



**Lord of Life**  
Lutheran Church



*Loved by God,  
Sent to Serve.*

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**April 28, 2024**

# Evangelical Lutheran Worship

## Setting 4

### GATHERING

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

**Prelude: *Wonderful Peace***

**arr. by Rolin R. Mains and Dino Kartsinakis**

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

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 Hymn: *Come to the Table*

ELW 481

Come to the table of mercy,  
prepared with the wine and the bread.  
All who are hungry and thirsty,  
come, and your souls will be fed.  
Come at the Lord's invitation;  
receive from his nail-scarred hand.  
Eat of the bread of salvation;  
drink of the blood of the Lamb.

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## Greeting

ELW p. 147

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.**

## Kyrie (*sung*)

ELW p. 147

## Canticle of Praise

ELW p. 149

## 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.**

## WORD

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

## First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

*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.*

<sup>26</sup>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.) <sup>27</sup>So 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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

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

### **Psalm 22:25-31** (*read responsively*)

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise!  
May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, 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.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

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

## **Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21**

*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.*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those 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. <sup>21</sup>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.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**ELW p. 151**

## **Gospel: John 15:1-8**

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:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Children’s Time

### Sermon

**The Rev. Karla Wildberger**

### Hymn of the Day: *Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song*

**ELW 403**



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove’s song, like the chal - lenge of her  
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ’s bod - y, to the branch - es of the  
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind’s rush, like the  
 vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our  
 prayer, with the pow’r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame’s ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
 midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
 peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

## **Nicene Creed**

Let us profess our faith together:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

...God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

...our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**Offering: *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful***

**ELW 184**

**Offering Prayer**

**ELW p. 152**

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 (*sung*)**

**ELW p.152**

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**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**ELW p. 153**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

...both now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

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 Communion

### Lamb of God

ELW p. 154

### Communion Hymn: *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

ELW 359



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt. Music: attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760-1842 Text © 1960 World Library Publications Used by permission OneLicense #A-718383

## Prayer after Communion

ELW p. 155

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

### SENDING

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

## Announcements

### Blessing

ELW p. 155

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.**

**Dismissal**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude: *Our Great Savior***

**arr. by Rolin R. Mains and Dino Kartsinakis**

**Announcements**

**Altar Flowers** today are provided by Sandy Arp.

**Thank You**

Thanks to everyone who contributed to and participated in this past Sunday's coffeehouse fundraising event! ...whether you baked goods, contributed music, competitively outbid others for pie, or just showed up. Not only was it a great and fun event on its own, it raised a significant amount of money which makes it possible for young people – like our daughter Teresa – to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer, supported by their church. It's not only the financial support – it's the support of a sending community. ...We are deeply grateful to be part of Lord of Life. – Troy & Maria Troftgruben

**Stephen Ministry**

The Stephen Ministry team will be giving us a presentation during Adult Formation time on Sunday **May 5 at 9:15 am**. Please join them to learn more about this important ministry available to all congregants.

**Last Sunday School/Confirmation - May 5...**

The last day for Sunday School & Confirmation is next Sunday and we will celebrate with an Ice Cream Party! Join us for the year-end send off.

**Shoe Donations**

Teresa Troftgruben is joining the St. Peter youth group's trip to New Orleans. You can help support their trip by donating gently used or new shoes. They will be used to support small businesses in developing nations which are typically operated by one person or family. You may have noticed the collection bin by the conference room. 😊 Donations may be made through Wednesday, May 15. Thank you!

## “Ted Lasso” Bible Study

Our Ted Lasso Bible Study is on hold this week while Pastor Karla is away for “Faith Forward” training. Join us again on May 6 for the next “class.”

## Vacation Bible School 2024

Do you have a 4-yr-old through completed 4<sup>th</sup> grader who would be interested in Vacation Bible School? St. Peter Lutheran: June 17-21 from 9:00 am – noon. For more details see Rita. Early registration discount by May 1.

## Pentecost Sunday - One Service

Join us for a special service celebrating Pentecost at **10:30 am May 19**. The service will be exciting - remember to wear **red!** We will follow up the service with a potluck lunch - our last service before the Summer Schedule begins. Come and join the fun!

## This Week at Lord of Life

Sunday, April 28	8:00 AM	Worship in-person
	9:15 AM	SS/Confirmation
	10:30 AM	Worship in-person or online
Wednesday, May 1	5:45 PM	Worship & Music Meeting
	6:30 PM	NOW band practice
Thursday, May 2	1:00 PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry

## Prayer List

John & Vonda Hermsen	Jenny Huseman	
Steve & Megan Ingalsbe and family	Gerald Jecklin	Brandon Johnson
Ramona Kartman	Morgan Kennedy	

## This Week’s Worship Servants

<b>Readers:</b> 8:00 Susan Hansen	10:30 Debbie Thomas
<b>Ushers:</b> 8:00 Sandy Arp	10:30 Galen Thomas
<b>Tech/PPT:</b> 8:00	10:30 Nate Frambach

## Acknowledgments

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**Choir Director**  
Susan Hansen

**Administrative Office Hours**  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

### **Worship Online**

**Zoom:**

<https://bit.ly/2PvSCQJ>  
Meeting ID: 563 582 7371  
Passcode: Luther

**Phone in at:**

(312) 626-6799  
Meeting ID: 563 582 7371  
Passcode: 456037

