

Peace Lutheran Church
of Lake Zurich



April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion Now the Feast

WELCOME

Peace to all who enter here. You are welcome in this place.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

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

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 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (ELW 885)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

GREETING (ELW p. 98)

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.

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain: Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom: praise and glory forever more.

Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God. **Refrain**

Power and riches, wisdom and might, all honor and glory to Christ
forever. **Refrain**

For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God;
to make all things new. **Refrain**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 102)

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.

You may be seated.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S WORD

Children from birth through Sunday School are invited forward for a special moment of preparation before the proclamation of God's word in the assembly.

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40 (pg. 892)

A reading from Acts.

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 Philip.

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. Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31 (pg. 435)

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

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

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,**

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21 (pg. 991)

A reading from 1 John.

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.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise as you are able to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia,

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8 (pg. 878)

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

[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.

You may be seated.

MESSAGE

Rev. Daniel Morris

A moment of silence for reflection is kept after the message.

Please rise as you are able to proclaim the gospel in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!” (ELW 377 sts. 1-3)

1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

Trumpets resounding in glorious light!

Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!

Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise.

Give God the glory! Alleluia!

2 Walking the way, Christ in the center

telling the story to open our eyes;

breaking our bread, giving us glory:

Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. **Refrain**

3 Jesus the vine, we are the branches;

life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;

heaven to earth, Christ to the people,

gift of the future now flowing to me. **Refrain**

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 especially Lake Zurich, Cuba Marsh, the Fox River, Forest Lake, Lake Barrington, and Tower Lakes. 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. 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.

Give every good gift to those we remember in prayer this week, especially Mike, Wally, Chuck, Stephen, Tom, MaryKate & Ivy, Bruce & Anne, Mary and Wayne. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Hear now the prayers we offer aloud and in the silence of our hearts (long pause.....). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

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.

PEACE (*ELW p. 106*)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All may greet one another with a handshake in the name of the Lord, saying Peace be with you. Afterwards, you may be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Your offering this morning supports the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING “As the Grains of Wheat” (*ELW 465*)

Refrain: As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. **Refrain**

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. **Refrain**

Please rise as you are able when the offering is brought forward.

OFFERING PRAYER

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

DIALOGUE (*ELW p. 107*)

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

It is our duty and delight
that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God,
through Jesus Christ,
who by his death on the cross and glorious
resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death
and gave life to áll creation, and so with the church on earth,
all creation and the host of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory, Hosana in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in your name. Hosana in the highest, hosana in the
highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, living, and loving God,
we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.
We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,
for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.
We give you thanks for Jesus
who, living among us,
healed the sick, fed the hungry,
and with a love stronger than death,
gave his life for others.
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 life-giving death and glorious resurrection,
we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:

carry us in your arms from death to life,
that we may live as your chosen ones,
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER (*ELW p. 112*)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach 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.

You may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you break the chains of hatred and fear; have mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you are the way of justice and peace; have mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you are the way of mercy and love; have mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to the table. He is truly present for you in the eating and drinking offering forgiveness of sin, eternal life, and salvation to all who trust his words. Children are welcome to commune, "for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs" (Luke 18:16). The ushers will invite you forward to encircle the Lord's Table and receive the bread with wine (red) or grape juice (white). Gluten free wafers are available upon request. You may join hands to receive the blessing before returning to your seat.

COMMUNION HYMN “I Received the Living God” (ELW 477)

Refrain

I received the living God,
and my heart is full of joy.
I received the living God,
and my heart is full of joy.

2 Jesus said: I am the way,
and my Father longs for you;
so I come to bring you home
to be one with us anew. **Refrain**

4 Jesus said: I am the life,
far from whom no thing can grow,
but receive this living bread,
and my Spirit you shall know. **Refrain**

1 Jesus said: I am the bread,
kneaded long to give you life;
you who will partake of me
need not ever fear to die. **Refrain**

3 Jesus said: I am the truth;
come and follow close to me.
You will know me in your heart,
and my word shall make you free.
Refrain

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION

Sisters and brothers, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at paly, all the days of your life?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit these your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please rise as you are able for the blessing.

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 SONG “*Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death*” (ELW 452 sts. 1-3)

1 Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and
breadth,
its fullness, depth, and height.

2 To us on earth he came to bring
from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit's unity,
the very bond of peace.

3 There is one body and one hope,
one Spirit and one call,
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,
one God who made us all.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

GRATITUDE

So much gratitude for everyone who has contributed to worship today.

Find all of this week's announcements in the Prints of Peace on the PLC website.

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