

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

April 28, 2024

Livestreamed on Facebook at 9:30A: <https://facebook.com/rlcfw>



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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

WORSHIP (*stand as you are able)

Worship gathers us to stand with each other again in Easter's first light. We gather to offer to God the one thing God does not first give us, our praise. Here our story is made part of God's story and God's story is made our own.

Worship turns us toward God. Like the crowds following Jesus, we come to his feet to be found, fed, healed and raised, and we are given to stand in the Kingdom of God, heaven itself, receiving again God's free gifts and presence.

Worship turns us toward the world. Like the disciples before us, here we are made church, made the living body of Christ for the world as we learn again who we are, what we are worth, and what our lives are about. It is the template and practice field for our everyday selves in the everyday world as children of God, disciples of Jesus, and servant citizens of the kingdom of God. So, we begin our worship by singing together our gathering hymn.

GATHERING HYMN #609

"Chief of Sinners Though I Be" Verses 1-2, 4-5



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,

4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!



died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.
deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.

all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.
When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;



As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.
Love that found me—won-drous thought—found me when I sought him not.

He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.
grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1870

Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C **Amen.**

P Let us come into the light, the revealing and healing light of God.

silence is kept for reflection

P God of grace and glory,
C **you have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Make us alive in Christ, O God. Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin, renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

P Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. Jesus Christ loves you and † frees you from your sins by his blood. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!
C **Amen.**

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 *(spoken)*

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

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

A 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.**

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

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE # 377

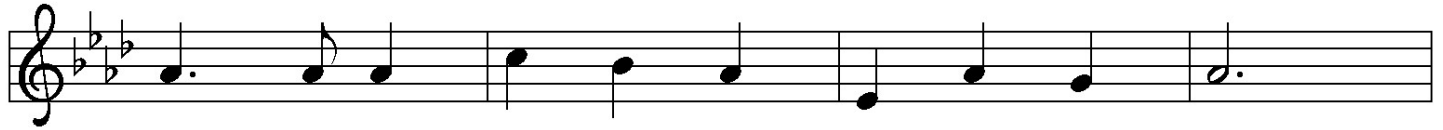
"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"

Verses 1, 3



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!

3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!

life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!

heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!

gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING

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.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-21

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.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P *Alleluia.* I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.

C *Alleluia. (John 15:5)*

GOSPEL LESSON

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

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

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.”

P ...the Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON—Spark Bible page #510

PENNY COLLECTION

CHIMES

*“Come To The Table”
Michael Helman*

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #447

*“O Blessed Spring”
(Tune: Berglund)*

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

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

**3 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.**

**4 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.**

**5 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.**

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Text © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

APOSTLES' CREED

P My brothers and sisters, having heard the Good News proclaimed, let us stand and confess our faith together using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day He rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 THE PEOPLE

P 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

A 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

A 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

A 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

A 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. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

A 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

By our offering we become a part of a mission to be examples of God's acceptance and grace to all in a church that has shared these precious gifts with us in times of joy and sadness. By it we also offer God our most sincere and personal worship: taking some of what matters to us, we put our treasure where we want our hearts to be, and we give it as a giving back of our whole selves to the God who has given us everything and is our everything. So, let us continue our worship now by presenting God with our offerings of duty and delight.

TIME OF OFFERING

Options for giving:

Place in offering plate during service

Mail in your offering

Use Bill Pay from your bank

Use Venmo. From the app search for us: @Resurrection-Lutheran



CHOIR

“Come To The Table, Come To The Lord”

Come to the table, come to the Lord.

Jesus is calling, come be restored.

Bread is broken, wine is poured.

Come to the table, come to the Lord.

Come to the table. Come and be blessed.

All who are weary, come and find rest.

There are no strangers all are His guests.

Come to the table. Come and be blessed.

Come to the table, God's gift of grace.

For there is mercy in His embrace.

Bring Him Your worship. Bring Him Your praise.

Come to the table, God's gift of grace.

Come to the table, God's gift of grace.

God's gift of grace.

Arranged by Joseph M. Martin

Words and Music by Rebecca Fair

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OFFERING PRAYER

A God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Our Lord remembers us in His kingdom and teaches us to pray,

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.

COMMUNION

Communion is the high point of worship for us. In this moment we step out trusting that God has indeed removed sin, bound up our brokenness, defeated death, conquered evil, and brought us so close that we can touch God and God can touch us with such priceless gifts as welcome, love, grace, mercy, deliverance, and endless life (*Communion options are shared*). My siblings, this is our Lord's table. All are welcome here.

HYMN#471

"Let Us Break Bread Together"



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

A TIME FOR COMMUNION AND REFLECTION

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

- P My sisters and brothers, at this time and in this place you are in the very Kingdom of God, now may His Body and His Blood strengthen and keep you in his grace.
- C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C **Amen.**

BLESSING

- P May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN—See Next Page

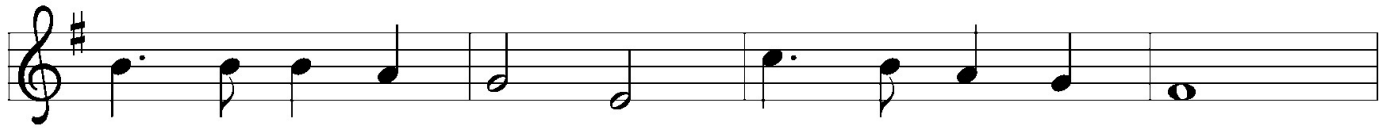
DISMISSAL

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- P Christ is risen, just as he said.
Go in peace, being an example of God's acceptance and grace to all.
Share the good news. Alleluia!
- C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

SENDING HYMN #537

"On Our Way Rejoicing"



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

PRAY FOR...

Duane Steffen
Jack Bigham
Eddie Carnahan
Lela & George Dunn
Craig Kirkendall
Elaine Kirkendall
Danny
Dave Martin
Jan Hieber
Mary VanWormer
Patty Gray

Dot
Chris Jr.
Nathaniel
John
Roberta
Jeff Wrobel
Hannah
Jerry Claxton
Deb Claxton
Bev Rodocker

Military Service:
Bailey Beyer
Jaidyn Beyer
Collin Monteith
Dakota Francis
Jon Popovich
Matthew Gephart
Alex Horvath

Homebound:
Cindy Dankert
Bob & Cheryl Goble
Norma Greener
Sarajane Hill
Joyce Svoboda

FAMILY OF MAGGIE JACKSON



*Today's altar flowers are given by Mark & Margo Grove
celebrating the birthday of Mariel!*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Park Team would like your input on the location of the future pavilion and playground equipment. There are two areas in the park marked with metal stakes and yellow tape. The larger area on the west end of the park shows the intended location of the pavilion. The smaller area directly east of the future pavilion is marked for the footprint of a future new playground area. For a visual of the pavilion, there are renderings located across from the Welcome Center. If you have feedback about the pavilion, playground equipment or their locations, we'd love to hear it! Contact Mary Ibe at ibe.science@gmail.com or (260)402-8583.



JUST NEIGHBORS Our next rotation for just neighbors is May 19 to the 24th, if you would like to provide a meal or part of a meal, please sign up here!

We will be holding **Volunteer Training** after worship on May 5, for all worship service volunteer opportunities. If you are currently helping and would like a refresher course or if you would like to start volunteering, please join us!

Our digital photo directory is active! Members can download the **Instant Church Directory** app or to view the directory on the computer you can go to www.instantchurchdirectory.com. After you download the app, you will need to create a login using the email the church office has on file for you. If you have not yet submitted a photo to the directory, you can use the menu option and click on "Edit My Family" to upload a photo. You can also use this menu option to update any of your information such as address, phone number, email etc. If you have any questions, contact Christie Serre at [\(260\) 580-1954](tel:2605801954) or cwalk82@hotmail.com.

RLC is a polling location for the upcoming primary election on May 7, 2024. We are looking for a few **VOLUNTEERS** to help everything run smoothly. If you can help with any of the following, please contact Robin in the church office:

5/6 from approximately 5-8 pm to open and close the church, for setup.

5/7 from approximately 4:45-7 am to open the church and stay until up and running.

5/7 evening from approximately 5 pm until they are all packed up and ready to leave.

PSA—**Mother's Day** is right around the corner, May 12!

The Seasoned Adults are planning a game night for Sunday, May 5, 2024 from 5:30 until 8:00 in RLC's Fellowship Hall. Game Night is not limited to those 50 or older. Anyone over 18 years of age is welcome to participate. A sign-up sheet is at the counter at the reception desk in the Fellowship Hall. Those attending are encouraged to bring a snack to share. The games include board games and card games. You are welcome to bring a game to share.

We hope to begin streaming our Sunday worship services live on our YouTube page next Sunday, May 5. If you have not yet done so, please scan here to subscribe!

