

# St. John's Lutheran Church

Norfolk, Nebraska



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

8:30 A.M.

Pastor Randy Rasmussen

**Sunday, April 28, 2024 – 8:30 AM**

**Gathering Together**

Welcome to God's grace – where the world's labels don't apply.

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Step into God's time and presence. Hear God's gentle whisper: "Be still and know that I am God." Let your body and mind rest and open your heart to God in worship and prayer. Welcome each other in the love of Christ. Extend hospitality to those new in our midst. "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice in it!"

**GATHERING MUSIC & RINGING OF THE BELL**

**PRAYER TREE**

**TODAY'S WORSHIP THEME**

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Stand

**GATHERING HYMN: "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!" ELW #377, Verses 1, 2, 5**

**GREETING**

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 Page 138**

**GLORY TO GOD Page 139**

**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.**

# HEARING THE WORD

God speaks to us in scriptures sung, read, and proclaimed.

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## FIRST READING Acts 8:26-40

A reading from Acts

*After the reading:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-21

A reading from 1 John

*After the reading:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## STAND

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL READING John 15:1-8

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading:*

The gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Pastor Randy Rasmussen

## SERMON Pastor Randy Rasmussen

Stand

**HYMN OF THE DAY: "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death" ELW #452,  
Verses 1, 4, 5**

## NICENE CREED

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We invite you to greet one another in the name of the Lord and share the gift of Christ's peace.*

## SHARING THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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*SIT*

## GATHERING OF THE OFFERING

### 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.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## ACCLAMATION OF FAITH

Together we acclaim our faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

## **“LAMB OF GOD”**

### **COMMUNION**

*All are welcome to eat & drink at the Lord's Table. Jesus Christ is present in the bread & wine. Come and eat! Holy Communion is at two stations below the altar. Following the usher's direction, please proceed down the center aisle toward the altar.*

*If you require a gluten-free wafer, please request one from the pastor at the altar during communion. Red wine and white grape juice are available in each tray of cups. After communing, you may return to your seat down the side aisle. If you would like to receive the Lord's Supper where you are seated, please tell the usher, who will ensure the gifts of God come to you.*

**COMMUNION HYMN: “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling” ELW #608**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

## **SENT FORTH TO SERVE**

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

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

**SENDING HYMN: “Let All Things Now Living” ELW #881**

### **SENDING**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**