



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Third Sunday of Easter, Setting 8
Sunday, April 28, 2024
Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding
Contemporary Worship Service
Music led by the Average Worship Band

Belonging to Christ. Sharing Christ on the North Shore and Beyond!

Introduction

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.



Prelude *What a Beautiful Name* Average Worship Band

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism



Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water -- the local bodies of water, the rain that nourishes animals and plants, the water for drinking and bathing. We praise you, O God, for water:

We praise you, O God, for water!

We praise you, O God, for our water stories -- a flood that cleansed the earth, the sea that drowned the enemy, a river that can heal leprosy.

We praise you, O God, for water:

We praise you, O God, for water!

We remember the waters of Jesus -- baptized in the Jordan River, calming the Sea of Galilee, drinking from Jacob's Well, washing the disciples' feet, on the cross thirsting for us.

We praise you, O God, for this font. Breathe into this water, wash away our sin, and birth anew into your peace and joy.

We praise you, O God, for water:

We praise you, O God, for water!

O God, you are the Ocean, the source of all life. O God, you are the River, saving us from death. O God, you are the Stream, restoring our community's strength.

We praise you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
today, tomorrow, forever.
Amen, and Amen: **Amen, and Amen!**

Gathering Song

Mighty to Save

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

The Name of the Lord

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 Time



First Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

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. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was 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 him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is 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 him 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?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 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 his 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.

Psalm

Psalm 22:25-31

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 over the nations.**

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 before
the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

Second Lesson

1 John 4:17-21

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 his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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.

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 his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the

Father has sent his 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 he 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 he first loved us.

²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he 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 Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Sermon

Pastor Calvin Konop



Hymn of the Day

You Are the Vine 

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

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. 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 especially Shae, Carol Ann, Jody, Joan, Bruce, Lynn, Kati, Paulina, Kim. We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. 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, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. 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 be with you always.

And also with you.



Offering

You Are My King (Amazing Love)

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.**

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.

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

Words of Institution

The 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.

Invitation to Communion

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



Bethlehem Lutheran Church believes in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality. All persons, whether visiting or a member, are welcomed to Communion.

Communion Music

Come to the Table

Jesus, You Are My Life

Prayer after Communion



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.**

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

We Are Called

ELW 720

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Average Worship Band

Prayer Requests:

Your prayers are requested for healing: Shae Lindstrom, Carol Ann, Jody Daugherty, Joan Bieber, Elsa Sorenson, Bruce & Stacey Johnson, Kati Kristenson Stieler, Lynn Schulte, Kim Schulte, Paulina Backstrom, Vera Finn, Barbara Erickson, Char Anderson, Rhonda Schulte, Emily Ulhorn, Les Donek, Carly Hawkinson-Sohm, Jill Pederson, Kristi (Speck) Perales, Emi Heikkinen, Hank Ferland, Betty Jones, Sharon Bloomquist, and Stacey Schulte. *If you have any updates on these prayer requests, or any new requests, please call the office at 218-387-2227. Thank you.*

This week we lift up these member families and friends: Hank, Aubrey, Christian & Jaxon Ferland, Betty Jones, Chris & Kristin Lindholm, Bruce & Stacey Johnson, Ken & Jean Bratsch, and Emily Ulhorn. May God walk with these faithful friends in their Easter journey.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Wed. May 1	12:30 PM	Text Study
	5:30 PM	Taco meal
	6:00 PM	Worship
	6:00 PM	Confirmation
Thurs. May 2	8:00 AM	Bible Study
	9:00 AM	Quilting
Fri. May 3	-----	Clarity Hearing
Sun. May 5	8:40 AM	Choir practice
	10:00 AM	Worship & Sunday School



Mission of the Month:

In honor of Earth Day and to celebrate the renewal that comes with spring, the Church in Society committee has chosen the **EcoFaith Network** as our April Mission of the Month. The mission of the EcoFaith Network is *to live out God's call to be stewards of the earth for the sake of the whole creation.* The EcoFaith Network is a growing network of ELCA Lutheran congregations and their members finding and sharing ways to live out God's call to be stewards of the earth for the sake of all creation. To contribute to this mission of the month please note "EcoFaith Network" on your special offering.

Member Challenge

Visit their website, <https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/> and the NE MN Synod's EcoFaith network: <https://nemnsynod.org/ecofaith-network/>. Sign up for the **Green Blade Rising** newsletter <https://nemnsynod.org/green-blades-rising-newsletter/>. *Get involved with our Pollinator Garden.*



Protect our precious pollinators!

Please join us during coffee an' time TODAY to **make bee boxes with Pastor Mark** for our church gardens and to take home for your home garden if you wish. All materials will be provided. It is a pretty quick and simple project.

Traveler Cards are available from BLC to members of the community that need to travel out-of-town for medical appointments. Contact the office.

GWOH Work Day at Wilderness Canoe Base May 18th. Deadline to sign up: May 5. Sign up on clipboard in Narthex.

Wednesday Text Study: Join us at 12:30 pm on Wednesdays for a study of the scripture lessons.

Men's Bible Study: Every Thursday morning, beginning at 8:00 to 9:15 am. Contact Mike Chmelik for information, 218-387-1790

Quilting: *Quilters are seeking more helpers, especially anyone that can make quilt tops!* Every Thursday morning at 9 to 11:30am. No experience necessary. Work with the group or at home, whatever works best for you!

Summertime is Church Camp time!

It's crunch time to sign up for church camp. See the posters on the Narthex counter. Scholarships are available. Forms are on the counter and on the Youth Bulletin board.

Free Bibles: Help yourself to a large print English Standard Version Bible, on the counter in the Narthex. Share with a friend.



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www.facebook.com/BethlehemLutheranGM

Live stream link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5rNIGnTVe1X5xkhViv4sxA/livehttps://>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5rNIGnTVe1X5xkhViv4sxA/livehttps://>



On-line giving is encouraged using this QR

Code or through automatic transfer.

(Forms are available online & the office.)