

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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durhamlutheran.org

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April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Introduction to Worship

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.

You can find the live stream at the following locations:

www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

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Prelude:

GATHERING

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD

C: Hosanna in the Highest

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed, alleluia

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

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!

C: 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.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!



(Stand if you are able)

Gathering Hymn : ELW 377

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

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
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Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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L: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

This is the Feast

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: 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.

(Please be Seated)

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.

L: A reading from the eighth chapter of Acts.

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.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:25-31

L: ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him

C: ²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever

L: ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him

C: ²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations

L: ²⁹To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him

L: ³⁰Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the LORD,

P: ³¹and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

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.

A reading from the fourth chapter of 1 John:

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.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Acclamation

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

The 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.

P: The Gospel according to John the fifteenth chapter.

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

P: [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.

Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: ELW 449

We Know That Christ Is Raised



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924
 Text © John B. Geyer.

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Nicene Creed

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

P: 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.

P: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters (local bodies of water may be named). Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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.

P: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: 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.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

Choir Anthem: *Hymn of Promise* - Natalie Sleeth

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all". The second staff continues the melody for the second line: "creatures here below; praise God above, ye". The third staff concludes the melody for the third line: "heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Music: OLD HUNDREDDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn: ELW 359

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 Let us 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.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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Announcements

BLESSING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: 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.

C: Amen.

Sending Song: ELW 367

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n-ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
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DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude: *Hymn of Praise*

<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>			
April	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS
28	Frank Mammana (87), Tim Gadwell		
29	Ben Naska, Jr,		
30	Alison and Emerson Rhine		Ella Rose Michl
May 4	Sara Aquino		
<u>THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES</u>			
Sunday, April 28 Fifth Sunday of Easter	10:00 AM	Worship with Linda Sauter Due date for Synod Ingathering Health Kits	
Wednesday, May 1	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Choir Practice Office Hours (Pastor Off)	
Thursday, May 2	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Office hours (Pastor Off) Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's	
Friday, May 3 - Saturday, May 4		SEPA Synod Assembly Christ Pipersville Book & Rummage Sale	
<u>UPCOMING ACTIVITIES</u>			
Sunday, May 5 Sixth Sunday of Easter	10:00 AM 5:30 PM	Communion Worship <i>Faith Conversations after Worship</i> Confirmation Class at Durham (LAST CLASS OF YEAR)	
Monday, May 6	7:00 PM	PALM Meeting @ Upper Tinicum	
Wednesday, May 8	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM 12:00 PM 12:30 - 2:00 PM 7:00 PM	Choir Practice Office Hours Care -A-Lot Visit Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Christian Education meeting VBS Meeting @ Trinity	
Thursday, May 9	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's	
Sunday, May 12 Seventh Sunday of Easter	10:00 AM	Communion Worship <i>Mother's Day</i>	
Monday, May 13	7:00 PM	Council Meeting	
Wednesday, May 15	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM 12:00 PM	Choir Practice Office Hours Care -A-Lot Visit Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim	
Thursday, May 16	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's	
Saturday, May 18	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	PALM Council Members Retreat	



For Healing of those in our Congregation:

James Altemose; Joanne & David Antoni; Frank Erceg; Joe Erceg; Kenneth Hager; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Wes Simmons; Ed Xander; Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

For Healing of Friends and Family:

Frank Allebach; Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Stephen Bizon; Sherri Breithoff; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Peggy Coleman; Stephanie Courtney; Nancy Edelen; Diane Ellington; Leon Errico; Fred Foerster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Cindy Gilligan; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Andrew Hales; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplín; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Sue Odor; Cindy Oswald; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Connie Rugen; Paul Sauter; Debbie Schultz; Laurel Sheetz; Kay Stokes; Russ Trauger; Annette von Watzdorf; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Regina Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Henry Wong; Josephine Yeisley & Wayne Yeisley.

For those who are Homebound:

Cleo Eck; Norma Fox; Phyllis Lanshe; Frank Mammana; Jayne Miller; and Silas Rodenbach.

For families and friends grieving the loss of:

Ronald Fox, Rev. Dennis Durasoff; Kenneth Eck, Jean Pratt, Charles Reiman

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at:

prayerchain@durhamlutheran.org



The April Outreach envelope is for Care-A-Lot.

Click the QR Code on the right to Register for the 40th Anniversary party on Sunday, June 30th. Please Note that the registration deadline is June 9th.



Please note that the *deadline* for Iron **Pigs ticket payments** and **Synod Health Kits** is TODAY, April 28th.

Worship Assistants

Preacher	Linda Sauter
Organist / Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Suzanne Maurer & Barbara Naska
Greeter(s)	The Wagner Family
Acolyte	Colton Wagner
Lector	Kathryn Wagner
Head / Communion Usher	Cathy Mueller
Council Communion / Counting Team	Becky Praster & Pat Zion
Administration & Technology	Ken Anderson
Custodian	Dianna Streletz