

Peace Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 9:00 a.m.



GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME!

Thank you for joining in Worship today.

Whether you regularly worship here, are here for the first time, or are returning after a time away, your presence here is important for the worship we offer to the glory of God. May your experience of God's love be a blessing in your life.

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.

Welcome & Announcements to Prepare Us for Worship

Litany of Resurrection *(Please stand as you are able.)*

Out of the darkness of grief and despair comes a message of hope.

Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed.**

We run to the tomb to see for ourselves. And it is true.

Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed.**

We hear a voice call our name, and we know our risen Lord is with us now and always. Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Thanks be to God.**



“Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing,” ELW 389 vs 1-4

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.**

“This is the Feast,” ELW p. 140 (front of hymnal)

REFRAIN: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. **REFRAIN**

Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing and glory are his. **REFRAIN**

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation.
Blessing, honor, glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. **REFRAIN**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The 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.**

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.

...the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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.

...the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** *(Please stand as you are able.)*

“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil,” ELW 512

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter...**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.”

Glory to you, O Lord...**Praise to you, O Christ.** *(Please be seated.)*

Sermon - “The Jesus Connection”, Pastor Grant Quever

Please stand as you are able.



“O Master, Let Me Walk With You,” ELW 676

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, 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.)*

Each petition ends with: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Birthdays 4/28-5/4: Gary Schildt

We pray for Shirley Berndt and Bill Goulding.

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 the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Share the peace with each other as you are comfortable.

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.**

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 him thanks and praise.**

Preface

“Holy, Holy,” ELW p. 144 (front of hymnal)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution & Lord’s Prayer (traditional)

“Let the Vineyards be Fruitful,” ELW 182

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.

Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Invitation to Communion

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God’s table. *(Please come forward and surround the altar.)*

Post-Communion Song - “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise,” ELW 207



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Post-Communion Prayer

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.**

Blessing *(Please stand as you are able.)*

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.**



“O Zion, Haste,” ELW 668

Announcements for the Good of All

Offering – please place your gifts in the baskets in the back of the Sanctuary.

Dismissal - Grow in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Peace Lutheran Announcements

Pastor Grant Quever – Phone: (262) 332-9300, Email: gquever@wi.rr.com

Church Website: www.peacelutheranburlington.org Church Email: peacelca@gmail.com

Attendance for Sunday, April 21, 2024 – 18 confirmed

General Offerings for Sunday, April 21, 2024 - \$477.00

In Memoriam Offering for John Anderson - \$100.00

Save the Date... You are invited to the 21st Annual Women of Peace Pot-Luck Salad Supper, Wednesday May 15th, 6 p.m., in the Peace fellowship hall. Bring a salad to pass and bring a friend to enjoy an evening of good food and fellowship. Our speaker for the evening will be from the Burlington Historical Society. So that we can adequately plan, a sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex.

Peace Lutheran Yard Signs & Door Hangers... Promote Peace Lutheran Church by displaying a sign in your yard or distributing door hangers in your neighborhood. Items available at church - see a council member.

Peaceful Pitstop... Please consider serving in the hospitality tent at the Burlington Jamboree, which runs the 4 days of Memorial Day weekend (May 24-27). More information can be found in the May Peacepipe. A signup sheet is in the Narthex. Thank you!

Congregational Meeting... The Annual Congregational meeting for Peace Lutheran Church will be held on June 2nd at 10 a.m. The agenda of the meeting will be a review of council member's annual reports, election of council members for 2024-2025, and ratification of the church constitution revisions that were approved at the February 4, 2024 meeting.

Joys and Concerns... If you have any joys and concerns you would like to add to our prayers during worship today, please fill out a 3x5 card found in the Narthex under the bulletin board and hand it to a council member before the service.

Coffee Fellowship... Please join us for coffee and fellowship after worship. Sit, relax, and chat together! The sign-up sheet to host is posted in the Narthex.

Growing Relationships... Please contact Renee Knapton by phone (262-492-0718) or by e-mail at reneeknapton@gmail.com with any joys, sorrows, prayer requests, etc. that you wish shared with fellow members.

Peace Lights and Peacepipe Deadline Dates... Please have all information and/or articles emailed to peacelca@gmail.com by the following dates and times:

- ❖ Peace Lights information for the bulletin emailed by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.
- ❖ Peacepipe articles for April are due the third Saturday of the month

TLC Giving Baskets... The most needed items for March and April are crackers, cereal, peanut butter, and healthy snacks for kids. Thank you!