

# Hope Lutheran Church

Worship Service

April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter



## **Our Vision:**

**To be known as a Spirit-led  
welcoming community of diversity and service.**

## **Our Mission:**

**We care, share, and prepare so that all experience the love of Jesus Christ.**

## **Guiding Principles:**

**Jesus is Lord.**

**God loves everyone.**

**All are welcome.**

**Everyone has a purpose.**

**Pray before acting.**

**Step out in faith, believing all is possible.**

**We are saved by grace.**

*"Whoever you are who worship here, in whatever household of faith you were born, whatever creed you now profess, whatever your race, nationality, sexual orientation, or condition, if you come to this sanctuary to seek the God in whom you may believe, or rededicate yourself to the God in whom you do believe, you are welcome; for this sanctuary is a house of prayer for all people."*

**"The Church's One Foundation"**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOME**

*Please stand, if able*

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Look, here is water!

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

Pastor: 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 official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

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

Pastor: 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 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.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Look, here is water!

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

# OPENING HYMN

## "Let All Things Now Living"



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2 His law he en - forc - es, the stars in their cours - es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.  
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim him di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, his light goes be -  
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with You!

**People:** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O God,

**People: 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**

*Please be seated*

## CHORAL ANTHEM

Voices of Hope

***"My Shepard Will Supply My Need"***

## READING

A reading from Acts, chapter 8.

<sup>26</sup>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.

Word of God, word of life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## READING

A reading from 1 John, chapter 4.

<sup>7</sup>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.

Word of God, word of life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

Readers: Jesus 1-Pastor, Jesus 2-reader

Jesus 1: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 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.

Jesus 2: 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.

Jesus 1: My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**Pastor Amy Oehlschlaeger**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Amy Oehlschlaeger**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"Now the Green Blade Rises"**



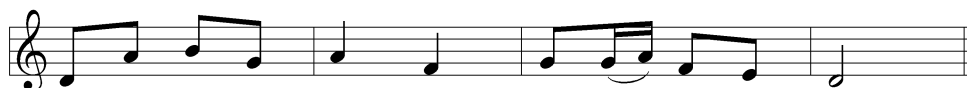
1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,  
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
 raised from the dead my ris - en Lord is seen;  
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.  
 love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.  
 love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.  
 love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

*Please stand, if able*

## **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**

Leader: 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.*

Leader: 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,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, for mountains and fields, for oceans and seas. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: 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,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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*). God of grace,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: 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,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: 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,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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.

**People:** **Amen.**

## OFFERING SONG

### "Where Charity and Love Prevail"



- 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre-vail, there God is ev - er found;
- 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a - mong us be un-known; let all con - ten-tions cease.
- 5 For love ex-cludes no race or clan that names the Sav-ior's name;
- 6 We now for-give each oth-er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem-bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
his fam - i - ly em - brac - es all whose Fa - ther is the same.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.

## OFFERTORY

### "Accept O Lord the Gifts We Bring"



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.  
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.  
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

*Please stand, if able*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray: Risen One,

**People:** **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.**



## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Congregation:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might;— Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the  
One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

The musical score is written on five staves. The first staff is labeled 'Congregation:'. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes various musical notations such as treble clefs, notes, rests, and bar lines.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**People:** 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*

## INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

**Pastor:** The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

## COMMUNION HYMN

### "Here Is Bread"

1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us,  
2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us,  
3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us,

he is with us. Break the bread, taste the wine,  
he is with us. Know his grace, find his peace,  
he is with us. We'll pro - claim till he comes

Christ is with us here. here.  
feast on Je - sus here.  
Je - sus cru - ci - fied.

*Refrain*

In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is  
life for - ev - er. In this mo - ment,  
by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

## "Be Not Afraid"

(sing 3x)

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

*Please stand, if able*

The Lord's body and blood strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**People: Amen**

### **THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen**

### **THE BENEDICTION**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

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

**People: Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

### "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing"

(vs 1, 4 & 5)



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -  
4 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
5 Christ is a - live! As - cend - ed Lord— he rules the



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the  
moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet  
world his Fa - ther made, till, in the end, his



prais - es ring. In death his love shall nev - er die.  
here and now and con - quer ev - 'ry place and time.  
midst of life, our Sav - ior with the Fa - ther reigns.  
loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.  
love a - dored shall be to all on earth dis - played.

## DISMISSAL

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

Pastor: **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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