

Grace Lutheran Church



Sunday, April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Lead Me, Lord

Praise Team

Announcements

***Thanksgiving for Baptism, confession and forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

We give you thanks, O God, O Living One,
for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly.
Oceans and aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you.

All life is sustained by you, our Source.
We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life.
Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God.
Here, death is washed away forever.

Here, we are grafted into the tree of life,
with leaves for the healing of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly,
into this community, and throughout all creation.

May the fire of your love renew our faith and deepen our commitment to you,
that we might faithfully live in the covenant of baptism.

Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisive ways.

For the times I have failed to live out my Baptismal calling to follow Jesus and obey his command to love one another. For the wrong done, and the good left undone; I ask forgiveness, and ask God to help and guide me

Beloved children of God, hear God's promise: your sins are forgiven, you are a new creation, +in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn**

Open Our Eyes

by Bob Cull

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.

Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.

Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

1989 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing. CCLI #11575839

***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

A reading from Acts:

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22: 25-31

(read responsively)

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

²⁶The 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.

²⁸For 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.

³⁰Their 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 Lesson

1 John 4: 7-21

A reading from 1 John:

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

Sanctuary

by John Thompson & Randy Scruggs

Lord, prepare me, to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living, sanctuary for you.

Gospel

John 15: 1-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.

Sermon

Pastor Priscilla

Hymn of the Day

Make Me A Servant

by Kelly Willard

Make me a servant, humble and meek, Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.

And may the prayer of my heart always be,

Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.

Make me a servant, humble and meek, Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.

And may the prayer of my heart always be,

Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.

1990 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. CCLI #11575839

***Nicene Creed**

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**

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. 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.

***Peace**

Jesus said to his disciples, *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”*

The peace of the Lord be with you, always.

And also with you.

Offering

We appreciate your support of the work of the church through your tithes and offerings.
Please place all offerings in the plate by the entrance to the sanctuary

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.**

***Words of Institution**

***The Lord's Prayer**

Sung

Invitation to Communion

The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.
The Body and Blood of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

Hymn during Communion

Open the Eyes of My Heart

by Paul Baloche

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, Open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see You, I want to see You.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, Open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see You, I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up, Shining in the light of Your glory,
Lord, pour out Your pow'r and love, As we sing, Holy, holy, holy.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, Open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see You, I want to see You.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, Open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see You, I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up, Shining in the light of Your glory,
Lord, pour out Your pow'r and love, As we sing, Holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy, I want to see You.
Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy, I want to see You.
Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy, I want to see You.

Blessing after Communion

Congratulations Graduate! Cloe Mandel

As a fellow member of this community of faith we rejoice with you and want you to know of our pride and excitement as you move from high school into the next phase of your life. We also want you to know that wherever you go and whatever you do, you are going forward with our prayers for God's continued guidance, power, protection, and strength.

Receive this quilt as a sign of our love and care for you and a reminder that you are held, wrapped in our prayers and love.

Blessing of graduate:

Mighty God, sustain Cloe with your constant presence and help. May she know your gracious love in good times and in bad, in the midst of confusion and through the bliss of clarity. Bless her and keep her. Guide her steps. Hold her in the hollow of your hand. Give her courage to hold to what is good; to return no one evil for evil; to help the suffering; to honor all people; to love and serve you in all she does +in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Praise Team

Sending Hymn

I Sing Praises to Your Name

by Terry MacAlmon

I sing praises to Your name, O Lord, praises to Your name, O Lord,
For Your name is great and greatly to be praised;

I sing praises to Your name, O Lord, praises to Your name, O Lord,
For Your name is great and greatly to be praised.

I give glory to Your name, O Lord, glory to Your name, O Lord,
For Your name is great and greatly to be praised;

I give glory to Your name, O Lord, glory to Your name, O Lord,
For Your name is great and greatly to be praised.

I sing praises to Your name, O Lord, praises to Your name, O Lord,
For Your name is great and greatly to be praised;

I sing praises to Your name, O Lord, praises to Your name, O Lord,
For Your name is great and greatly to be praised.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

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