



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

April 28, 2024 ✚ The Fifth Sunday of Easter

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

✚ GATHERING ✚

Prelude

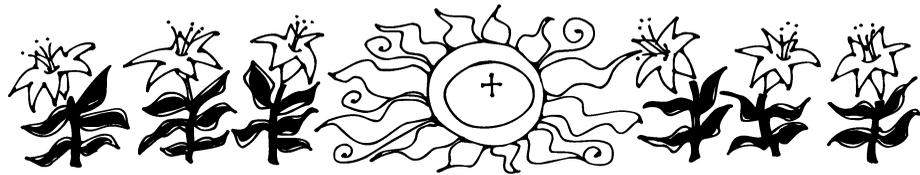
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.





Fifth Sunday Of Easter

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ.

**We were baptized so that we might have a new life,
as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God the Father.**

Therefore let us confess our sins to God
so that, as nourished branches, we may abide in him who is the vine.

(Silence for confession and self-examination.)

Almighty and all-merciful God,

We are dead in trespasses and sin; we have no power to rise.

We have offended your majesty and defied your divinity;

we have brought death and darkness where you once said,

“Let there be light.” We deserve the doom that you have decreed.

We are dead in trespasses and sin; we have no power to rise.

But Christ is risen.

Risen indeed!

Since we have been united with him in a death like his,

we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

For his sake we implore you, O God, forgive our sins,

and fill us with that love which overflows into the lives of others.

Let us be raised with Christ.

“Thus it is written, that the Messiah had to suffer
and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that

repentance and forgiveness of sins must be proclaimed in his name.”

That word is now proclaimed to you.

We have seen the Lord! Alleluia!

Benediction

The blessing of the living God,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
Surround and sustain you, keep you from harm,
and fill you with courage. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

#452



- 1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
- 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



- so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984

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Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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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!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.
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Music: Welsh folk tune; Public Domain

Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A 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.
Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements

Gathering Song

Now the Green Blade Rises

#379

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,
wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,
love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958
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Music: French Carol; Public Domain

Opening Litany

O God of Good News, you have given us so many people who have guided us in our faith and helped us to learn more about you.
We thank you for their guidance.

O God of Good News, you have used the words and actions of parents to bring children closer to you.
We thank you for the guidance of parents.

O God of Good News, you have used pastors to preach your Word of truth to people who enter your house.
We thank you for the guidance of pastors.

O God of Good News, you have used Sunday school teachers to make the stories of the Bible come alive to children.

We thank you for the guidance of Sunday school teachers.

O God of Good News, you have used Bible study leaders to help people delve more deeply into Scripture.

We thank you for the guidance of Bible study leaders.

O God of Good News, you have used our family and friends to open our eyes to your will for us.

We thank you for the guidance of family and friends.

O God of Good News, you have shared with us your Spirit, who guides us in all things.

We thank you for the guidance of your Spirit.

O guiding God,

Help us to see all the ways in which you are guiding us.

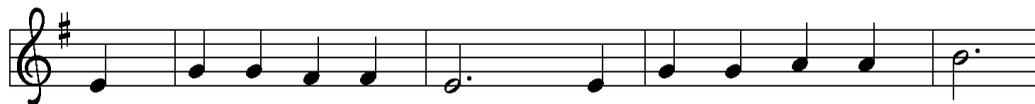
Apostolic Greeting

The Easter joy of our living Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the expansive love of God the Father, and the unique peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie

ELW setting 10



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Distribution Hymn

Where Charity and Love Prevail

#359



- 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.

Text & Music: Joaquín Madurga, 1938–2017; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951
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Distribution Hymn

Let All Things Now Living

#881



- 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.

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us...

**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.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

ELW setting 10



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

The Body of Christ given for you. Amen.

The Blood of Christ shed for you. Amen.



Hymn of Praise

ELW setting 10



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A 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. Amen.**

Special Music

Rock of Ages

Bell Choir

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading

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, the Ethiopian is baptized by Philip.

A reading from Acts:

²⁶Then 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.) 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.

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

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 Jesus 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 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.

Proper Preface

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.

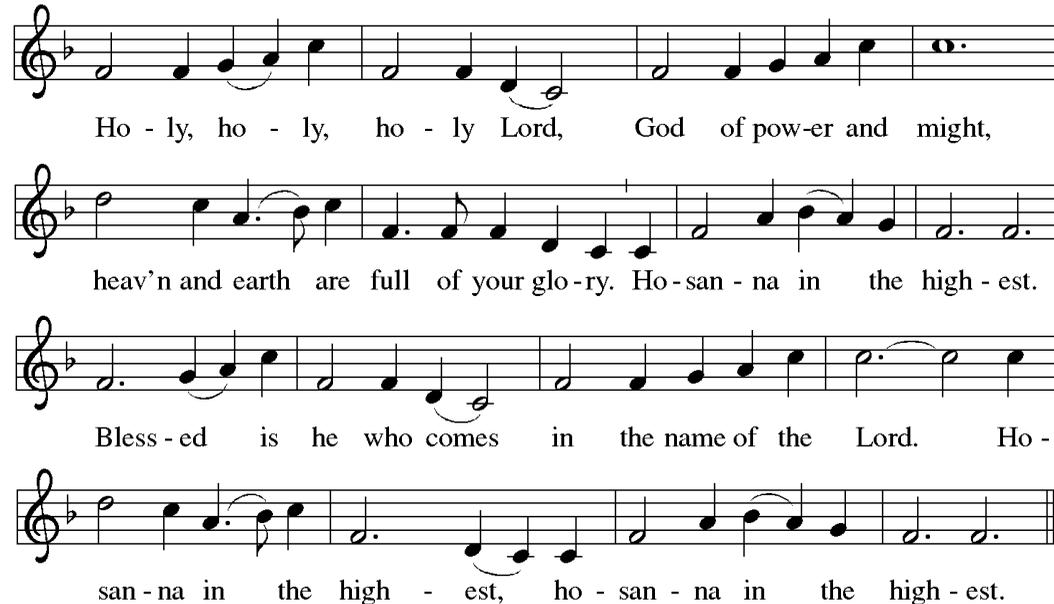
In this meal of creation, of resurrection, and of everlasting life,
you pour out the cup of your abundance to give us eternal joy in you.

And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels,
and all the company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending praise.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW setting 10



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Psalm 22:25-31

Let us read Psalm 22 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 Reading

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.

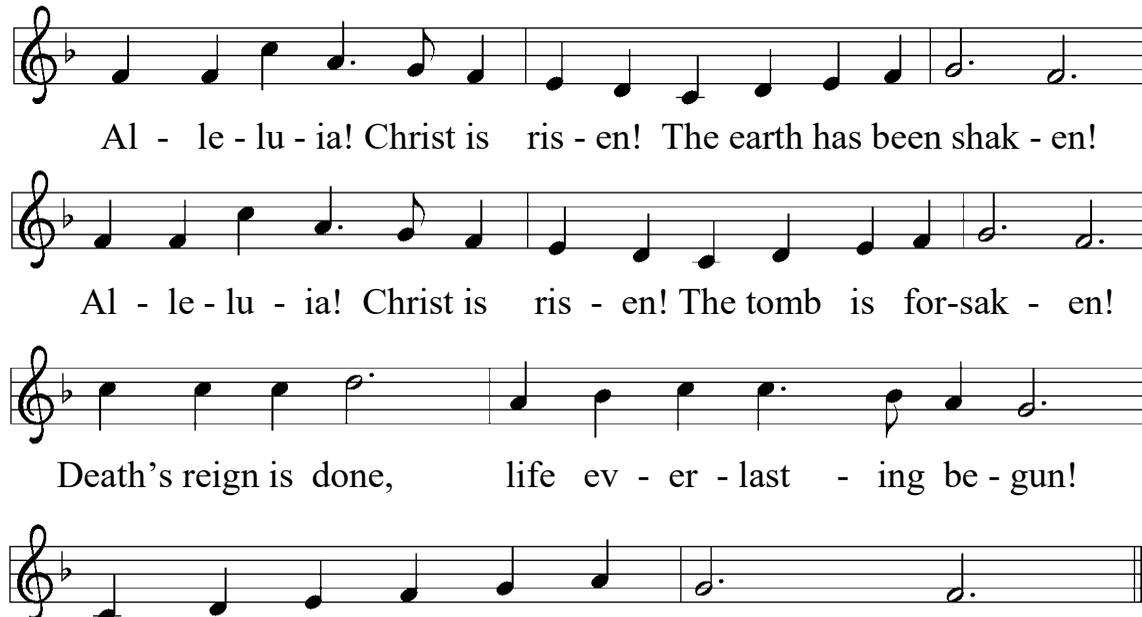
A reading from First John:

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 Verse

(Tune: #858)



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en! The earth has been shak - en!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en! The tomb is for-sak - en!

Death's reign is done, life ev - er - last - ing be - gun!

We from our graves shall a - wak - en!

Music: Ernewerten Gesangbuch, Part II, Stralsund, 1665
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Peace

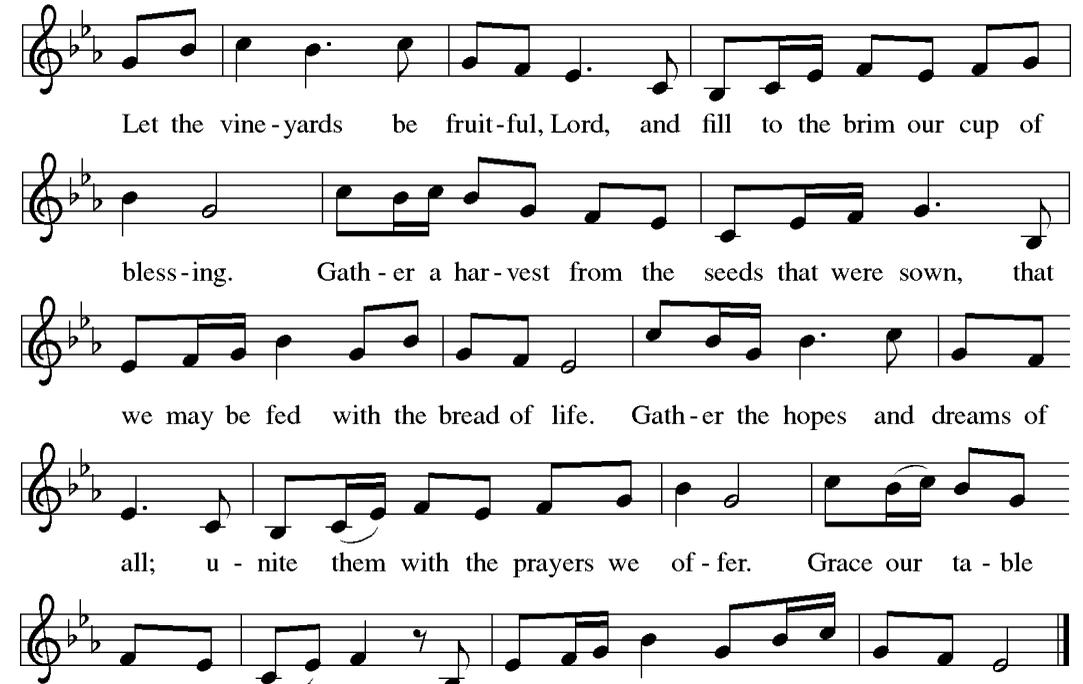
The Peace of the Risen Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

Let the Vineyard Be Fruitful

#184



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

✠ MEAL ✠

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.



Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

- P 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.**
- A 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.**
- P 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...*
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- A 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.**
- P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- A 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.**
- 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. **Amen.**

Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8

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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Risen Lord!

[Jesus said:] 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 Risen Christ.

Gospel Response

(Tune: #858)



Christ is a - ris - en, His bless-ings are con-stant, on - go - ing.



Christ is the Vine. See, new life to his branch-es is flow - ing.



Death's reign is done, life ev - er - last - ing be - gun!



Boun - ti - ful fruit rich - ly grow - ing!

Music: Erneverten Gesangbuch, Part II, Stralsund, 1665
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Children's Time Sermon

Hymn of the Day

We Know That Christ is Raised

#449



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!

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Nicene Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 the People

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.

A 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.