

NATIVITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



5th Sunday of Easter

10:15 a.m.

April 28, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ELW - SETTING III

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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.

P: = Pastor W: = Worship Assistant A: = All in Attendance *indicates congregation should stand if able.

PRELUDE: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing - Alec Wyton

(During the procession and recession please turn to face the Processional Cross and follow its movements to and from the Altar).

GATHERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship:

(a moment of silence for reflection as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.)

PRESENTATION

P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors present the candidate: I present Alice Jean Jones for baptism.

Presiding minister addresses the parents:

P: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

P: As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help her grow in the Christian faith and life? Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

P: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Alice in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

P: People of God, do you promise to support Alice and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

A: We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses candidate for baptism, parents/sponsors, assembly.

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

A: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

A: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

A: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

A: 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

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

A: Amen.

P: 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!

A: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: 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.

A: Amen.

BAPTISM

Water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says

P: Alice Jean Jones, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen. You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Presiding minister lays hands on newly baptized.

P: Sustain Alice with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

A: Amen

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.

P: Alice Jean Jones, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

A: Amen.

WELCOME

A lit candle is given to the sponsors:

W: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

A: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

P: People of God, meet your new sister in Christ, Alice.

Newly baptized, sponsors, family may return to their seats.

* GATHERING HYMN: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!" ELW#385

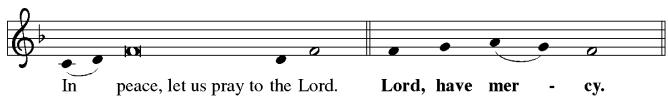


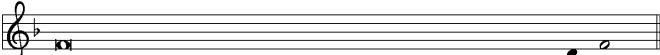
*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

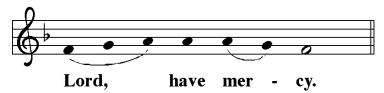
A: And also with you.

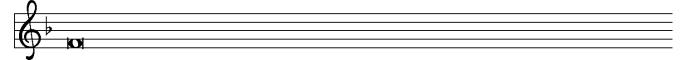
*KYRIE pg. 138



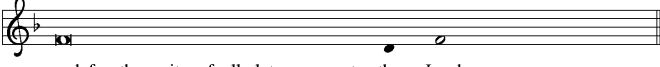


For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

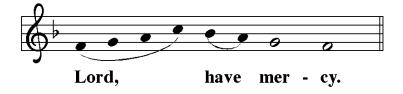




For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



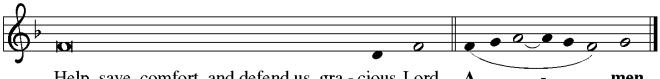
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.





For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,





Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. men.



Continued on next page



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. 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.

A: Amen

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 22:25-31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)

- W: ²⁵From you comes my praise in the ¹ great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who ¹ fear the LORD.
- A: ²⁶The poor shall eat | and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!
- W: ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn ¹ to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow ¹ before God.
- A: ²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules o-tver the nations.
- W: 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.
- A: ³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.
- W: ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people 'yet unborn, saying to them, "The 'LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

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.

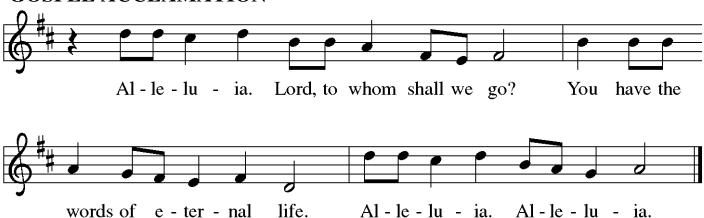
God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love,

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the fifteenth chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

*GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[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."

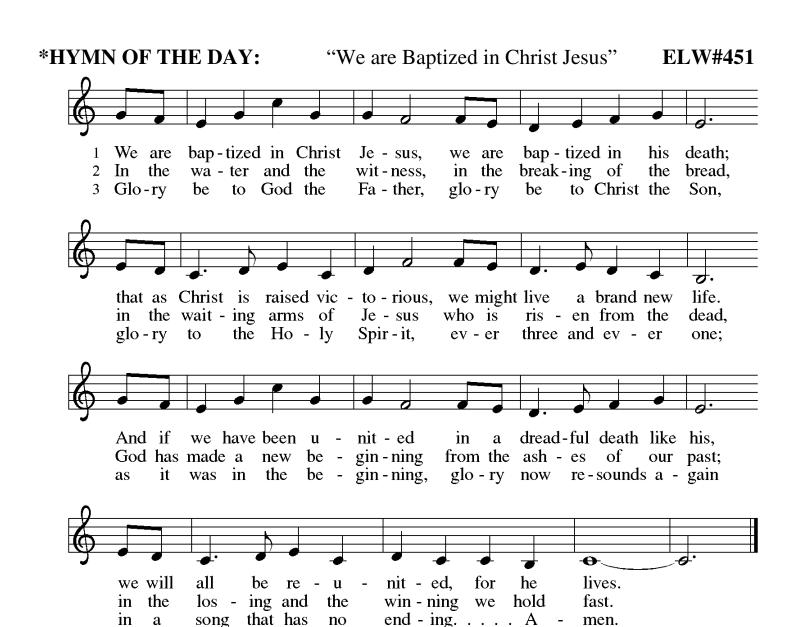
P: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

in



men.

no

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

W: 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.

W: 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,

A: hear our prayer.

W: 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,

A: hear our prayer.

W: 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,

A: hear our prayer.

W: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, for those who witness and experience violence, especially the people of Israel and Palestine, and for all who are ill or suffering especially: *Hazel Sims, Kai Oshimo, Ray Banks, Barb Grance, Mike Riley, Michael Halcoussis, Dave Nicklas, Tom Eichenlaub, Kathy Schweikart, Paul Scalamogna, John Dillon, the family and friends of Pastor Peter Bronnor, the family and friends of David Herman* and all those whom we name in our hearts before you. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

W: For this congregation, for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

W: 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,

A: 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.

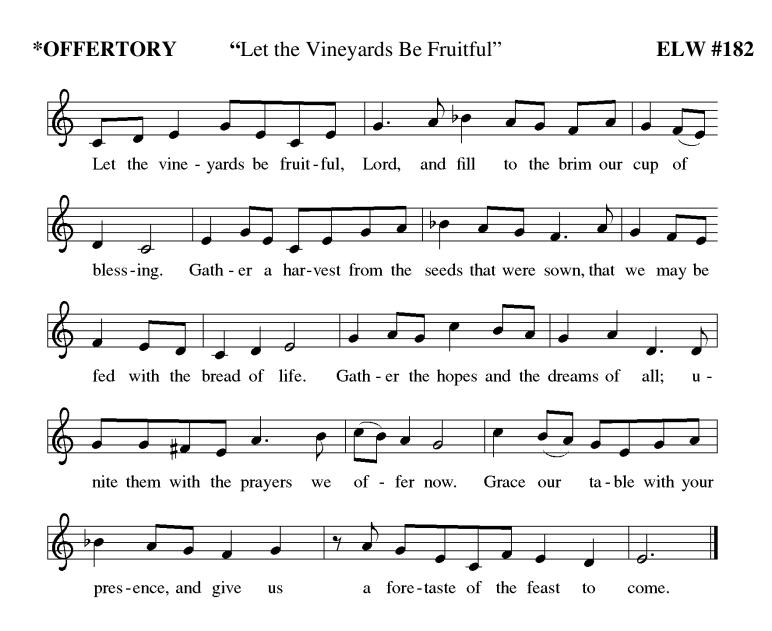
A: Amen.

*PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

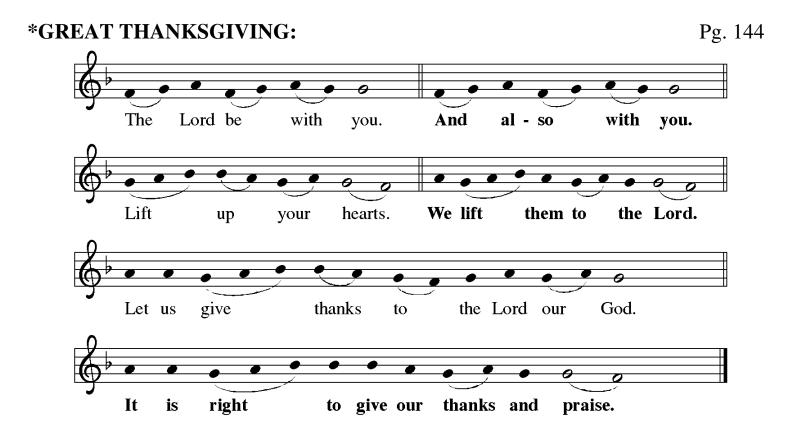
CHOIR ANTHEM: Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove - Sarum Plainsong ELW 577



*OFFERTORY PRAYER

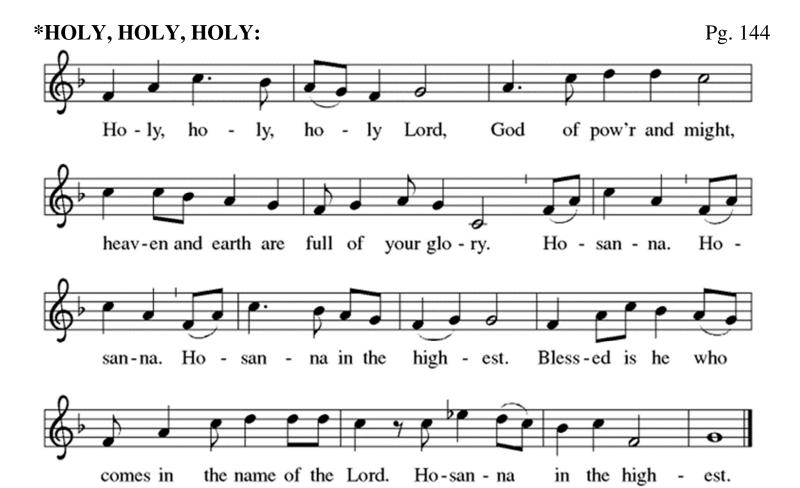
W: Let us pray together. Risen One,

A: 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 PREFACE

P: 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:



*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pg. 111

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

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

- A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P: 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.
- A: Come, Holy Spirit.
- P: 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.
- A: Come, Holy Spirit.
- P: 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.
- A: Amen.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pg. 145

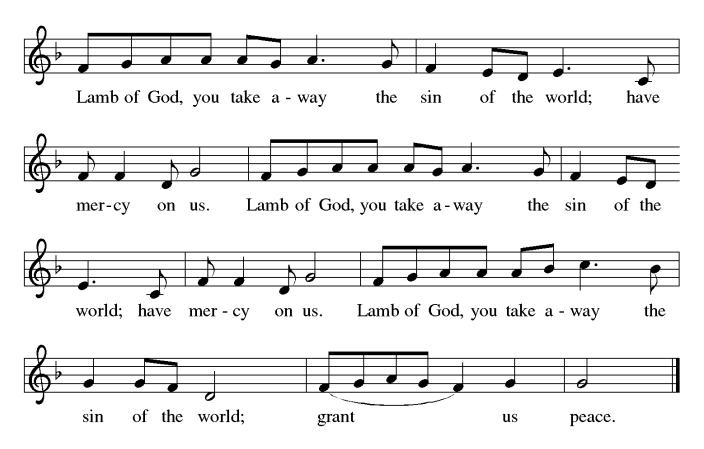
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

A: 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 PRESENTATION: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all is now ready.

LAMB OF GOD: Pg. 146



COMMUNION

There is a grape juice option in cups located in the communion trays for those who wish to abstain from wine. If you desire a gluten free wafer in lieu of the bread for communion, please let Pastor know.



*TABLE BLESSING

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

A: Amen

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE "Now the Green Blade Rises" ELW #379 (Stanza #1)



*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

W: Let us Pray, 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.

A: Amen.

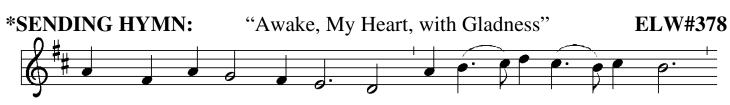
* BLESSING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

A: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

A: Amen.



- 1 A wake, my heart, with glad ness, see what to day is done;
- 2 Now hell, its prince, the dev il, of all their pow'r are shorn;
- 3 This is a sight that glad dens—what peace it does im part!
- 4 Now I will cling for ev er to Christ, my Sav ior true;
- 5 Christ brings me to the por tal that leads to bliss un told,



glo - rious sun. af - ter gloom and sad - ness, comes forth the now, now safe from e - vil, and laugh am sin Ι to scorn. ev -Now noth - ing er sad - dens the joy with-in my heart. me nev - er, what - e'er Lord will leave he pass - es through. this rhyme im-mor - tal is found in script where-on of gold:



My laid must Sav - ior there where our bed be made was For Christ a to - ry gain is free; in glo - rious vic gloom shall shake. foe shall take. No ev er no ev er rends death's i chain; he breaks through sin ron and pain; "Who there shared finds here my cross has crown pre-pared; a



when, as wings flight, realms of light. on in we soar to tri - umphed o'er who strong he is to save has the grave. the hope which God's own Son in love for me has won. shat - ters he hell's grim thrall; Ι fol - low him through all. has died shall here who there with me be glo - ri - fied."

*DISMISSAL

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

A: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: Improvisation on "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"

* Announcements *

We rejoice today in celebrating the baptism of Alice Jean Jones. Alice is the great-granddaughter of Carol Francis.

Join us for Coffee Hour today after worship. This month's coffee hour is brought to you by the Dollhopf's.

Join our Adult Sunday School class each week as we begin studying the ELCA social statement: Earth's Climate Crisis.

There is a **paper sign up sheet across from the nursery** by the flower chart, to make it easier for you to **sign up as a worship helper each week**. On-line via Sign-up Genius is still available for those preferring that method also. Please let Pastor Jen know if you have any questions or issues with signing up.

We are collecting supplies for **NHCO's Spring Cleaning Collection**. Items include: Laundry Detergent, Disinfecting Wipes, All Purpose Cleaner, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Dish Detergent, Packs of Sponges, Rolls of Paper Towels, Canvas Shopping Bags. Please see the flyer posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen for more information. Donations can be placed in the bins under the coat rack or there is a QR code available for direct donations from Amazon. The collection runs through June 9th.

North Hills Community Outreach is currently in need of the following: Peanut Butter, Pasta Sauce, Granola Bars/Snacks, Canned Tomatoes, Soups (Chunky & Condensed) & Crackers. Please place all donations in the box labeled NHCO. *updated*: 04/26/24

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The Rev. Jennifer Soltis, Pastor The Rev. Cyril Hurnyak, Kantor

Worship Assistant: Tom Beecher Lector: Dan Chantz Usher: Jean King Rich King

Videographer: Heather Johnson

Altar Guild: Kim Brandt

Offering Tellers: Heather Johnson & Tom Beecher



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The flowers in the chancel are presented by the Chantz's in honor of Dan's birthday & by Jim & Jane Dollhopf in memory of Giles Evans

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For the Week of April 28 – May

TODAY Coffee Hour after worship

MONDAY AA meeting – 7pm

TUESDAY WELCA – 10am (Project Day)

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| | In-person | YouTube | Offering |
|----------|-----------|---------|----------|
| April 21 | 46 | 12 | \$3,727 |