

5th Sunday of Easter, Year B

April 28, 2024

Pastor Kim Swenson



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

GATHERING

Worship Volunteers

Assisting Minister: Sandi Tibbetts

Reader: Peggy Hansen

Altar Guild: Linda Wery

Communion Assistant: Dawn Schroeder

Ushers: Jerry Boettcher & Carl Andrews

Video Tech: Yvonne Pamperin

Tone Chimes

Alleluia Hearts to Heaven

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Welcome

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Opening Hymn

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!

Cranberry 377



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!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987
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Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship I*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

Cranberry 451 vs 1



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;
2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,
3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,
glo-ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,
God has made a new be - gin - ning from the ash - es of our past;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, glo - ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: OUIMETTE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

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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!

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

Cranberry 451 vs 2

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!

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

Cranberry 451 vs 3

Prayer of the Day

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

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.**

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:25-31 (read responsively by verse)

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.**

May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.

**²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.**

²⁹To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.

³⁰Posterity will serve him;

future generations will be told about the LORD,

³¹and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

The Word for All Ages

Acclamation *Alleluia*

ACS setting 11



A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris' n in - deed.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

The Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 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



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

Text © John B. Geyer.

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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 the People

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.

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.**

For what else do the people of God Pray?

*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

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always,
And also with you.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

Offering

Offering Prayer

Let us pray, Merciful God,
**our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration,
but you make of them an abundance,
just as you do with our lives.
Feed us again at this table
for service in your name,
in the strength of the risen Christ. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

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.

Abiding God, you planted the vineyard of creation,
and called your chosen people to be your vine,
rooted and grounded in you.
In Jesus you gave us the true vine, turning earth into grapes
and the water of life into the wine of eternal life.
Through your Son you abide in us, and in the power of your Holy Spirit
you shape the branches of the vine to make fruit that will last.
Your Son was crucified on the vine of our sin,
that the blood of his sacrifice
might be the wine through which we may never be thirsty again.
In this meal of creation, of resurrection, and of everlasting life,
you pour out the cup of your abundance to give us eternal joy in you.



Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä, *täs - sä*
 1 In this feast of love, in this
 2 In this bread and wine, in this
 3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us



pöy - däs - sä *syn - ti - sil - le*
 feast of love, Lord, you share your
 bread and wine, you have prom - ised,
 peace, O Lord; fill us with the



it - se - si an - nat, *Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!*
 blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.
 Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.
 joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

Text: Jarkko Maukonen; tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954

Music: TÄSSÄ PÖYDÄSSÄ, Jarkko Maukonen; arr. Mark Sedio

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Transforming God,

your Son took the ordinary substance of human flesh and bone;
 and on his last night with his friends

he took the ordinary materials of bread and wine.

Come among us now, and make the ordinariness of our lives
 glow with the wonder of your eternal life.

Take these gifts of bread and wine and make them be for us
 the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,
 broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,

“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
 do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup.

Again, he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

“Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
 which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Companionable God, you turn Word into flesh,
and your perfect love casts out our fear.

You show us a way to love you

by giving us brothers and sisters to love as we love you.

Abide with all whose lives are far from fruitful;

remain with those who have experienced pruning;

dwell with any who feel like branches that have been discarded.

Unite your whole church, living and departed,

as branches of your one vine,

and through being rooted and grounded in you,

make us fruitful in body, mind, and spirit,

until we stand before you, with your whole creation,

and you are all in all, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
 2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
 3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
 4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
 world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
 those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
 Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
 stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
 word and thought may work a work for you.
 grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
 may we each other's burdens share;
 may we, where help is needed, there
 give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
 all those who live to live in love,
 till you receive in heav'n above
 all those who live in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.

Music: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

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

SENDING

Announcements



¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz!
 May the God of hope go with us ev - 'ry day,



Al mun - do en cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad.
 to a world in need with news of joy and peace.



Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da - nos tu luz,
 May the God of jus - tice speed us on our way,



luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.
 bring - ing light and hope to ev - 'ry land and race.



O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos
 Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our



de tu a - mor. Lu - che - mos por la paz,
 joy with all; work - ing for a world that's new,



fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.
 faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.

Benediction

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Cranberry 545



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

Fellowship hour continues in the lounge.

Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 4/23/24 \$ 15,955.50

Monthly Budget Expenses:..... \$ 18,743.00

YTD Receipts through 3/31/24..... \$ 67,298.00

Yearly Budget..... \$ 224,917.00

The Bethel Weekly

Fellowship Hour: Please, if you are able to help on a future date in May, sign up in the hallway. Thank you to Gayle Hansen & Peggy Hansen for hosting today.

Bethel Volunteer Opportunities: We are looking for someone to be a money counter. Teams are set-up to run for 8 weeks, twice per year. Each team determines what day and time they count. In addition, we are always looking for Assisting Ministers, Readers, Ushers, Altar Guild, Communion Assistants and Video Techs. Please contact the church office if you are willing to volunteer your time.

Spring Clean-Up: Is Saturday, May 11th at 8:00am. If you cannot make it Saturday, you are welcome to come in during the week.

Synod Assembly Service Project: Is for the Crossways Camping wish list. If you would like to donate to the project, please put your offering in an envelope marked "Crossways". Paster Kim will purchase items from the wish list and bring them to the Synod Assembly.

Vicar Melissa: Has been called to be Pastor at Resurrection Lutheran Church. Installation will be on July 27th. Time to follow.

Handbags for Hope: In conjunction with the Resurrection Food Pantry, we are asking all the ladies to bring in any unwanted purses. Donations are also needed of travel size hygiene items such as toothbrushes, shampoo, lip balm, etc. to fill the purses prior to distribution. Suggestions can be found on the front of the bin.

Bethel Photo Directory: If you haven't already done so, please submit a recent photo for the new church directory. It can be emailed to the church or brought to the office for scanning. This is wrapping up, so please submit your picture as soon as possible.

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Eucharistic Prayer from Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher