

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 28, 2024
with a Service of Healing

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Place for Everyone . . .

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The Rev. Michael Faust, Pastor



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

*Peace to all who enter God's house for worship today.
We pray that all will find strength, security, and fellowship with God and with one another.*

Congregation, please stand/sit as you are able.
P Presiding Minister C Congregation A Assisting Minister

Welcome to our Guests
*If you are a guest, please see one of our greeters and fill out our gold attendance slips.
We hope that you will come back and worship with us again!*

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY
This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

THE GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

(Please stand, congregation face front in the back)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

C **Amen.**

P Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

*Water may be poured into the font as the
presiding minister continues.*

P Immersed in the promises of baptism and belief, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's lush rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

GATHERING HYMN: *There in God's Garden*
(blue hymnal #668)

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

☐ This is the word of the Lord. ☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 22:25-31

☐/☑ *by whole verse*

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

☐ This is the word of the Lord. ☑ Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

- ☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.
- ☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and

burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

GOSPEL RESPONSE

- ☐ The Gospel of the Lord.
- ☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON

(Silence for a time of reflection)

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *We Know That Christ Is Raised*
(green hymnal #189)

A LITANY OF HEALING

☐ Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

- ☐ God our creator, your will for us and for all people is health and salvation;
- ☑ **have mercy on us.**

A Jesus Christ, Son of God, you came that we might have life and have it in abundance;

C have mercy on us.

A Holy Spirit, dwelling within us, you make us temples of your presence;

C have mercy on us.

A To the triune God, the source of all love and all life, let us offer our prayers....

A For all who are in need of healing (*especially*)...Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For all who are disabled by injury or illness...Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For all who are troubled by confusion or pain...Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For all whose increasing years brings weariness...Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For all about to undergo surgery...Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For all who cannot sleep...Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For all who practice the healing arts...Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING

P Sisters and brothers, I invite you to come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

Those who wish to receive prayer by laying on of hands and anointing may come forward now to the altar railing and may kneel or stand. The minister will anoint the person's forehead with oil, making the sign of the cross.

Please stand

P Let us pray. Living God, through the laying on of hands and anointing, grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please share this peace with one another.

Please be seated.

THE MEAL

THE OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

Please stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
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OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C Amen.

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

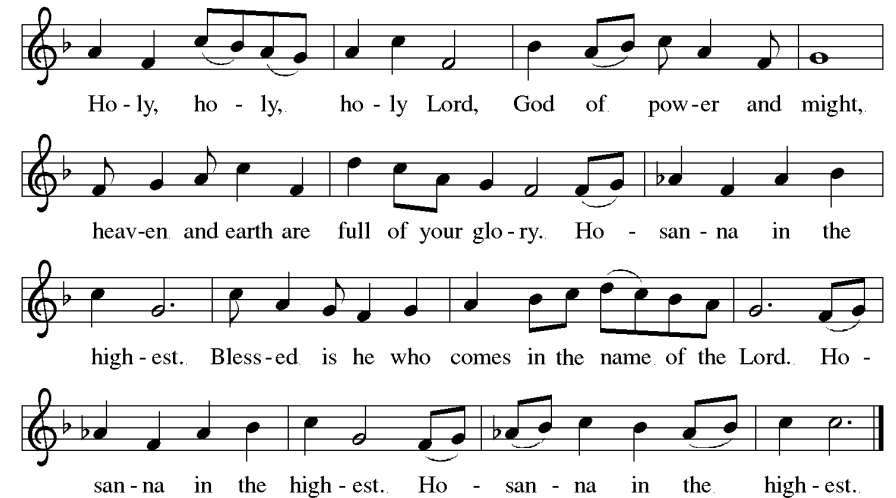
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE

THE SANCTUS



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the
high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

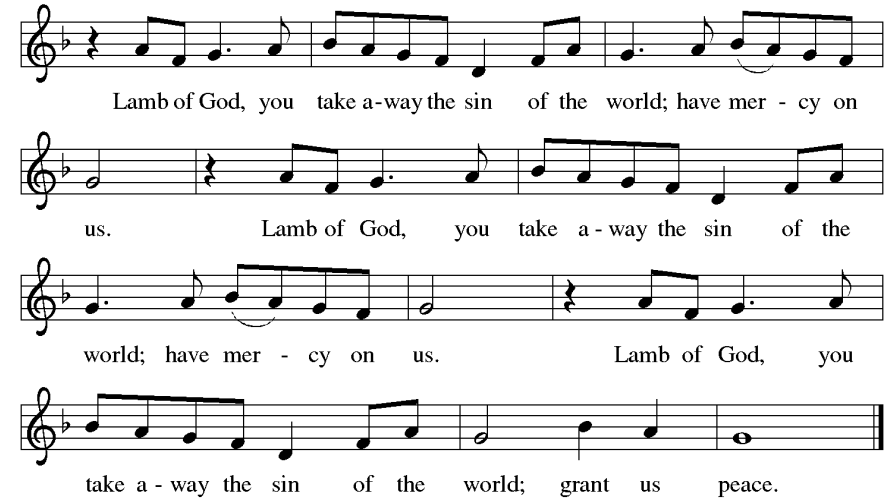
THE LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

All Christians are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please come forward to receive the bread, then proceed to the chalice to receive the wine or continue to the second chalice to receive grape juice. Those who do not yet commune may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please be seated

COMMUNION MEAL

COMMUNION MUSIC

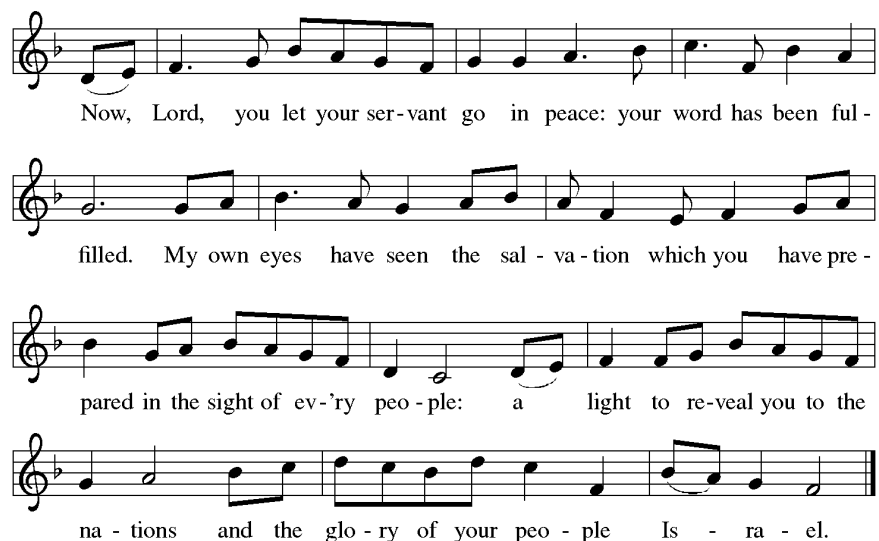
Please stand.

BLESSING

☐ The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

☑ Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

THE SENDING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✝ bless you now and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *All Things Now Living*
(green hymnal #557)

DISMISSAL

A Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia! We will!

POSTLUDE

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