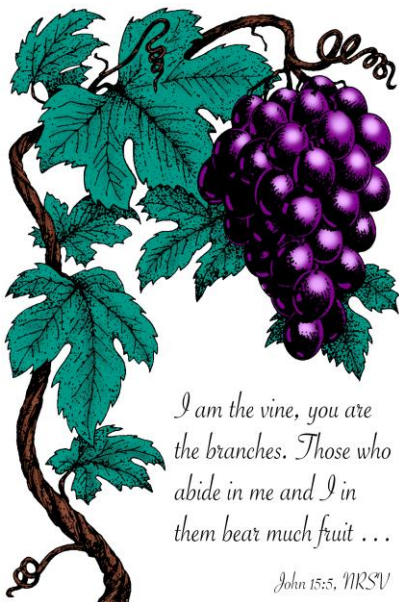


The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA Reconciling in Christ, Rejoicing Spirits, and Handicap Friendly Congregation

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*I am the vine, you are
the branches. Those who
abide in me and I in
them bear much fruit . . .*

John 15:5, NRSV

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 28, 2024
10:30 am

The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Ministry in Daily Life

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey
to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ
in our homes, our communities, and the world.

We welcome all who worship with us today.

Visitors are invited to sign the guest register located in the lobby.

If you are interested in joining our family of faith,
please talk with one of our Pastors or call the church office.

Children are welcome and celebrated!

The “Children’s Ministry” table and basket in the lobby contains a variety of items for children’s use during worship. Stop by to borrow a book, pick up some coloring sheets and crayons or take along a copy of this week’s children’s bulletin.

Please silence all communication devices.

Our services are live streamed and recorded. In-person attendance implies consent to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

HOLY COMMUNION

All who believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to receive the Sacrament. To facilitate flow, the ushers invite people to come forward starting with the back rows and working forward. You should come forward using the center aisle to receive the elements in a continuous style from pastor and worship assistant. Afterward you may choose to kneel or stand at the altar rail for a brief moment of prayer or return to your seat up the side aisle, depositing your empty cup in the receptacle on your way. Gluten free wafers are available. Our wine is grape juice so that all may freely receive.

Children may receive the sacrament if they have completed instruction with a pastor.

Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Communion kits are available at the usher stands for those who prefer to remain in their seats, and they will be communed along with our Zoom worshippers at the beginning of distribution.

GATHERING

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

Gathering Music

Christ is Risen

Rogers

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

Affirmation of Baptism and Easter Greeting

This is the Good News – The grave is empty, Christ is risen.

Hallelujah!

This is the Good News – The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out.

Hallelujah!

This is the Good News – Once we were no people, now we are God's people.

Hallelujah!

Christ is alive, **moving among the living.**

Christ is risen, **inviting us to rise in fullness of life.**

Christ is calling, **proclaiming life and hope for all.**

In remembrance of our baptism, the Pastor blesses the congregation with water.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. As we remember our own baptisms, pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your children with all the baptized in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

This is the Feast

ELW Setting 3

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord God, we give you thanks that through Jesus Christ
you have made us branches of your vine.

Help us to abide in Christ and be disciples of your Word,
that we may live and grow in him and bear good fruit for the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

1st Reading Acts 8:26-40

Translation: NRSV-UE

A reading from Acts.

Then 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.) So 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 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.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 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?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 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. 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!

2nd Reading 1 John 4:7-21

Translation: NRSV-UE

A reading from First John.

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

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 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. 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. 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. We love because he first loved us.

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. 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!

Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

ELW Setting 3



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel John 15:1-8

Translation: NRSV-UE

The Good News from John, the 15th chapter.

Open our hearts, Lord.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Good News!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Pastor Cindy Camp

Please stand as you are able.

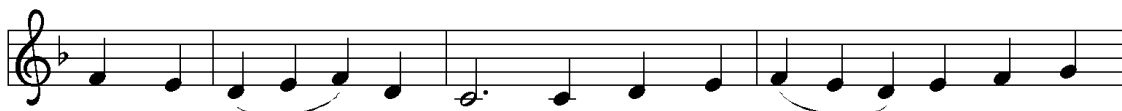
Hymn of the Day

O Blessed Spring

ELW 447



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us
2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain
3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to
faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will
last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take
this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -



be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to prayer:

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.

After each petition:

Christ, our Tree of Life,
hear our prayer.

Pastor's closing 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

Abiding in God's love, let's share signs of love and peace with one another.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace by saying,
"Peace be with you."*

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Response to God's gifts

The assembly responds to the Word of God by gathering an offering for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Please place your offering in the offering plates on the tables in the rear of the worship center.

The table is set.

Musical Offering

Hope of the World
Adult Choir

Larson

Please stand as you are able.

Great Thanksgiving

May the risen Lord be with you!

And also with you.

Resurrection people, lift your hearts to God.

We lift our hearts to the One who gives us new life.

Sing with joy on this day of resurrection.

Our songs of joy overflow this day.

So, with those who have gone down to the dust,

and with all the generations yet to come, we join our voices, singing your praises:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW Setting 3

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

Words of Institution

Word in Meal

When we gather at the Table, where your Spirit has been poured out upon the generous gifts of bread and cup; when we are strengthened by the bread, and then go forth to work so the poor can eat and be satisfied; when grace overflows from the cup and like a roaring river, carries justice into all the place of inequity and oppression; when your hope casts out all our fears, so we can stand beside our siblings: it is in these moments that your sanctifying love is revealed for all time.

Lord's Prayer

God in Community, One in Abiding Love, hear us as we pray as we are taught:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

Invitation to the table

At this table, the poor will eat and be satisfied.
Let us lift up our hearts with praise and thanksgiving as we share this joyful feast.

The assembly is seated.

Distribution of communion

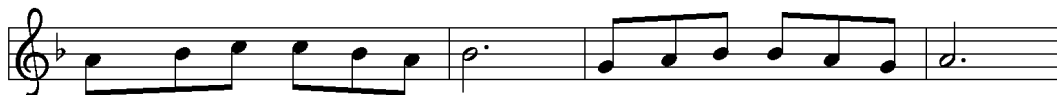
The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.

Agnus Dei

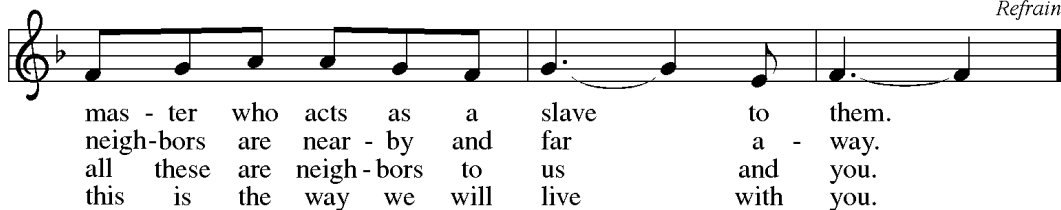
Lamb of God

ELW Setting 3

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.



- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
- 2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
- 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
- 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:





1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
 2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
 in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Please stand as you are able.

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

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

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 *Please see next page.*

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Sending Music

Jubilation

Payne



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
 light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Please join in supporting our church's ministries using your preferred method of giving:

- Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended);
- Mail your offering check to the church;
- Use your credit or debit card at the Giving Kiosk;
- Text your offering to 610-981-1312;
- Download our mobile app for recurring or one-time gifts;
- Establish automatic contributions to the church using your bank's bill pay service.

Additional information is located in the Stewardship section of the church's website at: lhsemmaus.org.

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Pastor Mark Wimmer, Interim Senior Pastor
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor
Pastor Cindy Camp, Interim Associate Pastor
Nancy Pfeffer, Interim Musician
Deacon Melanie Werley, Director of Liturgy
Karin Kahler, Director, Faith Formation for Children

WORSHIP HELPERS

Assisting Minister

Deb Smith

Reader

Judith Hausman

Communion Assistants

Beth Fatzinger, Dave Fatzinger

Greeter

Fern Schlegel

Usher

Ken Schlegel

Production/Technology Team

Chuck Coe, Glenn Hinderliter, Eric Kahler, Craig Kauffman, Bill Keane, Tom Moessner,
Bob Neitz, Bill Newill, Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta,
Diana Sorrentino, Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

Altar Care

Nancy Pfeffer, Julie Timmcke, Marian Harrison, Kitti Berkheimer, Lynn Snyder,
Barb Roba, Lynda Swartz, Carol Osenbach, Mary Vink