



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

Worship 11:00 A.M.

Minister: Rev. Diana Edis

Musician: Larissa Goruk

Videographer: George Edis

Reader: Carol Bulford

Worship is live streamed on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/princerupertlutheran/>.

Welcome to Worship with St. Paul's Lutheran Church. 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.

Weekly Prayer Petitions

Local: Sea Farers Mission, Prince Rupert

Synod: St. Peter's Estonian Lutheran in Vancouver; Peace Lutheran in Vernon

ACC: Bishop, Assisting Bishop, Episcopal Admin., clergy, and people, Diocese of Moosonee

ELCIC: Congregations of the Winnipeg area of Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario Synod

Discipleship Opportunities

1. Make plans to attend St. Paul's 100th Anniversary celebration! We will have a catered dinner May 4 with light entertainment and a silent auction. Tickets are \$50/person. If you are unable to afford the cost of the meal please let Pastor know and assistance will be provided. If you have contributions to the silent auction please contact Carol B. or Laurie C. If you can assist with funding for those in need, contact pastor.

2. There will be a funeral held May 7 at 1:00 for Anna Kaardal. All are invited.

3. Pastor will be public this Wednesday from 9:30-11:30 at Javadotcup.

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* Bible readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version, covered under AF license number SB157842.

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

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!

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!

Gathering Hymn

Now the Green Blade Rises

No. 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,

Continued on following page

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
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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

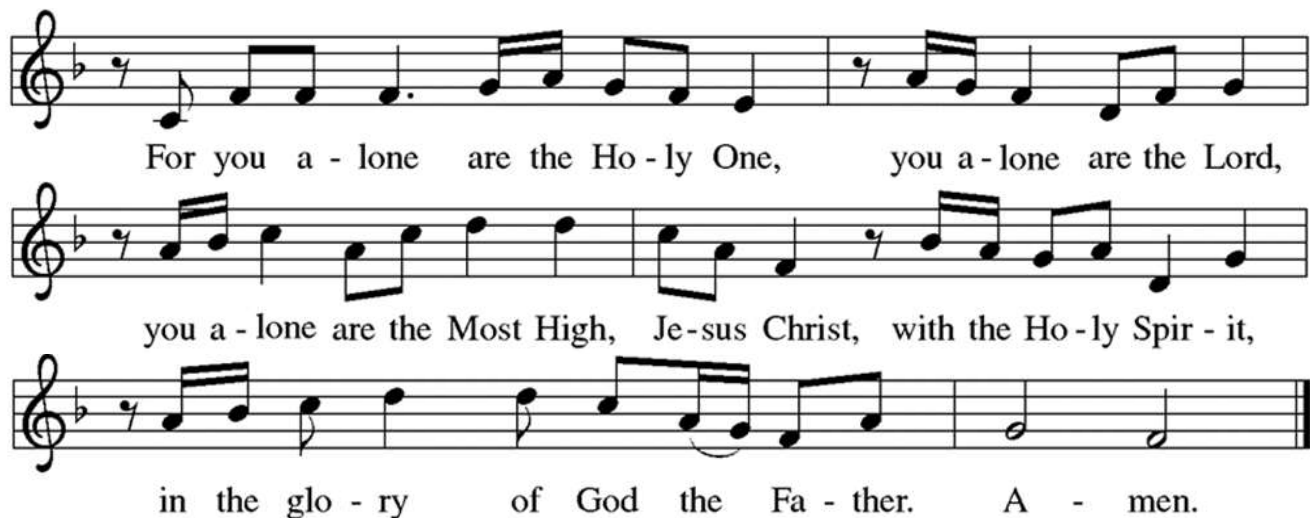
C: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

Assisting minister

pg 139

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
All
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Let us pray together our Prayer of the day. We 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.

Our first reading is from Acts, beginning at the 8th chapter

8:26-40

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.) So 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now 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. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As 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?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When 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. But 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

We read Psalm 22:25-31 responsively:

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.

Indeed, 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.

Their descendants shall serve the Lord,

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

Our second reading is from 1 John beginning at the 4th chapter

4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So 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. Love 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. There 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. We love because he first loved us. Those 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. The 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

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The holy gospel according to John, beginning at the 15th chapter
Glory to you, O Lord

15:1-8

Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide 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. I 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

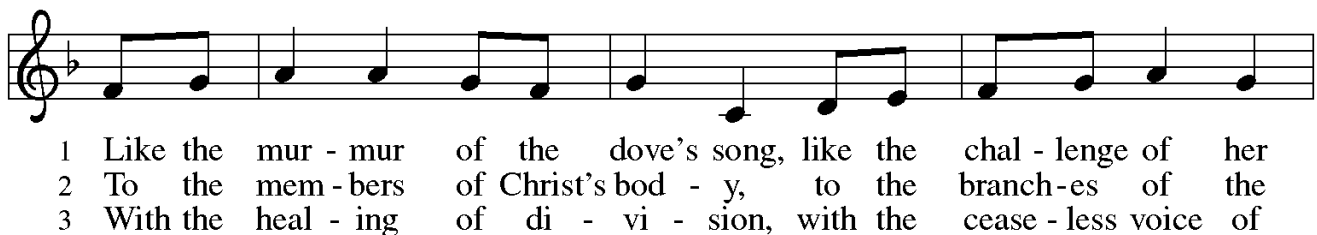
Sermon

Rev. Diana Edis

Hymn of the Day

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

ELW. 403



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Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
 Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.
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Nicene Creed

page 104

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed. We confess:

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.

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. Hearing the words, "God of grace" God's people may respond, "hear our prayer."

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, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. We pray now, either aloud or silently, for all those in our hearts and on our minds...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.

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

Offerings may be mailed to the church, placed in our mailbox, sent by e-transfer to offering2stpauls@citywest.ca, or given through CanadaHelps to St. Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert.

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.

L: Gathered into one across time and space by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using whatever version of that prayer comforts you. We pray:

**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.**

Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope—bless you now and always.

Amen.

Sending 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.

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.
 Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
 Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!