

Announcements

- Update from Worship + Evangelism Committee
 - In May, our goal is to celebrate communion and sing during worship services. Communion elements will be available as you enter the sanctuary. Please bring the pre-packaged elements with you as you find a seat. As you are comfortable, you may partake of these elements during the worship service at the appropriate time. You are also able to take the elements with you to partake at home if that is more comfortable. There will be a garbage at either door for you to dispose of your empty containers as you leave the sanctuary.
 - In order to do this, it is **essential** that we maintain 6 feet between households and follow instructions for the safety of all. This may mean changing seats as worshippers arrive to accommodate everyone. As long as we maintain appropriate distance and follow instructions, we look forward to continuing our journey toward our "new normal" together. We thank you for your patience and understanding.
- County-wide Food Distribution will be on May 18 from 2:00-3:30. It will be held at the fairgrounds here in Le Center.
- SPY Team at 6:00 tonight for those in 7th grade and beyond.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.

Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

In-Person

<i>As We Gather at Your Table</i> ELW 522
<i>As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word, Help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.</i>
<i>Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life; Send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave; May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.</i>
<i>Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least. There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy, As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.</i>

Online

<i>Thine Is the Glory</i> ELW 376
<i>Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vic'try thou o'er death hast won! Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay. Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vic'try thou o'er death hast won!</i>
<i>Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb! Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom; Let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vic'try thou o'er death hast won!</i>
<i>No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life; life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife; Make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vic'try thou o'er death hast won!</i>

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

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.

Children's Message

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, he is baptized by Philip.

An angel from the Lord spoke to Philip, "At noon, take the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) So he did. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian man was on his way home from Jerusalem, where he had come to worship. He was a eunuch and an official responsible for the entire treasury of Candace. (Candace is the title given to the Ethiopian queen.) He was reading the prophet Isaiah while sitting in his carriage. The Spirit told Philip, "Approach this carriage and stay with it."

Running up to the carriage, Philip heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you really understand what you are reading?"

The man replied, "Without someone to guide me, how could I?" Then he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him. This was the passage of scripture he was reading:

Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent so he didn't open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was taken away from him. Who can tell the story of his descendants because his life was taken from the earth?

The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, about whom does the prophet say this? Is he talking about himself or someone else?" Starting with that passage, Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. As they went down the road, they came to some water.

The eunuch said, "Look! Water! What would keep me from being baptized?" He ordered that the carriage halt. Both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water, where Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Lord's Spirit suddenly took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. Philip found himself in Azotus. He traveled through that area, preaching the good news in all the cities until he reached Caesarea.

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.

Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.

Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us. This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us, because he has given us a measure of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the savior of the world. If any of us confess that Jesus is God's Son, God remains in us and we remain in God. We have known and have believed the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them. This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day, because we are exactly the same as God is in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. We love because God first loved us. Those who say, "I love God" and hate their brothers or sisters are liars. After all, those who don't love their brothers or sisters whom they have seen can hardly love God whom they have not seen! This commandment we have from him: Those who claim to love God ought to love their brother and sister also.

***Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.*

***Gospel Reading | 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.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper. He removes any of my branches that don't produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit. You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can't produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can't produce fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can't do anything. If you don't remain in me, you will be like a branch that is thrown out and dries up. Those branches are gathered up, thrown into a fire, and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

In-Person

<i>In Christ Called to Baptize</i> ELW 575
<i>In Christ called to baptize, we witness to grace</i>

Online

<i>We All Are One in Mission</i> ELW 576
<i>We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,</i>

*and gather a people from each land and race.
In deep, flowing waters, we share in Christ's death,
Then, rising to new life, give thanks with each
breath.*

*In Christ called to banquet, one table we share,
A haven of welcome, a circle of care.
Although we are many, we share in one bread.
One cup of thanksgiving proclaims Christ, our
head.*

*In Christ called to witness, by grace we will preach
The lifegiving gospel; God's love we will teach.
By grace may our living give proof to our praise
In costly compassion reflecting Christ's ways.*

*Unite us, anoint us, O Spirit of love,
For you are within us, around us, above.
Equip us for service with gifts you bestow.
In Christ is our calling. In Christ may we grow.*

*Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single great commission compels us from above
To plan and work together that all may know
Christ's love.*

*We all are called for service, to witness in God's
name.*

*Our ministries are different; our purpose is the
same:*

*To touch the lives of others with God's surprising
grace,
So ev'ry folk and nation may feel God's warm
embrace.*

*Now let us be united, and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.*

***Apostles' Creed**

Let us confess our faith using the words of 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 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**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all, especially Pastor Dave, Nancy Gjerde, Lori Roemhildt, Jane Lorsung, Barb Braun, Jeff Morrow, and Connie Ellanson, as well as the family and friends of Jerry Anderson. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

***Words of Institution**

***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.**

***Communion Blessing + Final Blessing**

May the body and blood...

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn | Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

ELW 389

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,

But saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev'ry place and time.

In ev'ry insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,

Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

*Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
And find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.*

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and ev'ry age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

***Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**