

# Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

## April 28, 2024

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Rev. Joleen Gleasman**

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Member of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
(ELCA – [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org))



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## All Are Welcome – All the Time!

You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to participate in any part of worship.

If you wish to take communion, we ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus.

His body and blood were given and shed for you.



Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God's love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer. We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us. It is in our welcome which we commit ourselves to being an anti-racist space, a space where we seek daily to deepen our work of inclusion in the life of our church. Our unity is in Christ. All are welcome here.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS & SHARING OF PRAYER CONCERNS**

*By Kathy Davis, who will provide updated Prayers of Intercession*

## **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.*

*– Silence for reflection –*

*Most merciful God,*

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,  
by what we have done and what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may  
delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together in Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in our hearts. **Amen.**

## **SONG: We Know that Christ Is Raised, ELW #449**

*(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal, vs. 1, 2, 3, 5)*

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!

We share by water in his saving death.  
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life,  
as living members of our Savior Christ. Hallelujah!

The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.  
The Spirit's vision shakes the church of God.  
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One. Hallelujah!

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!

## **GREETING**

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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**

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.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the 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, went 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 his way rejoicing. 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.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 22:25-31**

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.**

## **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 abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in 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. here 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 a brother or sister 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.*

– *Please stand as you are able* –

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SUNG) – ELW 172**

**Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Halle, halle, halle – lujah.  
Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!**

### **THE GOSPEL – John 15:1-8**

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*(Jesus said:)* "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 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.

*The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.*

### **SERMON – Rev. Joleen Gleasman**

## **SONG: If You but Trust in God to Guide You, ELW #769**

*(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)*

If you but trust in God to guide you, with gentle hand through all your ways,  
you'll find that God is there beside you, when crosses come, in trying days.  
Trust then in God's unchanging love; build on the rock that will not move.

What gain is there in anxious weeping, in helpless anger and distress?  
If you are in your Savior's keeping, in sorrow will he love you less?  
For Christ who took for you a cross, will bring you safe through every loss.

The Lord our restless hearts is holding, in peace and quietness content.  
We rest in God's good will unfolding, what wisdom from on high has sent.  
God, who has chosen us by grace, knows very well the fears we face.

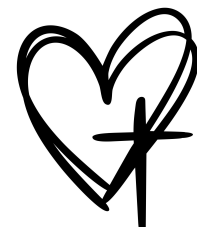
Sing, pray and keep God's way unswerving; Offer your service faithfully.  
Trust heaven's word; though undeserving, you'll find God's promise true to be.  
This is our confidence indeed: God never fails in time of need.

## **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** *(on separate sheet)*

*Hear us, O God... Your mercy is great.*



## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.*  
– Please share a greeting or sign of peace –

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks & praise.**



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION *(not printed/Presider's book on altar)*

### 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.

### DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AT THE FRONT

**All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.** You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are interested will be invited by an usher to come up the center aisle to the front to select a single-serving Communion kit from the tray, or to receive a blessing. Then return to your seat via the side aisle to open the kit and partake in Communion. An usher will offer a basket to collect the container. *For those worshipping at home, please consider joining in Holy Communion by taking a bit of bread or cracker and a sip of wine or juice.* **All are welcome.**

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

### BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



## **SONG: Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!, ELW #377**

*(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal, verses 1, 2, 3, 5)*

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!**

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!**

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!**

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!**

## **DISMISSAL**

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

Go in peace! Serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Thank you for supporting our Birthday Bash & Bazaar!**
- **Mother's Day Bag Creation TODAY after worship!** – Sue's Pantry asked if we could create a treat for the many women she serves. After worship, we will assemble the bags, including a note of encouragement. Thank you to Holly for gathering and purchasing all of the items, and then delivering to Sue throughout the year. If you would like to donate toward the cost of the items, please reach out to Holly ([HollySJ@earthlink.net](mailto:HollySJ@earthlink.net)). Thank you.
- **Caring Hands** – April TBD, May 18, June 15 from 9 to noon. Meetings break for summer, but work continues - reach out if you would like patterns or ideas ([CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com](mailto:CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com))
- **Lay Leadership Day** – May 18 from 9a to 1:30 p.m. at Our Savior's, Naperville. Sessions on Climate Justice, Stewardship of Space, Leadership & Equipping, Church Governance - and includes your lunch! Only \$10! Sponsored by the Carlmark Fund (thanks, Nan Carlmark Dahlke). (<https://bit.ly/4cZ2IoD>)
- **MCSELCA Synod Assembly** – June 1 in St. Charles. ([MCSELCA.org](http://MCSELCA.org))
- **Encampment Collection** – Thank you to all who contributed to our deliveries to the Chicago homeless encampment near Pastor Pdraig's house. We continue to collect blankets/sleeping bags (new or gently used/clean), socks, hand warmers, gloves, feminine products, and Mariano's gift cards (store closest to camp).
- **Sanctuary Support** – For asylum seekers living in Chicago shelters. New wishlist diapers, formula, coats, children's clothes (baby to teen), children's/adult cold medicines, cough drops, Advil,/Tylenol, shoes, coats, strollers, book bags, suitcases, storage bins with lids.
- **Sue's Pantry** – Looking for small sizes of flour, cooking oil, sugar. Also anything needed to keep a home and family clean – dish soap, laundry detergent, body wash, shampoo.
- **Love INC** – Housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Want to learn more? Have a child or family in need of a bundle of clothes or housewares? Give the details to Natalie she will get us covered! (Thanks, Natalie.)
- **COOL Ministries** – We support the COOL pantry in Waukegan as well as Vernon Township Pantry with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway or give online.
- **BSA Troop 273** – Thank you for supporting our partner Scouts as they have supported us. **Looking to restart Cub Scout Pack 273!** Children/families ages Kindergarten through 4th grade are encouraged to reach out to Theresa ([tcalabrese98@gmail.com](mailto:tcalabrese98@gmail.com)).
- **Prayer concerns?** Please consider reaching out so that our network of Prayer Warriors can pray. You may remain anonymous. Please email [ChristLutheranVH@aol.com](mailto:ChristLutheranVH@aol.com) with your request. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Team, please send an email.
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** Your presence in worship is very important. Thank you for being part of this community of faith. If you would like to support the efforts of this community, we welcome donations, which can be provided by credit card or Paypal through the link at the bottom of our webpage, [ChristLutheranVH.org](http://ChristLutheranVH.org). Thank you.