



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024 - 10:00 AM - in the Gym



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Debbie Jo Forbes by Chris and Lara Wannemacher.

SERVING TODAY

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Presiding Minister and Preaching | Susan Crowell |
| Assisting Minister | Patrick Preacher |
| Pianist and Choir Director | Jim Parham |
| Lector | David Foster |
| Prayers | David Hill |
| Communion Assistant | Melissa Kolb |
| Cantor | Richard Moose |
| Acolyte | Harper Roth |
| Children's Worship Activity Leaders | Anne Fagala Amanda Cook Jeff Roth |
| Nursery | Margaret Roth |
| Praying for Possibilities | Dora Welch |
| Greeters | Mark Allen Cathy O'Neill Pat O'Neill Lisa Rehm Chris Sorenson Sarah Weeks |
| Ushers | Steve Boguski Teresa Harrington Wayne Landreth David Potts |
| Fellowship Hosts | Jo and Lane Lewis |
| Video | Henry Wilcox |
| Audio | Gregg Alley |

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

Please stand as able

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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 eunuch entered your boundless baptismal life and grace.

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 confess all that we have done and left undone, knowing that at the foot of the cross and by the empty tomb, our sins are forgiven. 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!

**Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

Refrain

***Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!***

**Walking the way, Christ in the center
telling the story to open our eyes;
breaking our bread, giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. *Refrain***

**Jesus the vine, we are the branches;
life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
gift of the future now flowing to me. *Refrain***

**Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:
death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. *Refrain***

**City of God, Easter forever,
golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
river of life, saints and archangels,
sing with creation to God the I Am! *Refrain***

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



Refrain
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



Refrain
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of love and grace, today you gift us with the story of your beloved, though un-named, child...the Ethiopian Eunuch. Through this story you open our hearts and minds to see and experience the vastness of your kin-dom. You invite us into your dream of divine inclusion and belonging for all of humanity. You trust us with your mission to welcome and include all of your precious children. Give us the courage to embrace your vision for the good of all...and all means all, through Jesus Christ our Savior, whose resurrection we celebrate throughout this season of Easter.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

A reading from Acts.

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. They had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in a chariot, they were 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 them reading the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹The eunuch replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And they invited Philip to get in and sit beside them. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that they were reading was this: "Like a sheep led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, the one does not open their mouth. ³³In humiliation justice was denied them. Who can describe their generation? For their life was 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 them 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?" ³⁸The eunuch commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized them. 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 the 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 God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm
 Refrain

All the ends of the earth shall re -
 mem - ber and turn to the LORD.

Psalm
 Tone

- 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**

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 God's only Son into the world so that we might live through Christ. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent God's 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 God's love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because God's Spirit has been given to us. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that Abba God has sent the 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 God 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 God first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their own siblings, are liars; for those who do not love a sibling whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their siblings also.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Connected to One Another

Please stand as able

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

Hal - le - lu - jah.

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Repeat

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said:¹“I am the true vine, and my Abba is the vinegrower, ²who removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit God 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 Abba God is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please stand as able

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Are Welcome

#641

**Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely
live, a place where saints and children tell how
hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and
visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and
true, where all God's children dare to seek to
dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as
witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we
claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain***

**Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and
wheat: a banquet hall on holy ground where
peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through
Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in
Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain***

**Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and
stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and
live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the
stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an
end to fear and danger: *Refrain***

**Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions
heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as
words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and
laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house
proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain***

NICENE CREED

**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 INTERCESSION

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.

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Remind us to lavishly offer the promise of your good news to absolutely everyone, without exception. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Bring a renewed energy and enthusiasm for keeping your creation clean and healthy. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray 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. Grant understanding, safety, and productive resolutions to places where war is being protested. Inspire a fair judicial system and give clean hearts to all those serving in our legal system. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray 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 those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts... God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray for this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take food to grieving families, and for all who seek to share the good news of your love with the world. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who often go unheard: for single parents, victims of sexual, spiritual, or physical abuse, for the queer community, and for all who are often forgotten. Bless those who take risks and incur costly repercussions for the sake of justice, their conscience, and the gospel. Continue bringing your kin-dom among us. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who yearn for your good news: for any who have been told they are unworthy of your grace and love, for ministers who wrongly withhold sacraments and gospel, and for the church which often loses its way. Inspire us by the actions and words of the Ethiopian Eunuch. Help us to see beyond the worldly constructs of gender, class, and race so that we might understand that water gets all of us equally wet. Teach us to know what the Eunuch instinctively knew that nothing could separate them from your love. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray and give thanks for the new organ being installed into our Sanctuary. Bless the hands of David, Randy, Carmen, Chris, Seth, and Alexander as they work to build what we are witnessing as a true work of art. We give you thanks for each pipe, lever, and piston lovingly being placed. May the wind that will soon travel through this instrument be a gift of your Spirit, that each sound produced may serve to magnify your glorious name and saving word. 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.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ is with you always.

And also with you.

Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated

MEAL

OFFERING

You Are the Branches
by Michael Jothen
John 15:1-11, adapted

Adult Choir

Refrain: "I am the vine, you are the branches, I am the vine," says the Lord.
"I am the vine, you are the branches," says the Lord!

In my word I have spoken unto you, in my word you are made clean!
In my word, it shall be done for you. Spread the news, spread the news in my name! *Refrain*

Abide in me, I in you, all who abide in me shall glorify my name!
In my love you shall not wither, you shall bear fruit and glorify my name! *Refrain*

Please stand as able

OFFERING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!
(verses 1 and 4)

#385

**Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph
of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with
one accord, the life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Let us pray, 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.

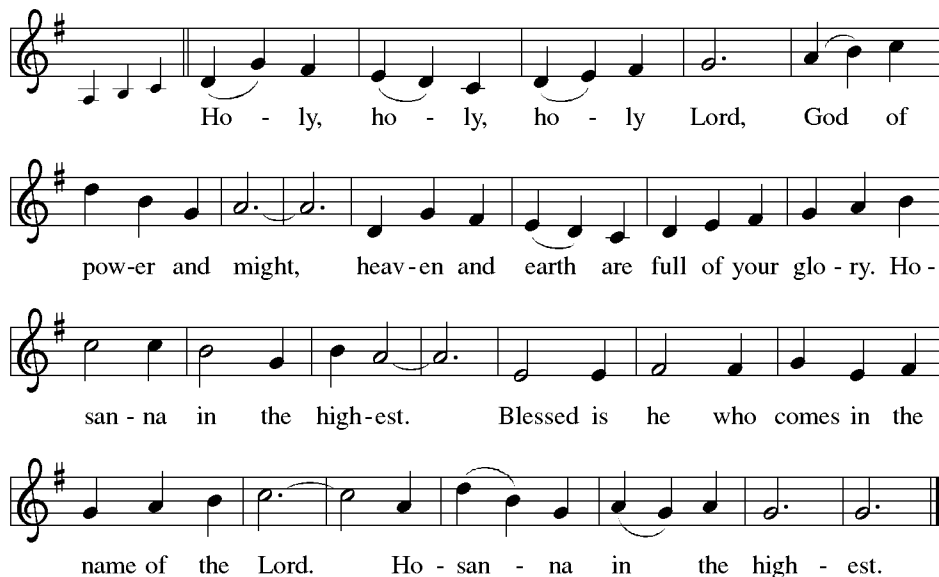
GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is 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.

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,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin,
who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

In 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

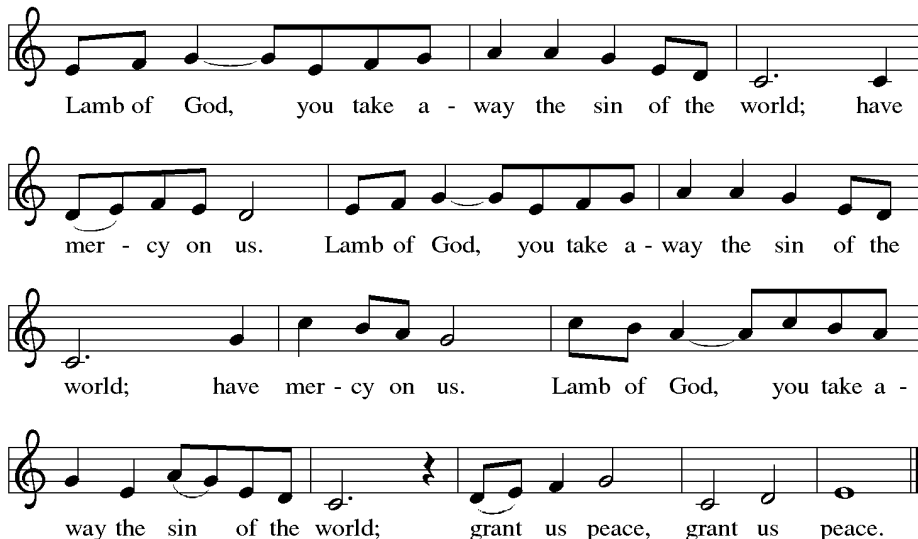
Please be seated

COMMUNION

All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Anyone preferring not to receive the wine may receive only the bread, completely trusting that the full benefit of communion — Christ's grace and forgiveness — may be found in either the bread or wine.

At the direction of the ushers, worshippers are invited to move to the front of the center aisle to dip the bread into the wine to receive Communion by intinction.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION



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, grant us peace.

**Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

Refrain

***Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound! Repeat***

**Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. *Refrain***

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'ry where! *Refrain***

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

#708

Refrain

***Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.***

**Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain***

**Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race,
neighbors are nearby and far away. *Refrain***

**These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain***

**Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet:
this is the way we will live with you. *Refrain***

Choir Anthems

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

#403

Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her
flight, like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the
new flame's eager might: come, Holy Spirit, come.

To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the
vine, to the church in faith assembled, to our
midst as gift and sign: come, Holy Spirit, come.

With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of
prayer, with the pow'r to live and witness, with the
peace beyond compare: come, Holy Spirit, come.

O blessed spring, where word and sign embrace us
into Christ the Vine: here Christ enjoins each one to
be a branch of this lifegiving Tree.

Through summer heat of youthful years, uncertain
faith, rebellious tears, sustained by Christ's infusing
rain, the boughs will shout for joy again.

When autumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
heavy harvest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will
move with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.

As winter comes, as winters must, we breathe our
last, return to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take
wing and trust the promise of the spring.

Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree, be praised for
this blest mystery: that word and water thus
revive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Please stand as able

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

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.

Refrain

Hallelujah! We sing your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness. Hallelujah! We sing your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness.

**Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hunger. *Refrain***

**Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joyful gospel. *Refrain***

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.

Embrace God's gift of belonging.

Be bold and brave in your efforts to invite others into this belonging.

Trust the good news of God's love for absolutely everyone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Everyone is invited to gather in the back corner of the Gym
following worship for refreshments and fellowship.*

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
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Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
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Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises
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CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell
Senior Pastor

James C. Parham, III
Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

Amy R. Brown, Deacon
Director of
Educational Ministries

Patrick D. Preacher
Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator
Pastoral Intern

Angie H. McCormack
Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator

Kay M. Cook
Office Manager

Henry W. Wilcox
Accountant and
Digital Media Manager

Karen M. Craig
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald
Nursery Attendant

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