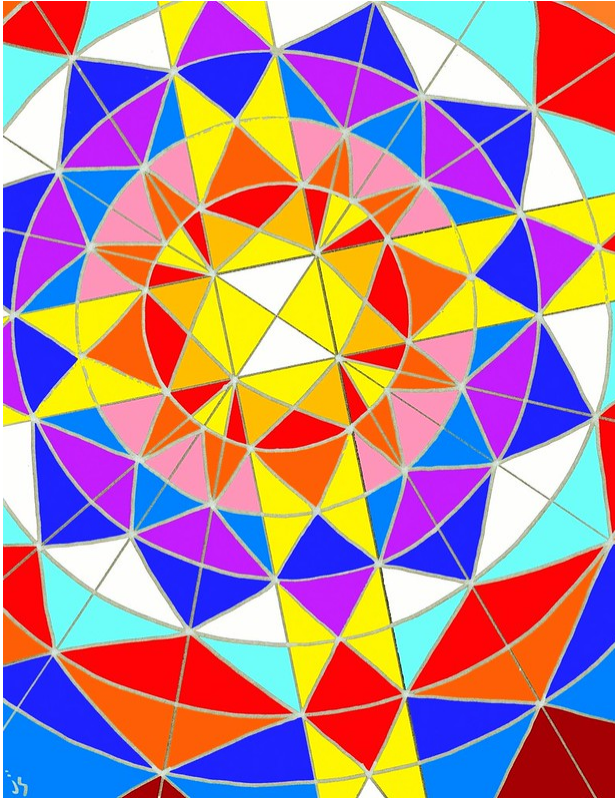


Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024



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.



ZION
Ministries Under the Cross

959 SE 6th Avenue • Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
(954) 421-3146 • www.zion-lutheran.org

Welcome to Zion!

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we're glad you're here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God's goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

Get Connected at Zion

The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Children in Worship

Children are God's gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Playground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

Giving

We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



Livestreaming

Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

We Gather

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We have gathered to celebrate the good news of God's love!

We are called to be Easter people!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

GATHERING HYMN

Hymn #449

"We Know that Christ is Raised"

APOSTOLIC 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW pp. 140-141

In festival seasons, we sing a Hymn of Praise. "This is the Feast" recalls John's vision of the new heaven and earth in Revelation 5.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together... **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.**

We Hear & Respond to God's Word

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

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

SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-21

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

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.

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

Before the reading: The Holy Gospel according to John...

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading: These are the words of our Lord. They are true and can be trusted. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ALL

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Love the Lord Your God"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF PEACE

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

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Feast at the Lord's Table

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

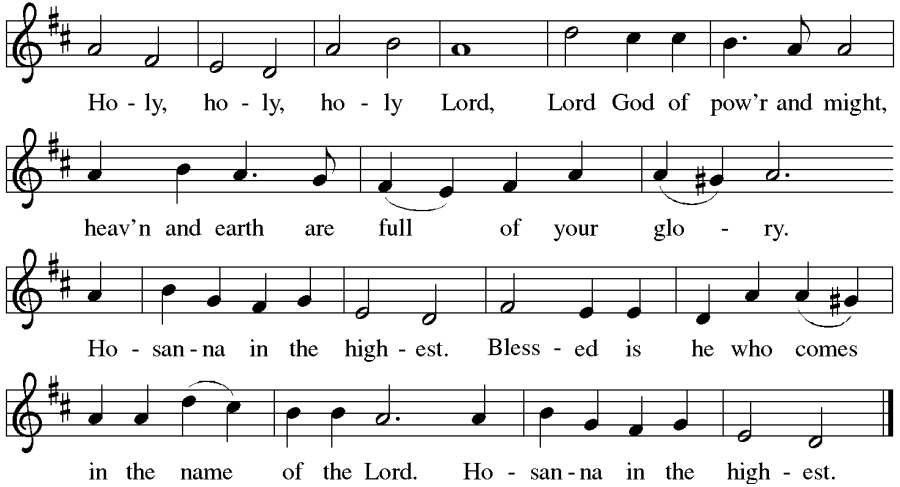
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child; When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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 his death, we cry out: **Amen.**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout: **Amen.**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead: **Amen.**

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.

O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.

O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Music by Cantor Peter J. Rizzo

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal-low-ed be your
name, hal-low-ed be your name. Your king-dom come, your
will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven, on earth as it is in hea-ven.
Give us to-day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our
sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for-give those who sin a -
gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from

e - vil, de - liv - er us from - e - vil. For yours is the
king - dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry, for - e - ver and e - ver, for
e - ver and e - ver. A - men, a - men. A - men.

SHARING THE MEAL

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

“There in God's Garden”

Hymn #342

We Are Sent into the World

BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
comfort, strengthen, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together...**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

Go now as God's chosen witnesses to testify that Christ has been raised and that we are raised with him. Do not look for him among the dead but be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

May God raise you from all that would entomb you;
May Christ Jesus † call you by name and go ahead of you;
And may the Holy Spirit empower you for all that is good. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

by Cantors Peter J. Rizzo & Kurt R. Schmidt

“Hallelujah, He is Risen!”



DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace.

Share the good news that Christ is risen! **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

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Holy Communion at Zion

Christ's table is open to all! We offer grape juice for those who desire. If, for reasons of conscience or health, you are unable to receive either the bread or the wine, please know that the Church affirms the full presence of Christ in each element.

For Whom & For What Shall We Pray?

If you would like to submit a name(s) to include in our **Prayers of the People**, please use an index card from the Welcome Table and place it in the prayer basket at the altar **before the Hymn of the Day**. In order to keep our prayer list current, all names must be resubmitted each week if you desire continued prayers.

Opportunities to “Just Show Up”

New Directions Chamber Winds – Spring Concert

We have been the host site for the New Directions Chamber Wind Ensemble since January 2024. Their spring concert is this afternoon at 4:00 p.m., and we are all invited and encouraged to attend. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for students. 50% of the ticket sales from the concert at Zion will come back to us as a contribution to our mission and ministries. For more information or to receive flyers for distribution, please reach out to Cantor Kurt Schmidt.

FREE CANCER SCREENING

Saturday, May 4th, 2024 | 9:00a.m. - 2:30p.m.

Nina's Place

959 SE 6th Ave,

Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center's Office of Outreach and Engagement helps communities in South Florida that may not have access to healthcare. We want to help people by working with different groups in the community. We provide free cancer screenings and services, as well as education on ways to prevent and detect cancer early.

Join us to talk about cancer prevention and receive a free cancer screening.

To learn more and attend an event where we can offer these screenings, call **305-243-1120** or visit [SylvesterGameChanger.com](https://www.SylvesterGameChanger.com)



SCAN TO REGISTER



[SylvesterGameChanger.com](https://www.SylvesterGameChanger.com) | [@SylvesterCancer](https://www.instagram.com/SylvesterCancer) [f](https://www.facebook.com/SylvesterCancer) [i](https://www.instagram.com/SylvesterCancer) [y](https://www.youtube.com/SylvesterCancer) [in](https://www.linkedin.com/SylvesterCancer)

Opportunities to Serve Joyfully & Give Selflessly

2024 Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly Service Project

Every year, the congregations of our synod participate in a service project benefitting the local community of the host site. This year, we will be collecting boxes of mac and cheese, toothbrushes, and toothpaste for the Orlando Union Rescue Mission.

Gail & Kurt Schmidt will be bringing items to the Synod Assembly on Zion's behalf. All items must be brought in by Sunday, May 26th. We are the Church together!

Let's Get Shayne to LSM

One of our beloved, Shayne Clancy, has been accepted to participate in Lutheran Summer Music, the national Lutheran high school music camp, held from June 30 to July 28 at Valparaiso University in Indiana. We are asking, together with Shayne, for contributions toward a matching grant of \$500 from Zion's scholarship fund and \$500 from LSM. To contribute, mark an envelope on Sunday morning "Shayne" and leave it in the offering plate, or give to the Peth Scholarship Fund on Zion's online giving form. ***The deadline for contributing toward this match is May 1st.***

Sign Up to Serve

Sunday Morning Worship Leadership (Greeters, Assisting Ministers, Readers, Coffee Fellowship)



Prayer Team at Nina's Place!

Nina's Place is always in need of volunteers! To get connected for our Thursday & Friday food deliveries, speak to Cantor Kurt Schmidt to be added to the What's App group. To sign up for a Saturday volunteer spot, visit www.ninasplacedfb.org.



Today's Readings

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

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.**

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

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.) 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."

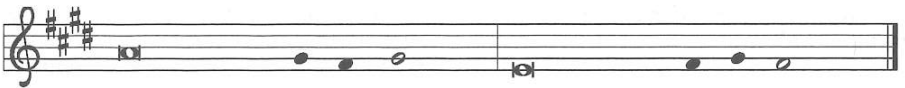
³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

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.

Psalm

Psalm 22:25-31; tone 5



From you comes my praise
in the ¹ great assembly;
I will perform my vows
in the sight of those
who ¹ fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat ¹ and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD
give praise!
May your hearts ¹ live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn ¹ to the LORD;

continued

all the families of nations
shall bow ¹ before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs ¹ to the LORD,
who rules o- ¹ ver the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth
shall bow ¹ down in worship;
all who go down to the dust,
though they be dead,
shall kneel be- ¹ fore the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants
shall ¹ serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim
to genera- ¹ tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance
to a people ¹ yet unborn,
saying to them,
"The ¹ LORD has acted!"

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, 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.

Gospel

John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] "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."

TODAY'S READINGS April 28, 2024

Volume 55, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17.

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Tracks 1 and 2