

**Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024**



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION!

Thanks for coming to be with us at Zion Lutheran Church. If you are visiting with us for the first time, will you please fill out a visitor card, available in the pew rack in front of you, and drop it in the offering plate. Whether this is your first visit or you worship here regularly, we are delighted that you chose to share with us. We worship together on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. If you have a “prayer request” or a “praise report”, please let the pastor know. God bless you on your journey of faith.

INTRODUCTION

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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK: Oesterlen

PRELUDE

Lift High the Cross

Arr. Boone

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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!**

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

C: **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 verdant 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.**

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

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!

HYMN Red hymnal #449

We Know that Christ is Raised

KYRIE

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

C: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever.

Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GREETING / PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

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.**

P: Let us pray together the Prayer of the Day.

C: **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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC Adena Brass

Be Thou My Vision

Traditional Arr: Gallehue

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

R: ²⁶Then 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.) 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.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31

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

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

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

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

R: 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.

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

R: 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

R: 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.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C: **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to **John 15:1-8**

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: [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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON Pastor Sally Padgett

HYMN Red hymnal #379

Now the Green Blade Rises

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Let us confess our faith.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 again to judge the living and the dead. 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (*Response after each petition*)

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer....

OFFERING—INVITATION—God’s Work Continues

OFFERTORY SONG Red hymnal #691 *Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring*

C: 1. Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place upon your table. We do not worship as we ought but only as we’re able.
2. The vines were planted, seeds were sown. They grew in Your good pleasure. What once was common, daily food becomes a holy treasure.

COMMUNION PREFACE

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.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to You, almighty and merciful God...(The pastor continues with the proper preface for the day)...And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

SANCTUS Red hymnal page 144

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER / WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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 *(All who confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior and believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament are invited to receive Holy Communion.)*

AGNUS DEI Red hymnal page 146

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.

POST COMMUNION HYMN #207

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

**C: Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.
Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of
Christ. Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

BLESSING

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.

HYMN Red hymnal #881

Let All Things Now Living