

## SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**  
“O Blessed Spring”

ELW Hymn 447

**\*NICENE CREED**

ELW Page 104

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

... 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 the Risen Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY**

“If Ye Love Me” by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

**\*OFFERING SONG**

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

ELW Hymn 184

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

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.**

## MEAL

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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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.**

...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: “Holy, Holy, Holy”**

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...we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

...let the church say “Amen!”  
**Amen.**

...all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*LORD’S PRAYER**

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**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*At the direction of the usher, please come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisles. Gluten-free bread is available upon request, and you may choose wine (glass) or alcohol-free juice (stainless steel). To receive communion at your seat, simply notify an usher. All who seek to receive Jesus in bread and cup are welcome to dine at this table.*

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

“Lamb of God”

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“Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”

ELW Hymn 403

**\*TABLE BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace. **Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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

**\*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 HYMN**

“Let All Things Now Living” ELW Hymn 881

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

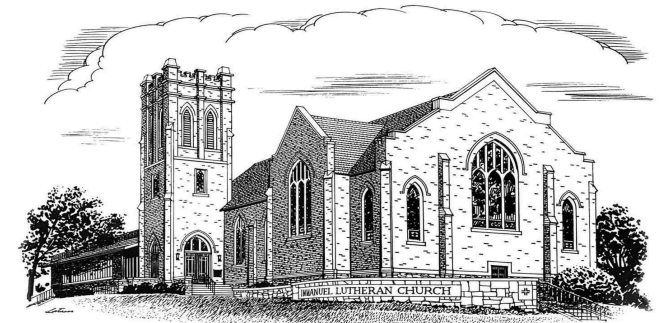
"Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr," by Johann Gottfried Walther  
(1684-1748)  
Based on ELW 410

## Welcome to Worship

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# Fifth Sunday of Easter

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**April 28, 2024**  
**10:00 a.m.**



**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

April 28, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Find page numbers in the front of the ELW (red hymnal), and hymns in the back.

Setting 4 begins on page 147

**Bold**=All

\*Please stand as you are able

**PRELUDE**

"Sonata in D Major, K. 491 / L. 164," by Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**\*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. 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.

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 HYMN**

**"We Know That Christ Is Raised"**

**ELW Hymn 449**

**\*GREETING**

May 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"**

**ELW Page 149**

**\*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.**

**WORD**

**FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40**

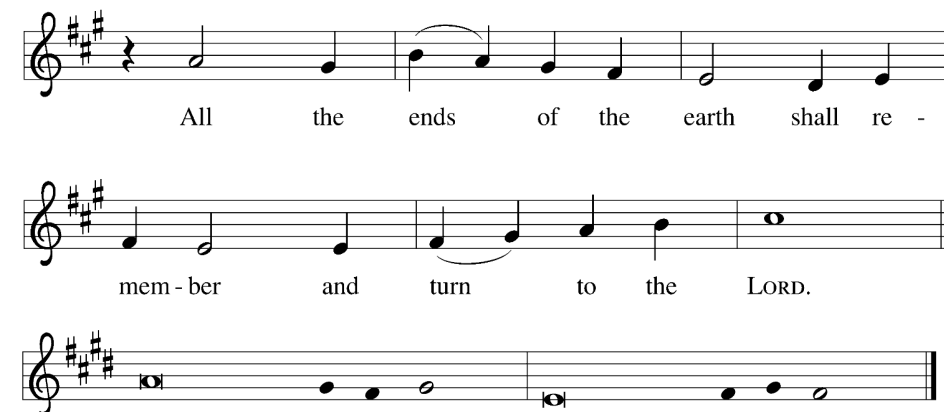
26An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) 27So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. 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.**

**PSALMODY: 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.

**26The 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.

**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- | 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**

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 Page 151**

**\*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.**