GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

page 97

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

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. 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 water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The service continues with gathering song. As a reminder of the gift of baptism, the assembly may be sprinkled with water during the singing.

*GATHERING SONG There In God's Garden #342 There God's den stands the Tree of Wis dom, in gar -1 ior!" 2 Its name is Je sus. name that says, "Our Sav -3 Thorns not its own are tan gled in its fo liage; -4 See how its branch - es reach in come; to us wel whose leaves hold forth heal - ing of the tions: the na _ the scars of f'ring; There on its branch - es see suf _ greed has starved de - spite has choked our it, our it. hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea ry! Tree of Tree all knowl edge, of all com drils see there the ten of our hu man Yet, look! lives! grief it its has not de _ sick Give me your ness, give me all your 0 0 $\mathbf{\Omega}$ Tree all sion, of pas _ beau ty. self _ feed blood. hood on its life stroved it nor fire con sumed it. ing." sor row, I will give bless 5 This is my ending 6 All heav'n is singing, this my resurrection; "Thanks to Christ whose passion into your hands, Lord, offers in mercy I commit my spirit. healing, strength, and pardon. This have I searched for: Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!" now I can possess it. This ground is holy. Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982 Music: Shades Mountain, K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

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*GREETING

A 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.** *Hold a brief silence.*

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

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

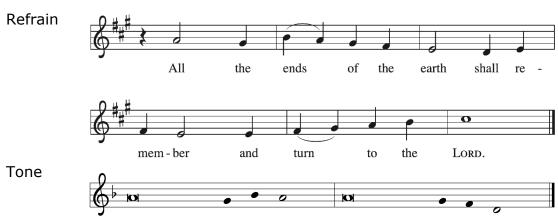
FIRST READING

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 Philip got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the gueen 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. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The eunuch 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 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.

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

Psalm 22:25-31



²⁵From you comes my praise in the I great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who I fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat ¹ 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.

²⁸For dominion belongs | to the LORD,

who rules o- ver 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 be- ' fore the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,

whom they shall proclaim to genera- I tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn, saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" **R**

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 into the world God's only Son so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the 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 God's love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because we have been given of God's own Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent the 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 the Son 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 God first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a member of the community are liars, for those who do not love a person, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love the members of the family also.

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

All sing the alleluias. Choir sings the proper verse.



Alleluia. I am the vine, you | are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them | bear much fruit. Alleluia

(John 15:5)

*GOSPEL

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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. My Father removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit my Father 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."

After the reading:

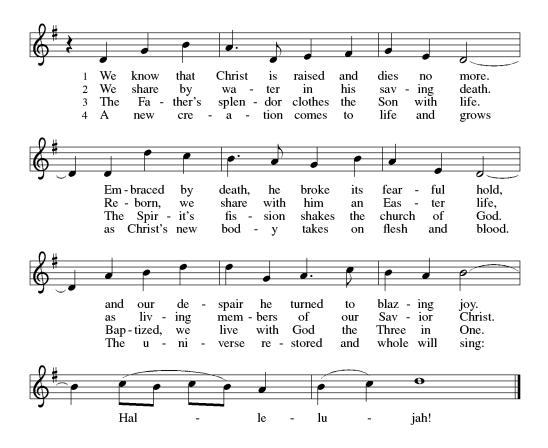
The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

*HYMN OF THE DAY

We Know That Christ Is Raised #449



Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924 Text © John B. Geyer.

***NICENE CREED**

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 worshiped 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.

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 (*local bodies of water may be named*). 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, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. 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 (*especially*).

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, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.** *We greet one another with a sign of peace. Please be mindful of touch.*

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church. Our offering at Christ Ascension goes to support our ministries as well as those of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. If you want to give electronically, you may do so using the DONATE tab on our website: christascension.org, or by scanning the QR Code. For those physically present in worship, an offering plate is near the entrance on the information table.



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

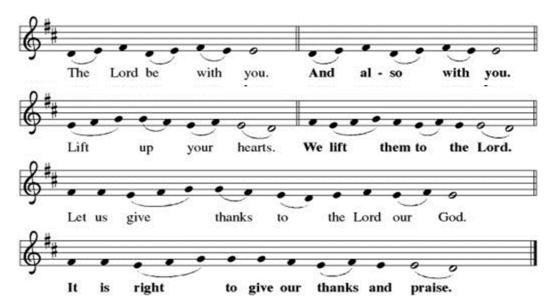
***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Hold a brief silence.

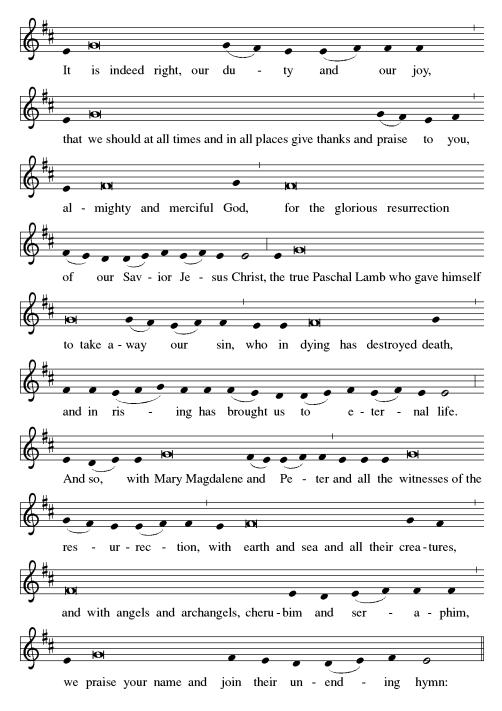
Risen One,

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.

*DIALOGUE

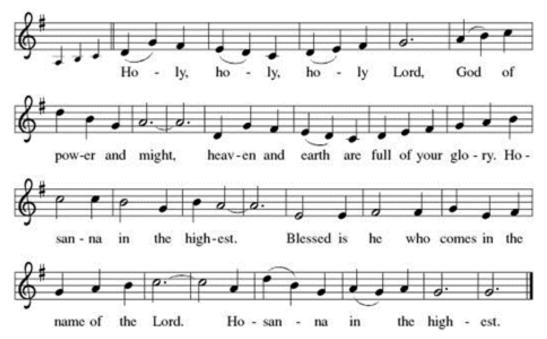


*PREFACE



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*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With [<u>name/s and</u>] your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

*LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

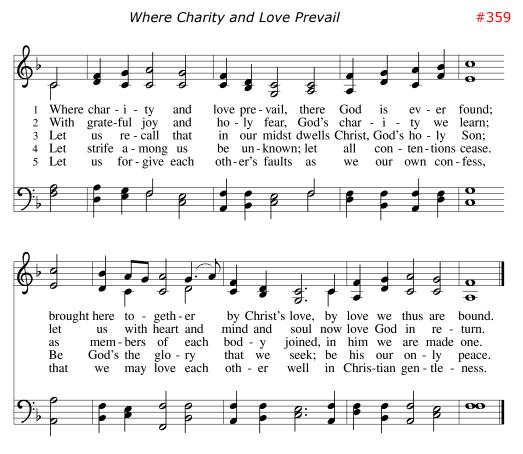
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

COMMUNION

This is Christ's Table and Christ himself is present when we share this Meal. All Christians are welcome to receive the bread and wine, Christ's body and blood, given and shed for the sake of the world. Wine, with a grape juice alternative, is offered by pouring chalice. Take a small cup from the tray. Receive the bread in your open palm. Hold your cup steadily for the assisting minister to pour into. You may stand there to drink. When you return to your seat, please dispose of the cup in the bowl provided. For those who desire it, gluten-free bread is available; indicate your desire to the presiding minister. For those who would like to participate, but not to receive bread or wine, please come forward for a blessing. Indicate this desire by crossing your arms in front of you. If you are unable to come forward and would like Communion brought to you in your seat, let the usher know.

SONGS DURING DISTRIBUTION



Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt. Music: TWENTY–FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842 Text © 1960 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All Rights Reserved.



TABLE BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Hold a brief silence.

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.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt. Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the renewal of Christ! Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-Congregational Meeting today (4/28) after worship in Kimes Hall

Watering and Campus Maintenance:

The Becks will be away from April 22 through May 5th so we will need some volunteers to water the potted plants and take the trash and recycling to the curb.Trash and recycling go out Tuesday evening to Germantown Avenue for Wednesday pick up and then Trash goes out to Southampton on Thursday evening for Friday pick up.

Rummage Sale During the Chestnut Hill Home and Garden Festival May 5th

CALC and CAPS will be teaming up for a rummage sale during the Chestnut Hill Garden Festival. Please drop off any items that you have to sell before the day of the sale and store them in the barn. There will be space marked off for the items. We also need volunteers to organize the event and work the day of the sale. If you can help, please contact Barbara Kaufmann: <u>barbarakaufman@yahoo.com</u>

Coffee Hour

Starting Sunday May 12th. Coffee hours will be hosted by congregational members who sign up on a sign up sheet. If there is nobody signed up the coffee hour will be a pot luck.

Book Group

Book group is reading **The Pursuit of Happiness: How Classical Writers on Virtue Inspired the Lives of the Founders and Defined America** by Jeffrey Rosen. "The Declaration of Independence identified "the pursuit of happiness" as one of our unalienable rights, along with life and liberty.

LEADING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

PRESIDING MINISTER AND PREACHER	Pastor Janet Peterman
ASSISTING MINISTER	Merri Brown
MUSICIAN	CHARLOTTE PAKAN
LECTOR	Donna Echols
USHER	GORDON GERHART
Altar Guild	GORDON GERHART

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- ELW #449 We Know that Christ Is Raised Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932 Music: Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924 Text © John B. Geyer
- ELW #372 Christ Is Arisen Text: German hymn, c. 1100; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909-1967 Music: J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543 Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House
- ELW #359 Where Charity and Love Prevail Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt. Music: attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760-1842 Text © 1960 World Library Publications
- ELW #751 O Lord, Hear My Prayer Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé community, adapt. Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994 Text and music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.
- ELW #881 Let All Things Now Living Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt. Music: Welsh folk tune Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company