



I am  
the vine,  
you are the  
branches

JOHN 15:5



# Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Reverend Viking Dietrich, *Interim Pastor*

Mr. Roger L. Kurtz, *Director of Music*

<https://www.jerusaluth.org>

“As followers of Jesus, we serve our neighbors locally and globally.”

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

10:30 a.m.

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE:** *Cornet Voluntary* – William Walond

### ACCLAMATION

*Throughout this worship folder, the text in **bold** type is said by the congregation.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

### INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Do you reaffirm your baptismal faith, faith in resurrected Jesus as the Christ, our Lord and Savior? If so answer: I affirm my faith in Christ.

**I affirm my faith in Christ.**

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

**We thank you, O God.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We bless you, O God.**

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

**We praise you, O God.**

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN #379:** *Now the Green Blade Rises* NOËL NOUVELET

### **APOSTOLIC 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.**

### **KYRIE**

*(music on p. 138 ELW Setting 3)*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE:** *This Is the Feast*

*(music on p. 140 ELW Setting 3)*

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## 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.**

## FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40 *(printed on the back cover)*

*The congregation is seated. At the conclusion of the reading, the following is said:*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 22:25-31

*The psalm is spoken responsively*

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

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

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,  
who rules o- | ver the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>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 be- | fore the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn, saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

## SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21 *(printed on the back cover)*

*At the conclusion of the reading, the following is said:*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*(music on p. 142 ELW Setting 3)*

*The congregation stands to sing the Gospel Acclamation*

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:1-8 *(printed on the back cover)*

*Prior to the reading of the Holy Gospel, the following is said:*

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion of the Gospel, the following is said:*

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**     *The congregation is seated.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY #447: *O Blessed Spring*** BERGLUND

**NICENE CREED**

p. 104 (*ELW Setting 1*)

**PRAYERS**

*Each petition concludes: God of grace, **hear our prayer.***

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers. The congregation responds: **Amen.***

**PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,*

*"Peace be with you" or similar words. At the conclusion of the Peace, the congregation is seated.*

**ANTHEM:** *Celebrate the Risen Christ* – Cook Island Melody, arr. Austin C. Lovelace

**OFFERTORY HYMN:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

*Assisting Minister:* Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.**

*The presiding minister continues with the proper Preface. At the conclusion of the Preface, the congregation sings the Sanctus.*

**SANCTUS**

*(music on p. 144 ELW Setting 3)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the**

**Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

p. 111 (*ELW Setting 1*)

## 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.**

## FRACTION

The table of life is spread before us. Receive the goodness and mercy of God. All are welcome at this table where Christ is the host and the meal.

## AGNUS DEI

*(music on p. 146 ELW Setting 3)*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

## COMMUNION

*The congregation is seated. Lutherans teach that Christ is truly present with, in, and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. We commune by pouring chalice. Please take an empty cup before going to the rail. (The pre-filled cups contain grape juice.) Those who wish to receive only a blessing at the altar should indicate this by crossing their arms over their chest. As the ministers distribute the elements, they say these words: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Each person may respond: Amen.*

**COMMUNION HYMN #609: Chief of Sinners Though I Be**      GETHSEMANE

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Assisting Minister:* Let us pray: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN #377: Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!**      EARTH AND ALL STARS

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE: *The Archbishop's Fanfare* – Francis Jackson

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**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given today to the Glory of God.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

#### Reminder Dates

Fellowship/Adult Forum at 9:00 am with Worship Service at 10:30 am on Sunday, April 28.

Fellowship hearing after worship service in sanctuary on Sunday, April 28.

Worship and Music Committee Meeting on Sunday, April 28.

Choir Rehearsal at 7pm on Thursday, May 2.

National Day of Prayer at BULC on Thursday, May 2 from 2pm to 8pm.

Church Council has elected Vertex Mechanical Inc. to replace the two non functioning air conditioning units in the sanctuary at a cost of \$16,637.41. A congregational meeting will take place on May 5, 2024 following the 10:30 am worship service for the congregation's approval of this project. Please plan to attend this very important meeting. A representative from Vertex will be here to answer any questions.

**LOVE, Inc.** Join Jay Raleigh, Executive Director of LOVE, Inc for a discussion of LOVE, Inc's mission and how we can help impact our community! Sunday May 5th 9:00-9:45 am during our Sunday school hour.

### MUSIC NOTES:

The text of this morning's Hymn of the Day ("O Blessed Spring" – *ELW* #447) was written by Susan Palo Cherwien (1953-2021). Eight of her hymn texts, which are known for their beauty and depth of substance, appear in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Written in 1992, "O Blessed Spring" carries the singer through the whole journey of life – connected to and drawing life from Christ the Vine. Cherwien described her inspiration as follows: "Above the baptismal font in Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Minneapolis hangs a striking bronze sculpture by the late Paul Granlund, a sculpture which embodies the image of John 15:5 – 'I am the vine: you are the branches.' Granlund cast a tree with four branches depicting the four stages of human life, with Christ as the central trunk." For each life season, the artist chose these figures to be represented: a woman cradling an infant (spring), an agile, enthusiastic youth (summer), a mature woman (autumn), and an aging male who is approaching the end of his earthly pilgrimage, again curled into a fetal position (winter). This image of being forever grafted to Christ by baptism throughout each phase of life offers unmeasurable comfort, joy and hope, especially during troubling and uncertain times.

### SERVING IN THE LITURGY

Interim Pastor

Organist

Asst. Minister/Lector

Altar Guild

Acolyte

Ushers

Reverend Viking Dietrich

Roger Kurtz

J.D. Wissler

Jean Slaymaker

Zachary Fetter

Claude Grube, Andy Anderson, Charles Sweigart Jr.

**FIRST READING: Acts 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.) <sup>27</sup>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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>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.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>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?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>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.

**Psalms 22:25-31****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. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**GOSPEL: John 15:1-8**

[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17.

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Tracks 1 and 2  
ELCA-R