

THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

Fifth Sunday of Easter

SUNDAY, April 28, 2024 10:00AM

REGULAR PRINT = PRESIDING MINISTER OR ASSISTING MINISTER

BOLD PRINT = CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES

✠ = AT VARIOUS POINTS THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE, THE SIGN OF THE CROSS MAY BE MADE BY ALL IN REMEMBRANCE OF THEIR BAPTISM

The red EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP service book and hymnal is used for the liturgy.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(We Stand)

*Words to be spoken or sung by the assembly are indicated in **bold type**.*

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who redeems us in Christ Jesus,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
and our neighbors.**

**We have ignored voices
that call for your justice.**

**We have neglected actions
that witness to your righteousness.**

**We have spoken and acted
in ways that disrupt your beloved community.**

**We truly repent of things we have done
and left undone.**

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Restore our troubled spirits,
so that we may live in newness,
follow the way of the Spirit,
and build up the body of Christ.**

Amen.

Rejoice and be glad!

God hears the prayers of all who cry out,
and restores us to life through the death
and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN FOR GATHERING

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

ELW 859

Joachim Neander, 1650-1680;
tr. Augsburg Fortress, 2000

Ernewerten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665;
Harm. W Sterndale Bennett, 1827-1878



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the God of cre - a - tion!
2. Praise the Al - might - y, o'er all life so won-drous-ly reign - ing,
3. Praise the Al - might - y, who pros-pers your work and de - fends you;
4. Praise the Al - might - y! In won - der my spir - it is soar - ing!



My heart is long - ing to of - fer up sweet ad - o - ra - tion.
And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
See from the heav - ens the show - ers of mer - cy God sends you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es out - pour - ing.



Mel - o - dy make; dul - cim - er, harp, now a - wake.
Have you not seen? All that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do;
Let the a - men sound from God's peo - ple a - gain,



Sound forth your praise, ev' - ry na - tion.
Sent by God's grac - ious or - dain - ing.
In - fin - ite Love here be - friends you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dor - ing! A - men!

Original Lyrics for these verses:

Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren, meine geliebete Seele, das ist mein Begehren.

Kommet zuhauf, Psalter und Harfe, wacht auf, lasset den Lobgesang' hören!

*Lobe den Herren, der alles so herrlich regieret, der dich auf Adellers Fittichen sicher geführt,
der dich erhält, wie es dir selber gefällt; hast du nicht dieses verspürt?*

Lobe den Herren, der deinen Stand sichtbar gesegnet, der aus dem Himmel mit Strömen der Liebe gereget.

Denke daran, was der Allmächtige kann, der dir mit Liebe begegnet.

Lobe den Herren, was in mir ist, lobe den Namen. Alles, was Odem hat, lobe mit Abrahams Samen.

Er ist dein Licht, Seele, vergiss es ja nicht. Lobende, schließe mit Amen!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

II Corinthians 13: 13

And also with you.

God has shown us what is good, and what then is required of us?

**To act justly, to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with our God.**

Micah 6: 8

Jesus says, “Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me,
and anyone who welcomes me
welcomes the One who sent me.”

Matthew 10: 40

The Spirit says, “Come.”

**Let each one who hears the Spirit say, “Come,”
for all are welcome here.**

Revelation 22: 17

In this service, let us draw near to our Reconciling Redeemer,
who knows our hearts and is able to mend our souls,
to strengthen and sustain us,
to reconcile our broken relationships and heal our wounds.

Let us worship God now

With words that proclaim God’s inclusive love,

With works that bring forth God’s powerful justice

And with worship that rejoices in God’s wondrous presence.

Now and always.

Amen!

HYMN OF PRAISE

Now the Feast and Celebration



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

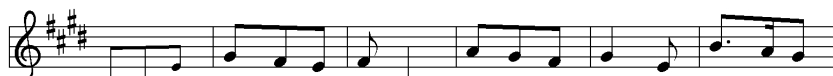


1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

Refrain



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

Refrain



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Refrain

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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The PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

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

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

A reading from Acts.

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31

- ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- ²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!
- ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.
- ²⁸ For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.
- ²⁹ 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.
- ³⁰ Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord
- ³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

SECOND READING: First John 3:16-24

A reading from First John.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Holy Ground

from Worship and Praise #59

Geron Davis

We are stand - ing on ho - ly ground,
And I know that there are an-gels all a - round.
Let us praise Je - sus now.
We are stand - ing in his pres-ence on ho - ly ground.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

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.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Reverend Leroy Cannon

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

Lead Me, Guide Me

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Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;

for if you lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,

to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.

Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

Refrain

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

**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.**

The service then continues with the prayers of intercession.

The PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH and RESPONSE



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

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. 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,

O Lord, hear my 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. 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, ***O Lord, hear my prayer...***

Command your angels concerning all who are sick, especially those we remember silently in our hearts and with voice upon our lips (*pause*); *Becky LeFrage, Fred Mansperger, Bill Barley, Sharon Baldwin, Tracy Hamiter; Connie Pool; Emmy Reeves; Bobbie Prosser; Sarah Trani; H.B. Eleazer; Jeff Harrell; James Deckle; Peg Thompson; Family and friends of Peg Thompson (nephew, Dave Walter; uncle, Eddie Lawson; friend, Vickie Henderson and friend Candy Pennington).* God of grace., God of grace,

O Lord, hear my 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.

The assembly remains standing for sharing the Peace.

PEACE

ELW pg. 106

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you!

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

The OFFERING & OFFERTORY

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Offertory Anthem

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

Choir

Doxology

Praise God for Love that All May Share

Hymns of the Spirit, anonymous, 1937

Louis Bourgeois, 1539

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Praise God for love that all may share. Praise God for beauty ev - ery - where. Praise God for hope of good to be. Praise God for truth that makes us free. A - men.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

PREFACE and SANCTUS

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

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

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - low - ed be your
name, your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our
sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial and de -
liv - er us from e - vil, for the king - dom, the power and the
glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er.

THE COMMUNION OF THE BELOVED

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR WORSHIP IS THIS SHARED MEAL

All are welcome to join us as members of God's family in Christ, as we share in this powerful gift of God's love and grace for the human family. We gather around the altar, kneeling or standing, wherever there is a place. The presiding minister offers wheaten wafers but can provide a gluten free wafer by request at the altar rail. The assisting minister offers individual cups of red wine as well as cups of white grape juice for you to choose. The church affirms our Lord's presence in, with, and under each element alone. If you prefer to commune in your pew with a prepackaged communion set, please alert an usher.

COMMUNION SONG

Love Astounding

HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D

Jeanette Lindholm, 1990, Songs for the Holy Other

William Moore, 1790-1850

1. Love a - stound-ing, Love con - found - ing lim - its fear - ful minds im - pose.
 2. Love re - ceiv - ing, Love be - liev - ing, We re - joice with thanks and song,
 Love re - new - ing, Love pur - su - ing ev' - ery heart un - til it knows
 Faith re - gain - ing, hope pro - claim - ing; Love has taught us, we be - long
 Love's trans - form - ing, heal - ing good - ness, Love's a - bid - ing gen - tle grace,
 Safe with - in Love's ten - der keep - ing, safe from fear's per - sist - ent call.
 Love's en - dur - ance, Love's as - sur - ance, Love's con - sol - ing strong em - brace.
 Love de - fend - ing, Love un - end - ing, Love of God en - fold - ing all.

Jesus, Lamb of God

F C/E Dm F/A Bb F/C C
 Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your
 name;
 Je - sus, Lamb of God,
 wor - thy is your name.

The assembly stands and the presiding minister says a table blessing.

THE TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

A powerful statement about gender and LGBT+ equality from Bishop Tutu
At Southwark Cathedral in London on February 1, 2004, Archbishop Tutu said:

"The Jesus I worship is not likely to collaborate with those who vilify and persecute an already oppressed minority. I myself could not have opposed the injustice of penalizing people for something about which they could do nothing - their race - and then have kept quiet as women were being penalized for something they could do nothing about - their gender, and hence my support inter alia, for the ordination of women to the priesthood and the episcopate.

"And equally, I could not myself keep quiet whilst people were being penalized for something about which they could do nothing, their sexuality. For it is so improbable that any sane, normal person would deliberately choose a lifestyle exposing him or her to so much vilification, opprobrium and physical abuse, even death. To discriminate against our sisters and brothers who are lesbian or gay on grounds of their sexual orientation for me is as totally unacceptable and unjust as Apartheid ever was."

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH IS AN INCLUSIVE, LGBTQIA+ AFFIRMING

congregation that believes Christ calls us to serve others with joy. Safe Space Dinners, a ministry for homeless LGBTQIA+ youth, including people of color. The ministry is simple. On the second and fourth Thursday of each month, these youth (14-23 years old) are offered a safe space and time to gather for a time to rest and recharge, a home-cooked meal, a haircut, and a backpack of items they will find helpful in their day-to-day life. There are always a number of gamesto play, including video games. Sometimes we have entertainment from the community. There is no preaching, no conversion therapy attempts; only support and comfort. This is a ministry of giving – nothing more.



OPPORTUNITIES of WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

In Person Sunday Worship Livestream - 10:00 am-11:00 am www.reformationcae.org

Coffee Hour is held after the worship service in the Reformation Fellowship Hall.

Wired Word is held via Zoom on Mondays at 7:30 pm.

ZOOM ID - 861 5915 0341