

**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church  
The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 28, 2024  
Service of Holy Communion**

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**PRELUDE**

**GATHERING**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity+ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.  
**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, 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 verdant rivers. Your ark carried your creation through the flood and 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!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

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.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**GATHERING SONG**

*"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"*

#377

1. **Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!**
2. **Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open our eyes;  
breaking our bread, giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!**
3. **Jesus the vine, we are the branches; life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;  
heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing to me.  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!**
4. **Weeping be gone; sorrow be silent: death put asunder, and Easter is bright.  
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open! Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!**
5. **City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,  
river of life, saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM!  
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**GREETING**

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

*"This Is the Feast"*

p.140-141

*Refrain:* **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. *Refrain:***

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,  
and honor, blessing and glory are his. *Refrain:***

**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. *Refrain:***

**For the Lamb who was slain  
has begun his reign. Alleluia! *Refrain:***

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together. 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.**

**WORD****CHILDREN'S MESSAGE****FIRST READING**

Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road). 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 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. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, May I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 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?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, when down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 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 rejoicing. But Philip found himself as Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 22:25-31**(5:30/8:00)

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord.**

**May your hearts live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

**For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.**

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

**Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.**

**SR. CHOIR ANTHEM** (10:30)

“The Glory of God”

By Raney

**SECOND READING**

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he is us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 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. 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. 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. We love because he first loved us. 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**GOSPEL**

John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Pastor Ann Marshall

**HYMN OF THE DAY***"O Blessed Spring"*

#447

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 lifegiving Tree.**
2. **Through summer heat of youthful years, uncertain faith, rebellious tears, sustain by Christ's infusing rain, the boughs will shout for joy again.**
3. **When autumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their heavy harvest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will move with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.**
4. **As winter comes, as winter's must, we breathe our last, return to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take wing and trust the promise of the spring.**
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.**

**NICENE CREED**

With the whole church let us confess our faith:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
 who has spoken through the prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

*(brief silence)*

*Petitions end:* Lord in your mercy, **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.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TEMPLE TALK

### MEAL

### OFFERING SONG

*"Come to the Table of Mercy"*

#481

**Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.  
 All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed.  
 Come at the Lord's invitation; receive from his nail scarred hand.  
 Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.**

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. 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 *(sung)*

p.144

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...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***(sung)* 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.**

p. 144

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

*"Lamb of God"*

p. 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.**

*"Where Charity and Love Prevail"*

#359

- 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.**

*"Awake, O Sleeper"*

#452

- 1. Awake, O sleeper, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;  
so learn his love, its length and breadth, its fullness, depth, and height.**
- 2. To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear release,  
to give the Spirit's unity, the very bond of peace.**
- 3. There is one body and one hope, one Spirit and one call,  
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, one God who made us all.**
- 4. Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;  
with kind and gentle hearts forgive as God in Christ forgave.**
- 5. For us Christ lived, for us he died, and conquered in the strife.  
Awake, arise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.**

### **TABLE BLESSING**

*At the conclusion: Amen.*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*At the conclusion: Amen.*

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

*At the conclusion: Amen.*

### SENDING SONG

*"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"*

#367

1. **Now all the vault of heav'n resounds in praise of love that still abounds:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear! Repeat their song of glory here:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
2. **Eternal is the gift he brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Now still he comes to give us life and by his presence stills all strife.  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
3. **Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; set heart and will on things above  
that we conquer through your triumph;  
grant grace sufficient for life's day that by our lives we truly say:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
4. **Adoring praises now we bring and with the heav'nly blessed sing:  
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"  
Be to the Father, and our Lord, to Spirit blest, most holy God,  
All the glory, never ending! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

### DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace Rejoice and be glad.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### POSTLUDE