

St. John's Lutheran Church  
April 28, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.  
Fifth Sunday of Easter

---

## **Welcome & Announcements**

*(An usher rings the church bells 5 minutes before church service starts)*

**Temple Talk** – Jean Jirovec, Pastor Christine's Sabbatical

**Prelude** – *Linda Ranney*

*(Acolyte -When music starts light candles)*

## **Gathering Hymn "O Blessed Spring" ELW#447 v.1, 2, 5**

- 1 O blessed spring, where word and sign embrace us into Christ the Vine:  
here Christ enjoins each one to be a branch of this life-giving Tree.
  
- 2 Through summer heat of youthful years, uncertain faith, rebellious  
tears, sustained by Christ's infusing rain, the boughs will shout for joy  
again.
  
- 5 Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree, be praised for this blest mystery:  
that word and water thus revive and join us to your Tree of Life.

## **Apostolic Greeting**

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

## **Prayer of the Day**

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. Amen.**

## **Reading: Acts 8:26-40** *(Please Sit)*

<sup>26</sup>An 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.) <sup>27</sup>So 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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now 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. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As 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?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When 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. <sup>40</sup>But 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 98** “*All the Ends of the Earth*” by Nick Poss  
(Choir sings first refrain, then *Assembly invited to join*)

All the ends of the earth have seen the glo-ry of the Lord.

All the ends of the earth have seen the pow'r of God.

*Music: copyright © 1999, Nick Poss. All rights reserved.*

**Second Reading:** 1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In 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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So 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. <sup>17</sup>Love 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. <sup>18</sup>There 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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those 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. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### Children's Time

#### Gospel Acclamation "*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*" ELW#172 (*Please stand*)

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

#### Gospel: John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to John the 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit

he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide 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. <sup>5</sup>I 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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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

**Sermon “Community Garden”** Pastor Christine Emerson (*Please Sit*)

**Hymn of the Day “We Know That Christ Is Raised” ELW#449 v.1-4**

- 1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold, and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Hallelujah!
- 2 We share by water in his saving death. Reborn, we share with him an Easter life, as living members of our Savior Christ. Hallelujah!
- 3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life. The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God. Baptized, we live with God the Three in One. Hallelujah!
- 4 A new creation comes to life and grows as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood. The universe restored and whole will sing: Hallelujah!

**Sacrament of Holy Baptism** (*Please sit*)

**Keaton Jerry Buchholz**, son of Jerrod and Lacey Buchholz

Sponsors: Adam Horlacher & Jody Kreibich

**Pastor:** God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God’s mission for the life of the world.

**Pastor:** I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**All: I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**All: I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**All: I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*(The child, parents and sponsors may come and gather around the font.)*

**Sponsors:** We present Keaton Jerry for the sacrament of holy baptism.

**Pastor:** Parents, you bring Keaton Jerry to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to fulfill these promises?

**Parents:** We do.

**Pastor:** Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Keaton Jerry in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

**Sponsors:** We do.

**Pastor:** People of God, do you promise to support Keaton Jerry and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

**People:** We do.

**Pastor:** We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that he who is washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**Pastor:** Keaton Jerry, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen**

**Pastor:** Let us pray...We give you thanks, O God that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Keaton Jerry with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Pastor:** Keaton Jerry, child of God you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

**Pastor:** Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **Amen.**

*(The candle is to remind us that we carry the light of Christ throughout our baptized life.)*

**Pastor:** Let us welcome Keaton Jerry into the community of faith.

**All: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

*(The child, parents and sponsors may return to their seats.)*

### **Prayers of the People**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

**Petition:** God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

*(Ushers collect offering. Begin at the back of the sanctuary on the inside aisle and collect as you move to the front and continue around to the outside aisle returning with the offering to the Gathering Area. One usher collects offering from balcony.)*

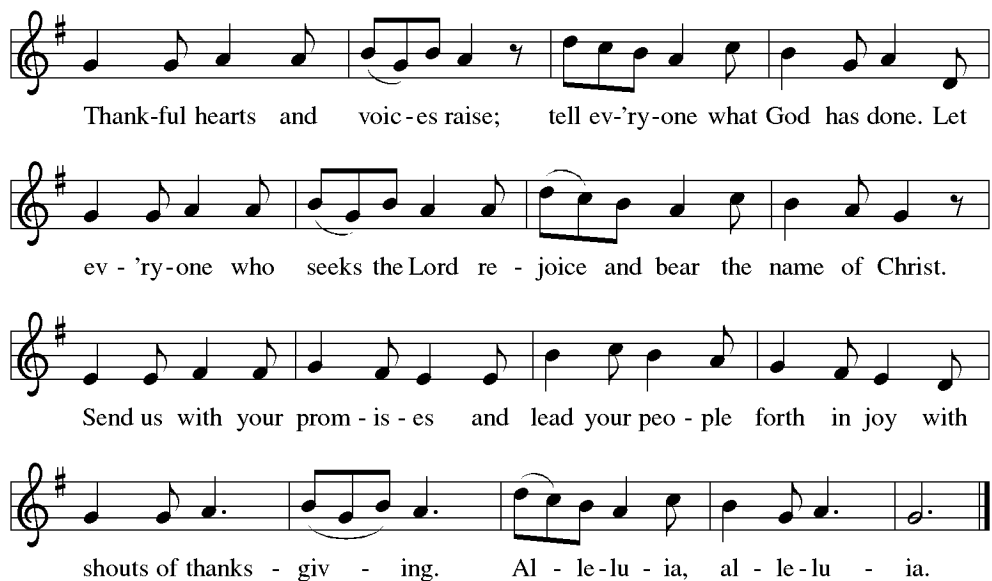
**Offering** – “Mercy, We Abide in You” by Bret Hesla, St. John's Choir

*(Acolyte will collect the offering from the ushers to place on the altar during Offertory)*

*(Observe a time of silence and reflection)*

## Offertory "Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise" ELW#207

(Please stand)



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let  
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

## Offertory Prayer

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. Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## Holy, Holy, Holy ELW#191



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

### Invitation to Table *(Please Sit)*

*(Acolyte- comes forward for communion. The 2 ushers will go to the front of the Sanctuary and begin releasing worshippers to receive a wafer and wine.)*

## Lamb of God ELW#195

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, grant us peace.

## Communion Hymn "Where Charity and Love Prevail" ELW#359 v.1-5

- 1 Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found; brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
- 2 With grateful joy and holy fear, God's charity we learn; let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in return.
- 3 Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God's holy Son; as members of each body joined, in him we are made one.
- 4 Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease. Be God's the glory that we seek; be his our only peace.
- 5 Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess, that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.

## Post Communion Blessing (*Please stand*)

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

## Post Communion Prayer

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. Amen.**

## **New Member Welcome**

### **Blessing**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn** *“Let All Things Now Living”* ELW#881 v. 1-2

*(Acolyte – Extinguish candles)*

- 1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the creator triumphantly raise, who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, who still guides us on to the end of our days. God's banners are o'er us, God's light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night, till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into light.
  
- 2 God rules all the forces: the stars in their courses and sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine. We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration a song let us raise till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: "To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

### **Sending**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude** – Linda Ranney

#### **COPYRIGHT INFORMATION**

- Reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, copyright 2006 & Lutheran Book of Worship, copyright 1978 Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #20510.
- Reprinted from *With One Voice* copyright © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #20510.
- Reprinted from *Worship & Praise* copyright © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #20510.  
“All Rights Reserved” Used by permission. CCLI License # 1070784. With permission by OneLicense.net license A-703800.

**Altar Flowers:** In memory of my wife, Mary on our Wedding Anniversary by Mick Lovvik.

#### **Serving at worship today:**

Pastor – Christine Emerson

Worship Assistant – Margaret Kinderman

Nursery Attendant – Paige Burrows

Lector –

Acolytes – Matthew Kording, Liam Schank

Ushers – Larry Schaefer, Tom Price

Greeters – Ruth Ann Kjelstad, Kurt Kjelstad

Communion Servers – Eric Nielsen, Cheryl Stage, Shari Engelbert, Diana Hogenson

Camera System – Scott Olsen

Power Point- Brett Isaacson

Musicians- Linda Ranney, organ/piano; Mark Lundin, cantor; St. John’s Choir