

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH @ SOUTH PARK

A PLACE OF GRACE WITH A CALL FOR ALL TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF JESUS

Jeffery Alvestad, Pastor

Kate Stephenson, Director of Congregational Life

Megan Duke, Office & Communications Manager

Kevin Cooper, Property & Maintenance Manager

Susan Hash-Hires, Director of Music

Edward Poston, Organist



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

PRELUDE

Let All Things Now Living

arr. John Longhurst

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Now the Green Blade Rises ELW 379

- 1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been; love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 2 In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain, thinking that he would never wake again;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen; love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen; love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been; love is come again like wheat arising green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols* © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE ELW p. 140

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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

FIRST READING: Acts 8: 26-40

A reading from Acts.

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.

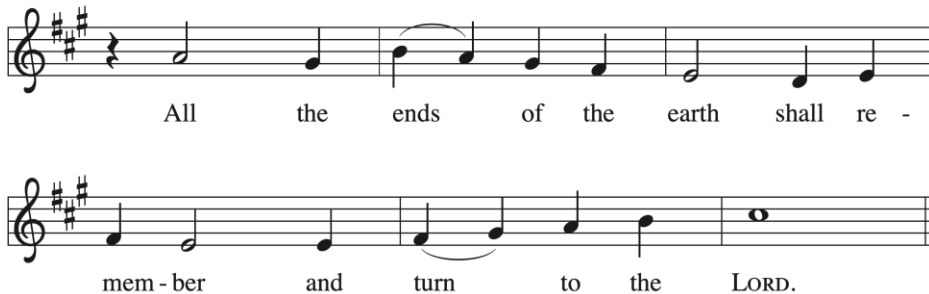
P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 22: 25-31

(First time through, organ; second time through, cantor; third time through, congregation)

Refrain:



Psalm 22:27

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Tone:



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- 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 o- | ver the nations. R
- 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 be- | fore the LORD.
- ³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.
- ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" **R**

SECOND READING: 1 John 4: 7-21

A reading from 1 John.

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.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW p. 142

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 15: 1-8

P: The holy gospel according to John.

C: 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."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

God loves me, Jesus is my friend, and church is a great place to be. Amen.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us ELW 358

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.</p> <p>2 We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined
yet seeking hope for humankind.</p> <p>3 Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own
not through some merit, right, or claim,</p> | <p>but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
and find you kneeling at our feet.</p> <p>4 Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.</p> <p>5 Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair,
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

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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 INTERCESSION

A: ... God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: ... our resurrected and living Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

MUSICAL OFFERING

In Meeting We Are Blessed

by Troy Robertson

We are met together and in meeting we are blessed.

Peace in coming and in going, peace in labor and in rest.

Hold on, dear brother! Hold on dear sister! Hold on!

Hold on to me.

You're not alone and you never more will be.

I will be with you, and I will carry you with me.

Friendship endures, and surely we will prove, it's not ourselves,
but our bodies that move.

OFFERING PRAYER

No checkbook? Scan the box to give online!

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also, with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

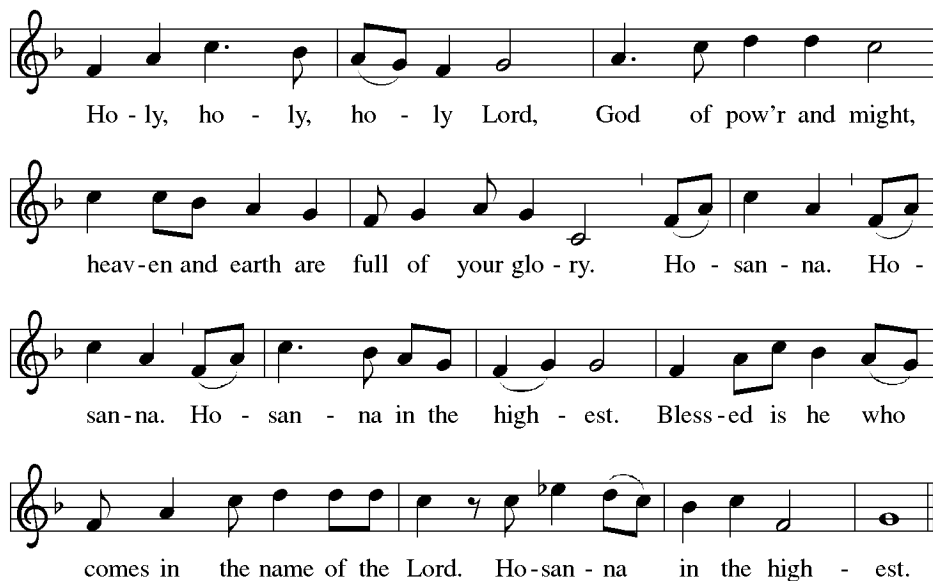
C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ELW p.144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen

COMMUNION

You may commune where you are seated with the elements you brought with you, or you may come forward from the center aisle and Pastor will place, in your open hand, a wafer which you may then dip into the chalice of wine held by the assisting minister. After you have dipped the bread into the chalice of wine, you may return to your seat by the side aisle, or walk up to the altar and kneel for more prayer and reflection.

LAMB OF GOD ELW p. 146

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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

RELEASE FROM CALL BLESSING

Opening Statement
Leader

Beth Llewellyn (Call Committee Chair)
Wally Brockhoff (Council President)

WB: People of God, as representatives of the members of Trinity Lutheran Church and with thanks to God for the ministry of Pastor Jeff among us, do you now release him from his call as your pastor?

C: We do, and we give thanks to God.

WB: Pastor Jeff, with thanks to God and for the members of this community and for their ministry with you, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with Trinity Lutheran Church?

P: I do and I give thanks to God

WB: Let us pray. ... Go in peace and serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

SENDING

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Let All Things Now Living ELW 881

1 Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our
days.
God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

2 God rules all the forces:
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God
divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and
praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.

Text © 1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Company

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Now the Green Blade Rises

arr. Edward Poston

Readings and Psalm: Sunday, May 5, 2024

Acts 10: 44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5: 1-6

John 15: 9-17



Assisting Minister: Annielaurie Seifert

Lector: Kevin Boatright

Acolyte/Crucifer: Ashley Mock

Nursery: Morgan Sponholtz

Usher: Bob Sarna, Ruth Sarna, Virgil Dean, Jan Dean

Children's Message: Sandy Cooper

Altar Care: Janet Ross, Kathy Bryan, Sunnie Planthold

Livestreaming: Dave Elson