

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

**C: Amen.**

P: 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.

**C: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life.**

P: Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

**C: Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.**

P: In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

**C: Look, here is water! Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: 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.

**C: 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.**

P: Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

*(Please rise as you are able)*

- 1 Holy God, we praise your name;  
Lord of all, we bow before you.  
All on earth your scepter claim,  
all in heav'n above adore you.  
Infinite your vast domain,  
everlasting is your reign.
  
- 2 Hark! The glad celestial hymn  
angel choirs above are raising;  
cherubim and seraphim,  
in unceasing chorus praising,  
fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:  
"Holy, holy, holy Lord!"
  
- 3 Lo, the apostolic train  
join your sacred name to hallow;  
prophets swell the glad refrain,  
and the white-robed martyrs follow;  
and from morn to set of sun  
through the church the song goes on.
  
- 4 Holy Father, holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, three we name you,  
though in essence only one;  
undivided God we claim you  
and, adoring, bend the knee  
while we own the mystery.

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820-1900

## **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.**

## **Kyrie**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

**C: 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.**

*(You may be seated.)*

## **First Reading: Acts 8:26-40**

Then 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, the 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.

**Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31**

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

**C: The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.  
May your hearts live forever!**

R: All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before him.

**C: For dominion belongs to the Lord,  
and he rules over the nations.**

R: To 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.

**C: Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the Lord**

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

### **Second Reading: 1 John 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 abides 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 a brother or sister 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.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**ELW p. 151**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8**

P: A reading from the gospel of John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

"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.

P: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please be seated)*

### **Sermon**

**Pastor Emily Dalen**

Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
open to the seed of your word.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
where love can grow and peace is understood.  
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.  
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.  
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.  
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,  
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

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*(Please rise as you are able)*

**We Profess Our Faith - 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.**

**Intercessory Prayers**

P: Risen Lord,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

**We Share God's Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also, with you.**

P: Let us share God's peace with those around us.

*(You may be seated)*

**We Bring Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory Song**

**"We Praise You, O God" v. 1**

**ELW #870**

1 We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963

**Offertory Prayer**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

**We Are Fed at God's Table**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you

**C: And also, with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.



**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### **The Preface**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **Holy, Holy, Holy**

**ELW p.130**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

### **Words of Institution**

P: On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

P: Remembering our Lord, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us.

**C: 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.**

*(Please be seated)*

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table. All are welcome.

### **Communion Distribution**

*(Please rise as you are able)*

P: Now may the body and blood of our crucified and risen Lord strengthen you and keep you in His grace now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

### **The Benediction**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

**C: Amen.**

### **Sending Song**

**"Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"**

**ELW #452**

1 Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,  
and Christ shall give you light;  
so learn his love, its length and breadth,  
its fullness, depth, and height.

- 2 To us on earth he came to bring  
from sin and fear release,  
to give the Spirit's unity,  
the very bond of peace.
- 3 There is one body and one hope,  
one Spirit and one call,  
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,  
one God who made us all.
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved,  
who died that he might save;  
with kind and gentle hearts forgive  
as God in Christ forgave.
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died,  
and conquered in the strife.  
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,  
and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984

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## **The Sending**

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

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## Week of April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Welcome Team:** 8:00 a.m. Doug & LaJean Wehring; 10:30 a.m. The Stephanie Melby Family

**Tellers:** Doug & LaJean Wehring

**Musicians:** 8:00 a.m. Deb Schmidt; 10:30 a.m. Deb Schmidt

**Acolyte:** 8:00 a.m. Keira Ragland; 10:30 a.m. Addi Pedersen

**Reader:** Sheryl Henderson

**Prayers:** Stanley Vorthmann; Robert Meier II; Lyn Suglia; Jeri Schnepel; Ava Steeve; Ed Whitehill; Brenda Riley; Roger Grant; Peggy Engle; Beth Lucy; Logan Young (Military).

**Prayers for those grieving the loss of a loved one:** The family of Zach Brennecke.

*\*Today we are honoring our graduating seniors. Our graduates are Rhylee Casey, Emmalyn Hansen-Stearns, Camille Karr, Ava McGreevy, Brock Poland, Charlie Schrage, Nolan Waterman, Levi Young, Caleb Cooper and Aaron Ehmke. If you would like to give them a card or gift but will not be at church that day, you can place it in the basket that will be on the green bench outside the church office the week before the service.\**

The final day of Sunday School is May 5th. We will recognize all faith formation volunteers at both services. Kids will sing at the 10:30 a.m. service.

**Vacation Bible School Prep:** Come and help the VBS Team get decorations ready for VBS week! We will meet next Sunday right after the late worship service in the upstairs library. We will have pizza for lunch.

**Get Signed up for VBS!:** Registration forms for 4-year-olds through 6th grade are out for our week of VBS on June 3rd - 7th, and can be found at church and on our website. Also, please consider how you can help with VBS by volunteering. See the volunteer sign-up outside the church office.

**Baccalaureate:** All friends and family of graduating seniors are invited to Baccalaureate on Monday, May 13th following Senior Awards Night. Zion will host.

**This Week's Calendar:**

- Sun. 4/28:** 8:00 a.m. Worship  
9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study  
10:30 a.m. Worship/Recognizing Graduates
- Mon. 4/29:** 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- Wed. 5/1:** 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Final SPY Cell Group
- Thurs. 5/2:** **Denise's Day Off**  
8:30 a.m. Maint. Day  
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting
- Fri. 5/3:** **Pastor Emily's Day Off**
- Sun. 5/5:** 8:00 a.m. Worship  
9:15 a.m. Final Adult Bible Study/Final Day of Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. VBS Decorating Prep. (Library)  
4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Silver Creek 4-H in F-hall

**Worship Attendance on 4/21/24:** 8:00 a.m.: **55**; Online: **36**; 10:30 a.m.: **43**; Online: **17**

**Sunday School Attendance on 4/21/24:** **14**

**Stewardship Emphasis:** The Mission for May: World Hunger

**Current Financial Information:** Posted on the bulletin board outside the Church office.

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