

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Earth Sunday



Prelude Susan Berg, Organist

Announcements

Opening Songs "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"
Words and Music by Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman CCLI
Song # 6016351 ©Atlas Mountain Songs | Said and Done
Music | sixsteps Music | Thankyou Music |
worshiptogether.com songs CCLI License No. 2032355
Praise Band and Congregation

Chorus:

Bless the Lord, o my soul, o my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, o my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 1

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Chorus

Verse 2

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Chorus

Verse 3

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore
Forevermore

Chorus

Worship Your holy name
Lord , I'll, worship Your holy name

“Above All”

Words and music by Lenny LeBlanc and Paul Baloche
CCLI Song # 2672885 ©1999 Integrity's Hosanna Music |
Len Songs Publishing CCLI License No. 2032355
Praise Band and Congregation

Verse 1

Above all powers, above all kings
Above all nature, and all created things
Above all wisdom, and all the ways of man
You were here before the world began

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross.

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 the water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together ...

C: 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 LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

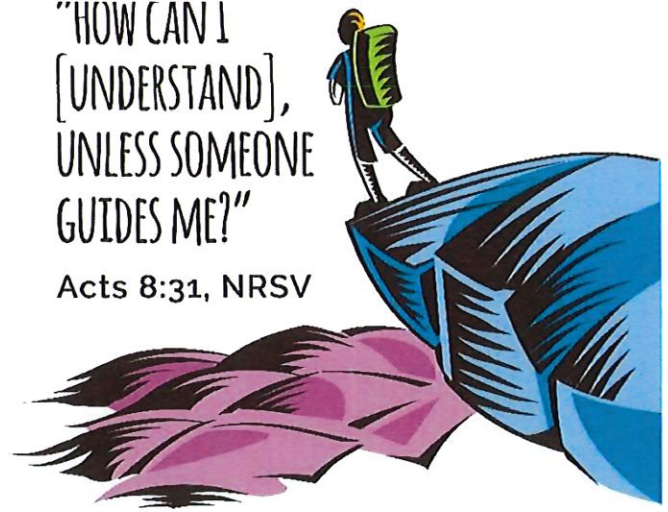
²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south^[a] to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire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

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

“HOW CAN I
[UNDERSTAND],
UNLESS SOMEONE
GUIDES ME?”

Acts 8:31, NRSV



³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ 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?”^[b] ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip^[c] baptized him. ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ 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.

SECOND LESSON

1 John 4:7-21

God Is Love

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.



1 John 4:7, NRSV

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ We love^[a] because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

GOSPEL

John 15:4-8

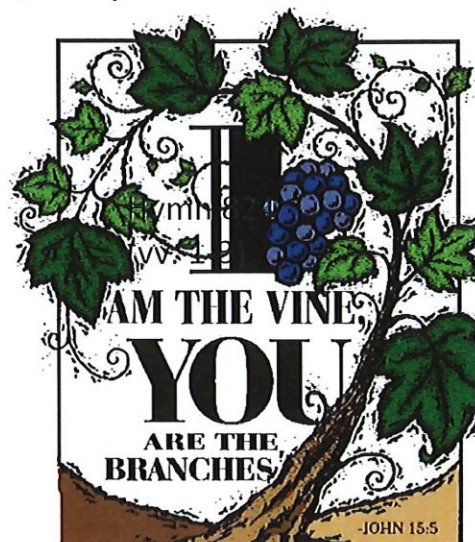
⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become^[a] my disciples.

Sermon

"REMAINING ON THE VINE"

Sermon Hymn

"This Is My Father's World"
Song Leaders and Congregation



Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Holy Father, after the resurrection, our lesson from Acts records the disciples' response to questions from the high priestly family. Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaimed salvation through Jesus Christ to the very people who had crucified God's Son. He said, *"Be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead... the stone which was rejected by you builders, has become the head of the corner... there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*
Lord in your mercy...

Peter's message was affirmed in 1 John, *"And this is [God's] commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us... And we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us."*
Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world that this message of salvation now would be spread throughout the earth by us, just as it was commanded by Jesus to the disciples. He would guide them like a shepherd, as John quoted Jesus' words, *"I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me."* With the resurrection, those who knew Jesus confirmed the story of his life which was full of good deeds and miracles. So today, we who have experienced Him in the 21st century confirm his deity and the truth of his promise of salvation to all people everywhere who believe. **Lord in your mercy...**

Remember this congregation, its pastor and people, as we share the love of Jesus. Touch those who have asked for prayer with healing, comfort and resurrection victory. We name those among us who have asked for prayer. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? **Lord in your mercy...**

Jesus gave us a tangible definition of God's love in 1 John, when he said, *"By this we know love, that [Jesus] laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren... Little children, let us... love in ... deed and in truth."* Those are our marching orders: to love others with God's word and action. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. **Amen.**

CAROLYN T. LINN

Special Music "Manger Throne" by Tony Wood, Jonathan Lindley Smith, Phil Wickmam, Arr. By Jeff Tincher
John Montgomery, Solo

Scripture Reading: John 15:1-8

Nothing is impossible. The word itself says "I'm possible!"

—Audrey Hepburn

I have a love/hate relationship with gardening. I love the *idea* of gardening, but I hate *doing* the gardening.

I enjoy walking through beautiful gardens like the ones you find in the great cities of the U.S. I have visited Butchart Gardens in Victoria, as well as some awesome gardens in Paris, London and Shanghai.

But there's a dark side to gardening I don't like to think about. Today's Bible reading reminds me that gardening is not all fun and games.

The reading is about vines and fruit. It opens with, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower" (v. 1). Ahhh. It's a nice image.

The reality, however, is that these eight verses are pretty grim. We could say "harsh." After the nice sentiment in verse 1, Jesus gets right to it: "He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit."

It gets worse. Even the fruitful branches get "pruned." Think about it. Two blades enclose some part of the branch and cut into it and snap it off.

It gets worse still: "Branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned" (v. 6). If a branch doesn't bear fruit, if it withers on the vine, it's removed and thrown into a smoldering fire.

And think of the plowing and digging of gardening. Think of the plucking, pulling, weeding, and all the work of planting, fertilizing and watering every day.

Yes, as I said, gardening is not all fun and games.

Jesus says that we are the branches. So, as the "branch" of this text, are we ready and willing to look at the dark-side message of this passage? The vinegrower has expectations. Are we willing to submit to the shears? Are we willing for some correction and rebukes? Some pruning? Will we make the most of the nutrients the VineGrower provides?

The Scottish divine, Andrew Murray, has a good perspective on the meaning of this text: "A machine can do work; only life can bear fruit. A law can compel work; only love can spontaneously bring forth fruit. Work implies effort and labor; the essential idea of fruit is that *it is the silent, natural, restful produce of our inner life*" (emphasis added).

Will we abide in Jesus?

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, may I be willing to submit to the shears as necessary, so that my life will be laden with fruit that will bless others. Amen.



Prayer Concerns

Members in Need of Prayer:

Bob Boehringer on the passing of his wife, Sheila. Sheila has entered the church triumphant.
Irene Pierini family and friends on her passing. Irene has entered the church triumphant.

Betty Montgomery

Jennifer Neer

Diane Fake

JoAnn Huebner

Dee Wright

Yvonne Smith

Mona White

Neil and Verna Walden

Robert Harris

Jackie Miller

Mary Schmidt

Liz Smith

Bill Biggs

Mary Norris & Family

Connie Alvarado

Irene Pierini

Jocelyn Miller

Kirsten Linder

Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Baby Owen (Fake)

Claire and family upon the death of Claire's husband, Dale Baumbach
Claire (Vonny)

Janet Sharp (Fake)

Debbie (Sullivan Family Friend)

Owen (Fake)

Josue & Maria Zamora (Visitor)

Jim & Judi (Werfelmann)

Anthony Collichio (Norris)

Mickey Cecil (Norris)

Jeanne Grant (Anderson)

Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)

Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)

Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)

Kevin & Collee (Pastor)

Brad, Sam, & Luke Kossow

Karl & Pauline Ritterbush (Fake)

Art & Children (Anderson)

Debbie West's Daughter, Christine

Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)

Bob Knous (Anderson)

Melissa (Sandy T.)

Joy Kensinger (Miller)

Jenna Vance (Kossow)

Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)

Jim D. (Norris)

Jade Dixon (Julie)

Pam (Smith)

Grace Johnson (Fake)

Sandy Robbins (Robbins)

JJ Werfelmann (Julie)

Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)

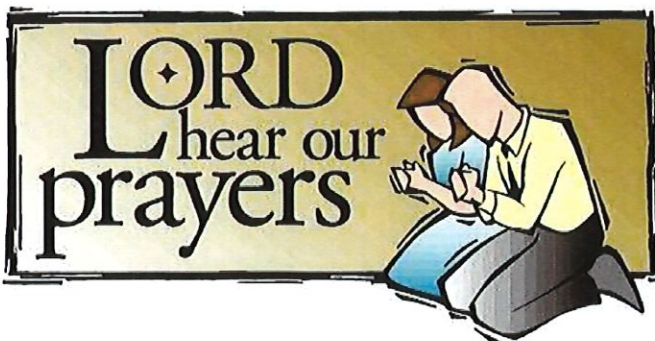
Roger Robbins (Robbins)

Hudson Otten (Anderson)

Karen Ohanesian (Hays)

Rosemary (Vonny)

Nathan Robbins (Robbins)





The Lord's Prayer
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,
for ever and ever.
Amen.
Matthew 6:9-13

Blessing

Communion Hymn "My Shepherd, You Supply My Need" Hymn 782
Song Leaders and Congregation (vv. 1-3)

Closing Song "Above All"
Words and music by Lenny LeBlanc and Paul Baloche
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Praise Band and Congregation

Verse 1

Above all powers, above all kings
Above all nature, and all created things
Above all wisdom, and all the ways of man
You were here before the world began

Sending

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Postlude Susan Berg, Organist

Week of April 28, 2024



Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Luke 10-13
- Monday:** Judges 13-15
- Tuesday:** Judges 16-18
- Wednesday:** Judges 19-21
- Thursday:** Ruth 1-4
- Friday:** 1 Samuel 1-3
- Saturday:** Psalms 40-42

Verse to Remember

*“As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.”*

—Psalm 42:1



UNSCRAMBLE THE PROVERB!

Directions: Write in the missing word indicated by the ellipsis (...) in the blank provided. Unscramble the words you wrote in the blanks, to reveal another proverb.

- When the going gets tough, the tough ... going. _____
- People who live in glass houses should ... throw stones. _____
- If the cap fits, ... it. _____
- When you begin a journey of revenge,
start by digging two graves:
one for your enemy, and one for _____
- One person pretends to be ..., yet has nothing;
another pretends to be poor,
yet has great wealth. _____
- Good things come ... those who wait. _____
- When in Rome, ... as the Romans do. _____
- Do not wear ... your welcome. _____

Write the unscrambled proverb here:

MISSING LETTERS

The theme of this puzzle is “young animals.” Here are 14 young animal names without the consonants. Complete each word and cross off each consonant when you use it. (The adult version is in parentheses.)

- B C C C C C D D F F G G G G H
- J K K K L L L L L L N N N N
- P P P P S T T T T T T W W
- Y Y Y Y

- 1. _ U _ _ _ (BEAR)
- 2. _ O _ _ _ I _ _ _ (GOOSE)
- 3. _ I _ _ _ (GOAT)
- 4. _ A _ _ _ (DOE)
- 5. O _ _ _ E _ _ (OWL)
- 6. _ O E _ _ _ (KANGAROO)
- 7. _ I _ _ _ E _ _ (CAT)
- 8. _ O _ _ _ (HORSE)
- 9. _ A _ _ _ O _ E (FROG)
- 10. _ _ _ I _ _ _ (HEN)
- 11. _ U _ _ _ _ (DOG)
- 12. _ _ _ _ _ E _ _ (SWAN)
- 13. E A _ _ _ E _ (EAGLE)
- 14. _ I _ _ _ _ (MARE)

SOLUTION: Do not wear yourself out to get rich (Proverbs 23:4, NRSV).

SOLUTION TO MISSING LETTERS:

- 1. cub
- 2. gosling
- 3. kid
- 4. fawn
- 5. owl
- 6. joey
- 7. kitten
- 8. colt
- 9. tadpole
- 10. chick
- 11. puppy
- 12. cygnet
- 13. eaglet
- 14. filly



It is a good thing
to give thanks unto
the Lord, and to
sing praises
unto thy name,
O Most High.

Psalm 92:1, KJV



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Follow Us Now on Instagram

GSLC is now on Instagram and has been on Facebook so don't forget to follow us to see what is happening. Please follow us on Instagram and like the posts to create an algorithm for our church. We need to be proactive to spread the word so we can grow .



Pantry Needs Restocking



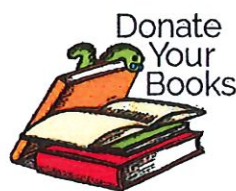
We could use: Rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, canned vegetables (Corn, Green Beans), canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple), canned chili beans, egg noodles, Cream of mushroom or chicken soup, Mayo, canned tuna, chicken or beef, ramen noodles, Mac N Cheese, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter and grape jelly. Donations can be dropped off at the office M - F, from 9AM - 1PM.

Bring a Friend to Worship

There are business cards paper clipped in stacks of 5 to use to invite people to worship service. Hand them out in your neighborhood or at your local stores. You can ask an usher for the cards if you can't find them.



Roeding Summer Reading Project - Books Needed!



Hey everyone - it's that time of year again! Time to start searching for children's books to give to our adopted school's children for summer reading. New and gently used books for ages preschool through 8th grade reading levels may be brought to church and put in the labeled bin. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with our adopted students @ Roeding Elementary!

Upcoming Community Concerts

Fresno Community Chorus' *Master Chorale* on Sunday, April 28, at 2:30 p.m. presents Jocelyn Hagen's "The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci and Elaine Hagenberg's "Illuminare" featuring a unique and immersive audio-visual performance. The concert will be held at Shaghoian Concert Hall at the Clovis Unified School District Performing Arts Center, 2770 East International Ave., Fresno 93730. Tickets may be purchased at: www.Fresnocommunitychorus.org Cheryl Montgomery and John Montgomery are members of this acclaimed Chorale.



Kingsmen/Kingskids—May 29th @ 6:30pm



The next date for Kingsmen/Kingskids will be May 29th. Marty will be providing a BBQ dinner. As always, side dishes are welcomed if possible.
Thank you, William Hayes

