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

ELW Service of the Word

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Good morning!!**

We begin our service with our gathering hymn-

**Gathering Song*There in God’s Garden* (ELW 342)**

**ANNOUNCMENTS-**

Welcome to worship on this 5th Sunday of Easter.

Messengers are available in your inbox, mailbox and mail slot at the back of the church. return on Wednesday afternoon.

Pastor Leanne returns on Wednesday afternoon.

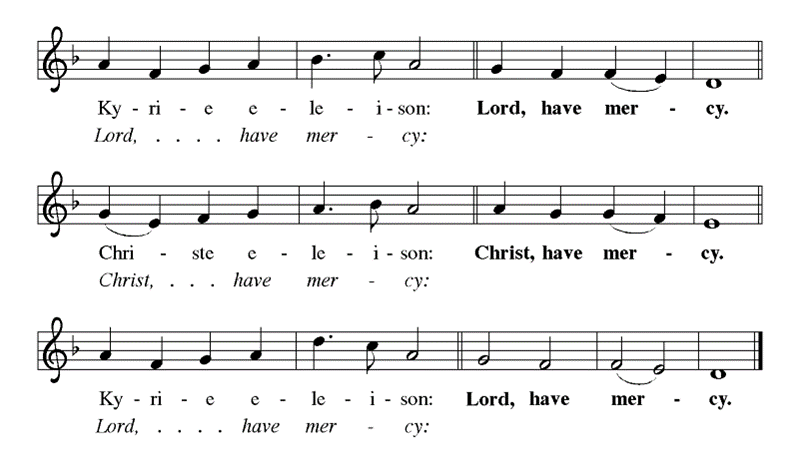
Next Sunday we will gather for a soup and sandwich lunch after the service. Please bring something to put into the soup or some sandwiches. Dessert is also welcomed!



**Greeting (ELW p. 213)**

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.**

**Kyrie (ELW p. 213)**



**Canticle of Praise (ELW p. 213)**

**Glory to God, glory to God,** **glory to God in the highest;**

**glory to God, glory to God,** **and peace to God’s people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,** **almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you,** **we give you thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,** **glory to God in the highest;**

**glory to God, glory to God,** **and peace to God’s people on earth.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,** **only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,** **you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:** **receive our prayer.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,** **glory to God in the highest;**

**glory to God, glory to God,** **and peace to God’s people on earth.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord,** **you alone are the Most High,**

**Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,** **in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Glory to God, glory to God,** **glory to God in the highest;**

**glory to God, glory to God,** **and peace to God’s people on earth,**

**and peace to God’s people on earth.**

**Prayer of the Day (ELW p. 215)**

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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Word**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**First Reading: Acts 8:26-40**

A reading from Acts.

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31**

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**

A reading from 1 John.

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation (ELW p. 216)**

A sheet music with notes

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**Gospel: John 15:1-8**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 1“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon (ELW p. 217)**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**Hymn of the Day*O Blessed Spring* (ELW 447)**

A sheet music with text and notes

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**Apostles Creed (ELW p. 217)**

With the whole church let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed.

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

**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.**

**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 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. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, provincial, and federal leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. In dangerous places and war zones: of Gaza, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Chad, Haiti and Myanmar, protect the innocent, insure justice and mercy, truth and freedom. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering with disease or injury especially Vivian, Chris, Elizabeth, Zoli, Felix, Jill, Doug, Teresa, Lyla, Sarah, Gwen, Will, our members in long term care, Bea, Evelyn and Rob and those we name either out loud or in the silence of our hearts*.*... God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. 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.**

**Peace (ELW p. 217)**

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

*The assembly is seated.*

**offering**

Trevor will play and Don Hammer will collect the offering and bring to front while the congregation sings the Offertory.

**Offertory- let the vineyards- (ELW 182)**

A sheet music with text

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**offering prayer**

Blessed are you, o god, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through jesus christ, our savior and lord. **Amen.**

**Canticle of Thanksgiving (ELW p. 219)**



**Thanksgiving for the Word**

Praise to you, O God, for your Word of life: creating a wondrous universe, proclaiming freedom from captivity, becoming the song of your people.

We praise you, O God, for your Word.

Your Word is made flesh among us: with Mary in the garden, you call us by name.

With Thomas beholding your wounds, you call us to believe. With sheep of other folds, we are gathered by your voice.

Your Word names our death and our life: a seed that falls into the earth and dies,

rain and snow that come down from heaven to water the earth,  a vine in which we abide. Through your Word, you appoint us to bear fruit, fruit that will last.

We bless you, O God, for your Word.

By your living Word, we are witnesses of these things. Breathe into us your Holy Spirit. Open our minds to understand the scriptures.

Give us wisdom to declare what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes,

what we have looked at and touched with our hands concerning the word of life.

Fill us with strength to love, not in word or speech alone, but in truth and action.

With every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, we join in the hymn of all creation, as

we thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word. Amen.

**Lord’s Prayer (ELW p. 221)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**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 Song*****Let All Things Now Living* (ELW 881)**



**Dismissal**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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