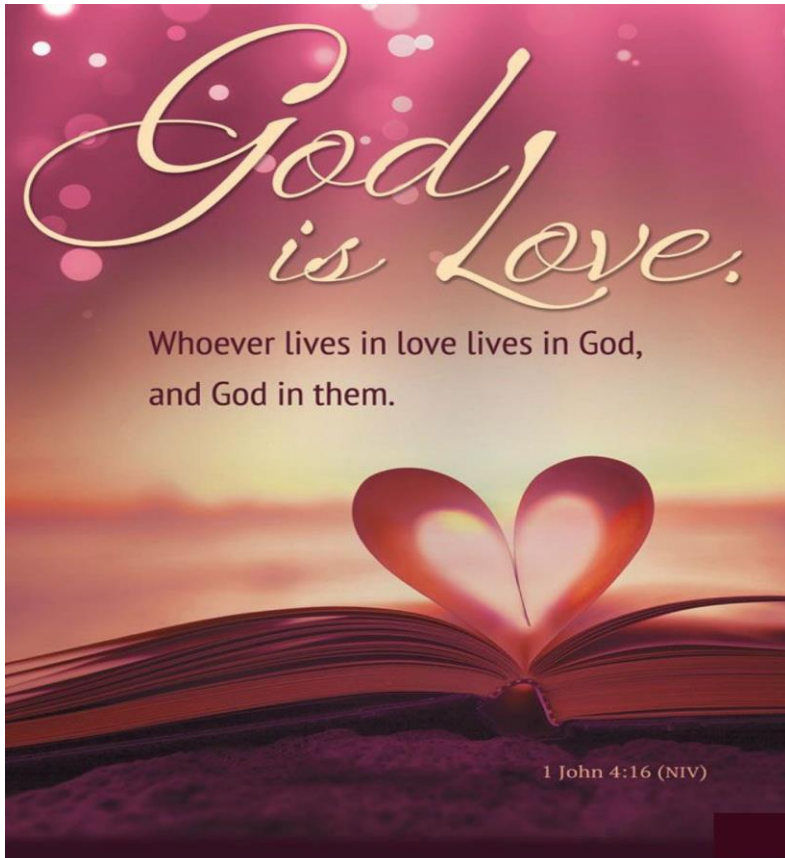


Family of God Lutheran Church



April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Prelude: *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing* Thomas Keesecker

Hymn *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen* ELW 377

***Greeting**

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

C: **And also with you.**

***Kyrie**

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

*** Glory to God**

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*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you,
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.*

*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at
the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.*

*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are
the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the
Father. Amen.*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

³¹ "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited

Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”^[b]

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ^[37] ^[c] ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:25-31

R: ²⁵ From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;
before those who fear you^[a] I will fulfill my vows.

**C: ²⁶ The poor will eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord will praise him— may your hearts
live forever!**

R: ²⁷ All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations will bow down before him,

C: ²⁸ **for dominion belongs to the Lord
and he rules over the nations.**

R: ²⁹ All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;
all who go down to the dust will kneel before him - those who
cannot keep themselves alive.

C: ³⁰ **Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord.**

R: ³¹ They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet
unborn:
He has done it!

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because

fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

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Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

***Gospel**

John 15:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the fifteenth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁵ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^{ful} so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers;

such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

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

Sermon Pastor Josephine Wright

Hymn *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing* ELW 389

***The Apostles' 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 into
hell. 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 the People**

Response: A: God of grace, C: **hear our prayer.**

*** Sharing of the Peace**

***Offertory**

***Offertory** *We Give Thee but Thine Own* ELW 686

Verse 1: *We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

*** Offering Prayer**

A: 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.**

***The Lord's Prayer**

***Benediction**

Hymn *Thine Is the Glory* ELW 376

*** Dismissal**

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

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

Postlude *This Joyful Eastertide* Charles Callahan

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Worship Assistant/Reader: Karen Skillman
Usher: Carol & Dave Schmauk **Acolyte:** Teresa Battista