

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
at Swan's Trail

Sunday, April 28, 2024

# Fifth Sunday of Easter



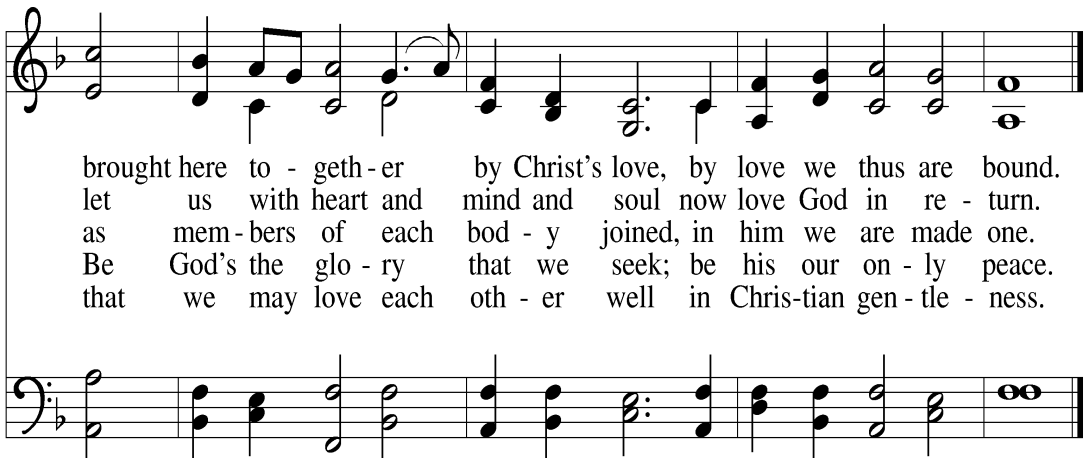
REVEREND JOSEPH PAXTON (PASTOR JP)  
MUSIC DIRECTOR BONNIE THORESON

\*Please stand as you are able

## \*GATHERING HYMN “WHERE CHARITY AND LOVE PREVAIL”



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.

## GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P This is the day the Lord has made.

C **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

## SONG OF PRAISE

## “YOURS, LORD, IS THE GLORY”



- 1 Yours, Lord, is the glo - ry, and hon - or as well;
- 2 Yours, Lord, the do - min - ions, and pow - er as well;
- 3 To you I sur - ren - der my be - ing, my life;
- 4 Glo - ry in the high - est, and on earth as well.



yours, Lord, now and al - ways.  
yours, Lord, now and al - ways.  
all, Lord, I sur - ren - der. A - men, a - men.  
Glo - ry, al - le - lu - ia.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray. (*Brief silence is kept*) 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.

**C** Amen.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### FIRST LESSON 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.*

A reading from Acts:

<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.

The Word of God, the Word of Life.

**C      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 LESSON 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.*

A reading from 1 John:

<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.

The Word of God, the Word of Life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH”**

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

**HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 15:1-8**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**C** **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.*

[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.”

This is the gospel of our Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**HOMILY**

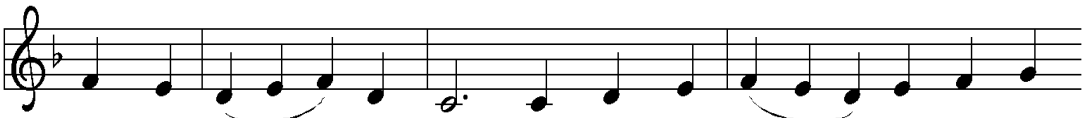
**REVEREND JOSEPH PAXTON**

## \*HYMN OF THE DAY

## “O BLESSED SPRING”



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.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

## NICENE CREED

**P** God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**ALL** 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

*(Between the first and last prayer, congregation please share in reading the prayers)*

P 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,

**C 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,

**C 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,

**C 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 we name before you today (*a brief silence*).

God of grace,

**C 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,

**C     hear our prayer.**

God of Peace, we pray for all those places in the world where there is war and violence. Protect all who are in harm's way and comfort those who mourn. Give wisdom to those in authority, that they put an end to conflict, and work towards peace. God of grace,

**C     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,

**C     hear our prayer.**

P     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.

**C     Amen.**

## **SHARING OF PEACE**

P     The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C     And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of God's peace with one another in whatever way you feel most comfortable.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OFFERING**

*Offering plates are available to accept your gifts at the front windows of the sanctuary.*

## \*OFFERTORY

## “IN THE SINGING”



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.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. (*Brief silence is kept*) 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.

C **Amen.**

## CELEBRATING THE HOLY SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**P** It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for you have sent your Son as the Savior of the world and your Spirit to graft us into the vine of life. You created the universe and everything in it, and revealed your perfect love in your commitment to your people and your care for the poor and afflicted. Through your prophets you promised a righteous servant who would suffer humiliation and injustice and, like a sheep to the slaughter, have his life taken away. In your Son, Jesus Christ, we have seen your promises fulfilled, and through his resurrection, he has broken the power of death to hold the righteous. In his perfect love, our fear is cast out, and now, like branches of a vine, we live in him and draw our life from him, that we might bear much fruit to your glory. And so, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C** **Holy, holy, holy, are you, God of power and might;  
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the One who comes in your name.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

**P** 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.

For as often as we eat this bread, and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C** **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

**P** Remembering his command to love one another, his life and death, and his glorious resurrection and ascension, we pray for his coming again even as we cry: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

**C** **Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation. Empower us by that same Spirit, to love and forgive, that our lives may anticipate that day when you will make all things new. Amen! Come, Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen! Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

C **Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever. Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

P The risen Christ is in our midst, so with Christ we pray.

C **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

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

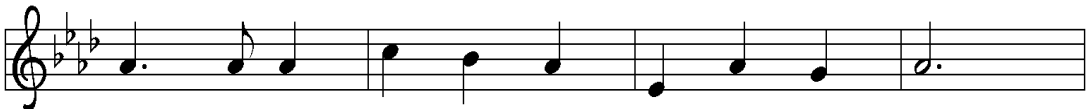
### DISTRIBUTION

#### COMMUNION HYMN

#### “ALLELUIA! JESUS IS RISEN”



1	Al - le - lu - ia!	Je - sus	is	ris - en!
2	Walk - ing the way,	Christ	in	the cen - ter
3	Je - sus the vine,	we	are	the branch - es;
4	Weep - ing, be gone;	sor - row,	be	si - lent:
5	Cit - y of God,	Eas - ter	for	- ev - er,



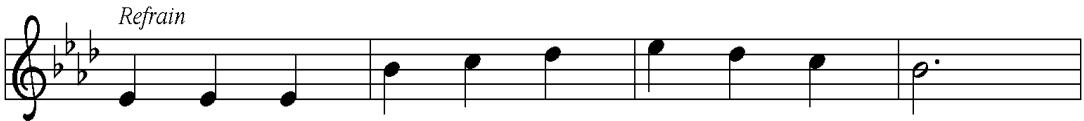
Trum - pets	re - sound - ing	in	glo - ri - ous	light!
tell - ing	the sto - ry	to	o - pen	our eyes;
life	in the Spir - it	the	fruit	of the tree;
death	put a - sun - der,	and	Eas - ter	is bright.
gold - en	Je - ru - sa - lem,	Je - sus	the	Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

### \*GOD'S BLESSING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope† bless you now and always.

C **Amen.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. (*Brief silence is kept*) 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.

C **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

**P** And now may the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor, and grant you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

## “LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING”



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.  
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

## DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**