn: pg. 5 and 6 of bulletin “Come, People of the Risen King”

GETTY/TOWNEND

### THE OFFERING OF TRIBUTE

\* Offertory Prayer

Offerings: Fairlawn General Fund

Offertory: “Jesu, Lover of My Soul”

Rogers

### BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

\* Blessing:

Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God our Father, and the abiding fellowship and peace of the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you now and forever. **Amen.**

\* Doxology: PH 561, stanza 5 “Rejoice, O Pure in Heart”

MARION

Praise God, who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore:

the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God forevermore.

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Postlude: “Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him”

Blake

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