

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Our mission: Belong. Believe. Be sent. Share Jesus Christ for Life



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.

Prelude Excerpt from The Lark Ascending

by R. Vaughan Williams
Elizabeth Smith, violinist
Alan Chambers, keyboardist

Thanksgiving of 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 With High Delight Let Us Unite

No. 368

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.**

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy. Chri - ste e - le - i - son:
 Christ, have mer - cy. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy.
short interlude
 5 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; Lord a - lone, to you we call,
 9 Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, God most high, yet near to all.
 13 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 Hear our prayer, re - store, for - give us; here on earth our songs we raise.

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

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.

After reading: Word of God, Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God! [Silence for reflection](#)

Psalm 22:25-31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord. (Ps. 22:27)

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

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.

After reading: Word of God, Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God! Silence for reflection

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

Gospel: *The Holy Gospel, according to John 15:1-8. 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 our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** *Silence for reflection*

Sermon

Pastor Kathleen Haller

Hymn of the Day We Raise Our Hands to You, O Lord

No. 690

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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. 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. Especially those on our current prayer list... Dan Speicher, Robbie and Steve Rohrer, Peter Siddons, Norma Burke, Todd and Linda, Tony Rogers, Craig, Stephanie, Jane Ann Airgood, Joyce O'Brien, Denise Rohrer, Nancy Shenefield, Earl McKinley, Jack Williams, Peggy Gilbert, Linda Hampton, Marie Betten-Niccum, Joanne Boettcher, Lois Dowd, Phyllis Werking, Darlene Shear, Faith Miller, Jon Frieden, John Fairfield, Ron & Sharon Miller, Grover and Janice Archer, for those who suffer from war and displacement, including the people of Ukraine, the Palestinians of Gaza, and the people of Israel, especially those taken hostage, many "Special Intentions for family and friends" and the Strength and Discernment for the People of Zion Lutheran Church. 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.**

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.**

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.**

The Great Thanksgiving

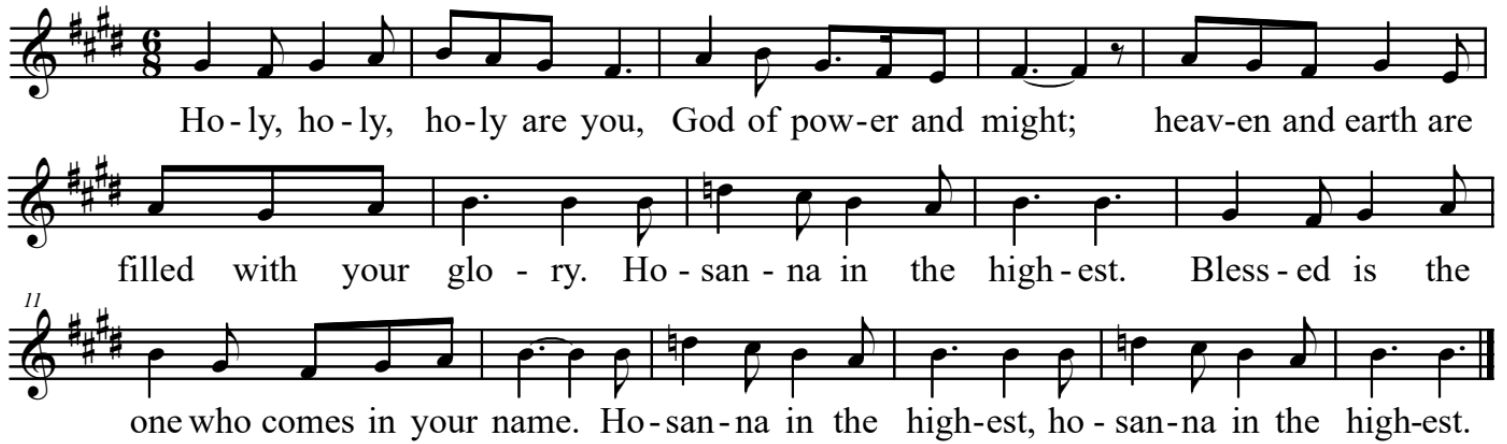
The Lord be with you! **C: And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts! **C: We lift them to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God! **C: It is right to give our 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, through 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 the 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 are you, God of pow-er and might; heav-en and earth are filled with your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord 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 in 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

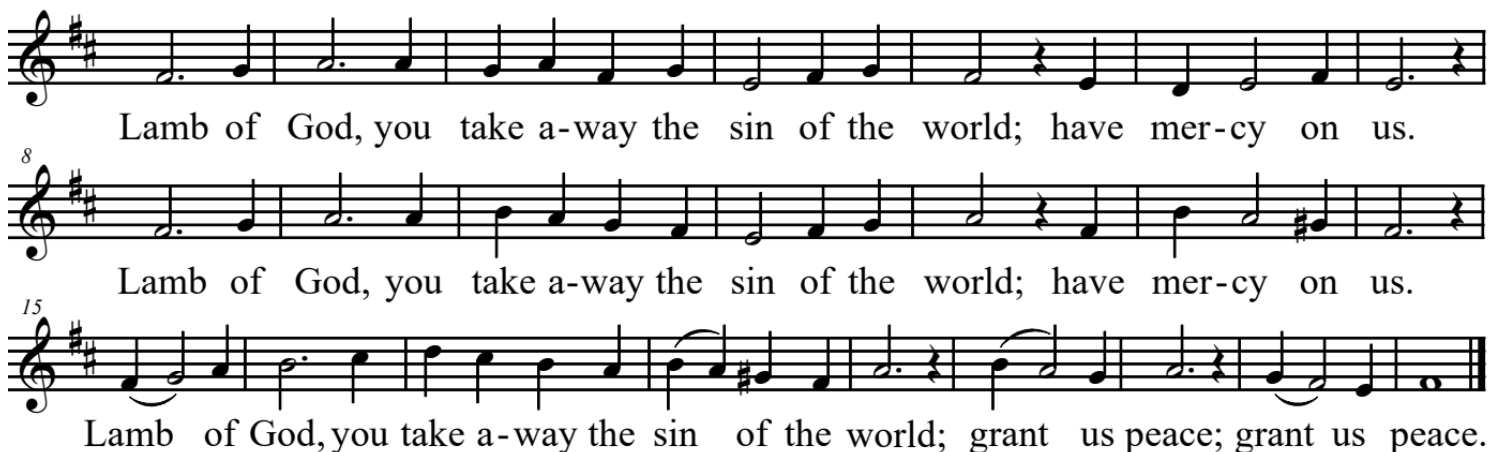
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and 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.

Voluntary Excerpt from The Lark Ascending

by R. Vaughan Williams



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; grant us peace.

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.**

Be-long, be-lieve, be sent: share Je - sus Christ for life!

Be-long, be-lieve, be sent: share Je - sus Christ for life!

Blessing (we bless one another)

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 Good Christians Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

No. 385

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Excerpt from The Lark Ascending

by R. Vaughan Williams



Announcements:

Prayer List: Dan Speicher, Robbie and Steve Rohrer, Peter Siddons, Norma Burke, Todd and Linda, Tony Rogers, Craig, Stephanie, Jane Ann Airgood, Joyce O'Brien, Denise Rohrer, Nancy Shenefield, Earl McKinley, Jack Williams, Peggy Gilbert, Linda Hampton, Marie Betten-Niccum, Joanne Boettcher, Lois Dowd, Phyllis Werking, Darlene Shear, Faith Miller, Jon Frieden, John Fairfield, Ron & Sharon Miller, Grover and Janice Archer, for those who suffer from war and displacement, including the people of Ukraine, the Palestinians of Gaza, and the people of Israel, especially those taken hostage, many "Special Intentions for family and friends" and the Strength and Discernment for the People of Zion Lutheran Church.

We continue to pray for people who are enslaved and trafficked.

As well as Global Environmental Concerns affecting our local Quality of Life.

Please call JP Freeman with prayer concerns or updates on the people of Zion.

JP Freeman, Interim Congregational Caregiver

260-578-0356 | jpf0356@gmail.com | 502 E. 2nd St., N. Manchester, IN 46962

Preaching Schedule

5/5 – Pastor Jeff Hawkins

5/12 – Pastor JP Freeman

5/19 – Pastor JP Freeman

5/26 – Pastor JP Freeman



Service Music Acknowledgments.

Kyrie: Ancient Greek lyrics to music by James A. Kriewald.

Canticle of Praise: ELW Holy Communion Setting 10, alt.

Gospel Acclamation: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

Holy, Holy, Holy: from Now the Feast and Celebration by Marty Haugen

Lamb of God: ELW Holy Communion Setting 4

Mission Song: Alan Chambers

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church's Mission Statement

To Belong, to Believe, to be Sent: share Jesus Christ for Life.

*The Lord is calling Zion to live out its calling **to belong** to Jesus Christ and to each other by virtue of our baptism; **to believe** in Jesus Christ by virtue of faith given as a gift of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament; **to be sent** by Jesus Christ as ambassadors of the Gospel in our homes, workplaces, communities, and to the ends of the earth.*

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Info

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