



Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church **Fifth**  
**Sunday after Easter**  
April 27 & 28, 2024

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Introduction**

*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**

*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,  
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 SONG - #660 Lift High the Cross**

### **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.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

### **WORD**

#### **First Reading: Acts 8:26-40**

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by*

<sup>26</sup>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.) <sup>27</sup>So 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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>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.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>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?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>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: Psalm 22:25-31**

**R** All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (*Ps.* 22:27)

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the <sup>l</sup>great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who <sup>l</sup>fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat <sup>l</sup>and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts <sup>l</sup>live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn <sup>l</sup>to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow <sup>l</sup>before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs <sup>l</sup>to the LORD,  
who rules o-<sup>l</sup>ver the nations. R**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow <sup>l</sup>down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be-<sup>l</sup>fore the  
LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall <sup>l</sup>serve the LORD,**

**whom they shall proclaim to genera-<sup>l</sup>tions to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people <sup>l</sup>yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The <sup>l</sup>LORD has acted!" R

### **Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21**

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those 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. <sup>21</sup>The 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.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: John 15:1-8**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they <sup>4</sup> would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from <sup>Page</sup> him, they can do nothing.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY – #367 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds**

#### **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 into hell.  
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

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.**

## **SHARING OF PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Our faithful teacher Jesus gave us the words we need to bring us back to God and our God-given selves when he taught us to pray:

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

*All who desire communion on this day are welcome to commune with us and partake in the promise of eternal life by Jesus Christ himself. In solidarity with our siblings in recovery, we use non-alcoholic wine. Please indicate if you would like a gluten free communion wafer. If you do not wish to take communion, you are still invited to ask Pastor for a blessing before you leave. Traditionally, those who commune are baptized into the Christian faith. If you are not baptized and would like to learn more about what it*

*means to be baptized and share in the meal at the 7  
Lord's Supper Table, please talk with Pastor Lon.*

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## **COMMUNION HYMN - #496 One Bread, One Body**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.  
**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 - #836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

### DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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**Please remember the following people in your prayers:** Marlene Robbins, Norm Livermore, Tara Henry, Craig, Ray Berg, Anne Balko, Arlene Posont, Jonnie True, Jack Cocoran, Gary, Paul Goodburn, Jane & Dennis, Kristy Beaverson, Becky Bowler, Tom, Pastor Tera, Jason Dusseault, Ryan Gipp, David Wertanen, John, George, Jacob Rosenberg, Josh Farmer, Paul Baij, Dave, Janet, Cameron, Myra Bezzi, Linda Pietila, Pat Ely, Duke Snyder, Liza, Lee Cherry, Karen Couture, Bernice, Tom True, Mike H., Blair, Todd Burns, Babe Stimac, Brittany Brock, and family of Marlene Robbins.

***Nursing Home:*** Nan (Taube) Bornslaeger

***Assisted Living:*** Norma Secreast

***In Service:*** Craig Oas, Zac Culter, Mike Knickerbocker, Peter Peterson, Mathew Moilanen, Mikala Robinson, and our veterans who have returned to their communities.

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** Pastor Lon Hider

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** George Balko – Sat. Volunteer – Sun.

**USHERS:** Volunteer – Sat. Volunteer – Sun. **FELLOWSHIP**

**HOSTS:** Volunteer

**ALTAR GUILD:** Karen Derwin

**MUSICIAN:** Matt Tulla

### **EVENTS OF THE WEEK**

**Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – Saturday Worship Service 5:00pm – In person Sunday,**

**May 5<sup>th</sup>- Sunday Worship Service 10:30am-In person & Facebook**



**GIVE USING VANCO ONLINE OR IN THE APP**

You can now use Vanco to give online or using the mobile app. Make a one-time gift, or set up a recurring offering.



**Morning Prayer Group meets on Wednesdays at 10:00am.**

**The Feeding America truck will be at Eden on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Volunteers are always welcome. Distribution runs from 12-2pm.**

**Please support our Youth Fund by dropping off returnable cans and bottles to the church.**

**CHURCH CONTACT INFO:** Please note the email addresses you should use for contacting the office and the pastor.

Office: [eden@jamadots.com](mailto:eden@jamadots.com)

Pastor: [lonhider@gmail.com](mailto:lonhider@gmail.com)

Please be sure to update your email contacts to use these email addresses. Former addresses will no longer be used, and you should get an email response 9

through your email provider stating that the message cannot be sent.<sup>page</sup>

**In addition, if you have changed any of your contact information (address, phone, email),** please complete the directory update form in narthex or contact the church office to update your information.

**For Pastoral Care needs,** please contact Pastor Lon Hider at 906-450-3258, or [lonhider@gmail.com](mailto:lonhider@gmail.com)

