

*Welcome to*  
**Luther Memorial Church**  
*of the Erie Lutheran Parish*



28 APRIL 2024  
The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
10:30 am

*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.*

# LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

## LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 814-454-0106

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

WALT GABER

*Cantor*

RON KING

*Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity*

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL, THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH, THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

*Pastors in Residence*

MICHELLE THOM

*Academy Administrator*

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

JAN MACINNES

*Care Ministry*

**21 APRIL 2024**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Holy Communion • Of the Land and Seasons • 10:30**

***GATHERING – “The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.”***

**PRELUDE** – "This Joyful Eastertide"

arr. David Cherwien, Johan Leavitt, Sara Glick

*Please stand as you are able and face the font.*

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign 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!

**C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**P** Immersed in the promises of baptism,...  
Look, here is water!

**C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**P** At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John..., now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**P** Look, here is water!

**C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Text for this hymn is the work of a 19<sup>th</sup> century licensed preacher in London, a gifted musician and translator who published many works. The first verse of the hymn also appears in the Lutheran Book of Worship at number 149. The melody comes from a popular 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch song.

GATHERING SONG

ELW 391

This Joyful Eastertide

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and  
 2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son  
 3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the

sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has  
 slum - ber till trump from east to west shall  
 riv - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my

sprung to life this mor - row.  
 wake the dead in num - ber.  
 pass - ing soul de - liv - er.

*Refrain*

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our

faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris en.

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934  
 Music: Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.; arr. hymnal version  
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## GREETING

- ☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- ☑ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- ☐ The grace of our Risen Savior Jesus Christ, the love of the ever-living God, and the fellowship of the life-breathing Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

## KYRIE

Choir

We pray for peace, O Lord, make plow-shares of our swords, make  
 plow-shares of our swords: hear us when we cry to you.

All

Lord, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Lord, have  
 mer - cy on us: hear us when we cry to you.

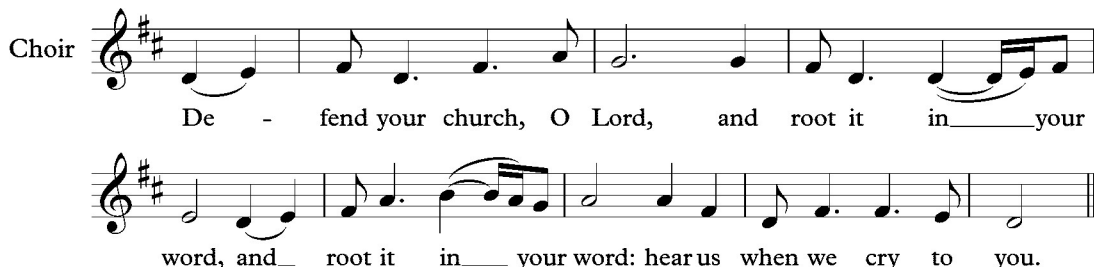
Choir

Christ, make us grow in grace un - til we see your face, un -  
 -til we see your face: hear us when we cry to you.

All


Chrst, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Christ, have  
 mer-cy on us: hear us when we cry to you.

Choir



De - fend your church, O Lord, and root it in your  
word, and root it in your word: hear us when we cry to you.

All



Lord, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Lord, have  
mer-cy on us: hear our cry. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

### ☞ Let us pray:

O God, you give birth to all creation. By the power of your Holy Spirit, cause your word to bring forth new life in us, awaken our slumbering hearts, and enliven us with a patient and expectant hope; that we may break forth in blossom and stalk, full of the promise of fruit and grain; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### ☞ Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

### ***WORD – “God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.”***

*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.*

### FIRST READING:

*A Reading from Acts 8:26-40*

<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 Philip got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the 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. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>The eunuch 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 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

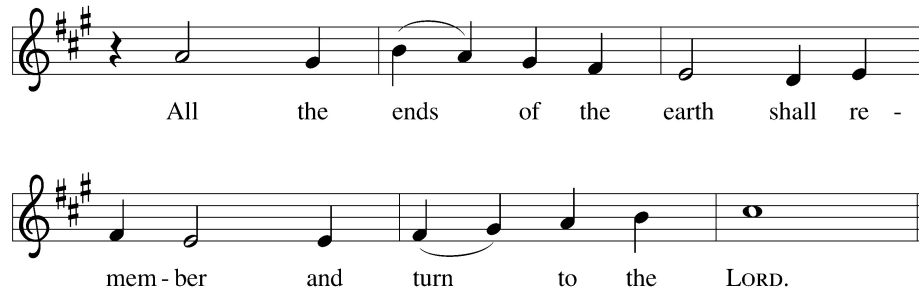
saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31**

**Refrain:** *(Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated by R.)*



<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the Lord,

who rules over the nations. **R**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, 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.

<sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the Lord,

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, "The Lord has acted!" **R**

*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.*

**SECOND READING:**

*A reading from 1 John 4:7-21*

<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 into the world God's only Son so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the 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 abides in us, and God's love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because we have been given of God's own Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent the 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 the Son 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 God first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate a member of the community are liars, for

those who do not love a person, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love the members of the family also.

☐ Word of God, Word of Life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL HYMN

*Please stand to welcome the gospel, singing this hymn.*

1 O God, whose word well-plant ed yields fruit a hun-dred-  
2 O God of seed and har vest, of sun and soil and  
3 O God, your fi - nal har-vest of his - t'ry's an - cient  
fold, we praise your grac - es grant - ed to  
rain, at - tend the word we sow, lest its  
field will test with truth the proud - est that  
those who sowed of old, who by their wit - ness  
plant - ing be in vain. Send show - ers of your  
hu - man work can yield. Op - pres - sion's blight will  
scat - tered good seed up - on the soil where  
Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace, that  
van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease; and  
oth - ers, reap - ing, gath ered the har - vest of their toil.  
mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.  
love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

*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.*

## GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

☐ The Holy Gospel according to John.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>My Father removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit my Father prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown

into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

- 📖 The Gospel of the Lord.
- 🎵 Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

Pastor Jay

*Please stand as you are able to proclaim the Word of God in song.*

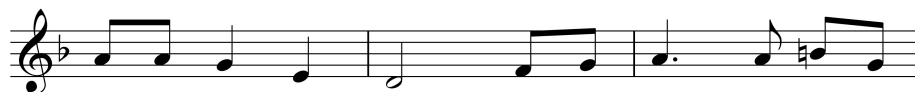
*This hymn was commissioned by the Valparaiso Institute of Liturgical Studies in 2018.  
It is inspired by the Acts text in this morning's worship. Originally set to a tune called "Ethiopian" by Mark Mummert that was in mixed meter to emphasize the waters of the text, it has since been published—and is here set—to a tune that is more familiar and rhythmic.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### God, You Make All Water Holy



1. God, you make all wa - ter ho - ly, fill - ing  
2. On the Ga - za road a stran - ger, puz - zled  
3. God, you move up - on the wa - ter, heal - ing  
4. At the font we share one Spir - it, all one  
5. Through these gifts, we fol - low Je - sus, seek - ing



it with Spir - it flame. May your church now wel - come  
by good news he heard, wel - comed Phil - ip and was  
cleans - ing all who come. Now we bring our sons and  
bod - y, brave and bold. We are born in man - y  
jus - tice, right - ing wrong, show - ing love as we are



oth - ers, bap - tiz - ing in Je - sus'  
bap - tized, brought to faith by Gos - pel  
daught - ters, as when John bap - tized your  
place - es, man - y fac - es, young and  
a - ble join - ing in a free - dom



name. Free us all from sin and shame.  
word. Let our hearts with joy be stirred!  
Son. Praise to you! Your will be done!  
old. See the Spir - it's gifts un - fold.  
song. May God's pres - ence keep us strong!



## NICENE CREED

**A** 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.

## THE PRAYERS

**A** 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 water, for Lake Erie, French Creek, and our own bodies of water. 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 Luther Memorial, 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, especially J. David Mumford and John Mumford. 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.

**A** 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.

## THE PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you.

**C** And also with you.

*Please be seated.*

*MEAL – “God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.”*

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

An Individual Silent Prayer as We Prepare to Make our Offering:

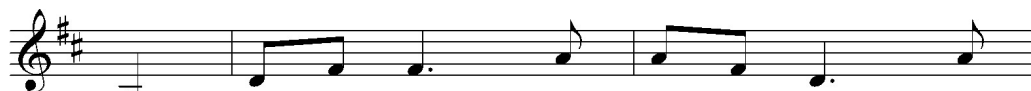
God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity, and grant us in wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

**HANDBELL VOLUNTARY** –“O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing!”

arr. Wayne L. Wold

## OFFERTORY



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to  
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They  
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we



place up - on your ta - ble. We do not wor - ship  
grew in your good plea - sure. What once was com - mon,  
lift in prayer be - fore you, Lord, by your grace now



as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.  
dai - ly food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.  
come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Gracious God

**C** You bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace and fruitful labor.  
Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here.  
Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation;  
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## 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 our thanks and praise.

**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, through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
In the Son you sent us the living bread from heaven.  
By the Spirit you plant your word among us,  
filling the world with the promise of new life in your holy name.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join in adoring song.



1 Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the  
2 High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes\_\_  
3 Oh, what a sight it\_\_ was to see and\_\_



scrip - tures\_\_ do re - cord, I - sa - iah to the  
flow - ing\_\_ through the hall, while six - wing - ed an - gels  
oh, what a sound to hear! The tem - ple door - posts



tem - ple\_\_ came to see the ho - ly Lord.  
flew a - bove. I - sa - iah heard them call.  
shook and\_\_ quaked, and smoke was in the air.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, God's



glo - ry fills all heav'n and\_\_ earth, God of pow - er and might.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

☐ Blessed are you, O God.

At the springtime of the world, you planted light and life;  
you made Israel to be your vineyard, guarding and training it  
through wandering and exile, prosperity and faithfulness,  
to bear your word for the nations.

After prophets and poets had proclaimed that word,  
you chose a flower of the garden to bear it as her fruit;  
you made your Word to be enfleshed as Jesus, your Son,  
who brought life to a weary world.

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 in 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.

We remember, therefore,  
his prodigal planting of your word by his teaching,  
his abundant giving of your food and health by his miracles,  
his gracious offering of your forgiveness by his welcome.  
We proclaim the passage of his last Passover,  
when for our sake he passed through death into life,  
and sealed with the Spirit our own place as his companions.

Send your Spirit upon this meal,  
that again we may pass through death into eternal life.  
By your Spirit, unite us with all whom you have called into your light,  
and strengthen us for service in the light of your love, as the body of your Son,  
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God,  
with your Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

☑ Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

☑ **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.
- ☐ Those communing at home: take and eat, the body and blood of Christ given and shed for you.

*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and all Christians are welcome to the feast!  
We believe that this is the Body and Blood of Christ for you.*

*Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle.*

*Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle.*

*White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the pastor know.*

*Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill.*

*As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray.*

*All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine,  
please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.*

## HYMNS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION



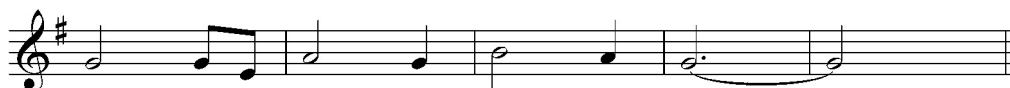
1 We\_\_ praise you\_\_ for the life that\_\_ stirs when  
2 We\_\_ praise the\_\_ Fa - ther, praise the\_\_ Son, and\_\_



spring - time\_\_ warms the sleep - ing earth; but\_\_  
praise the\_\_ Spir - it, with the thron of\_\_



most, we\_\_ praise\_\_ the\_\_ grace that\_\_ lures our\_\_  
saints and an - gels, joined as\_\_ one in\_\_



slum - b'ring souls to love and mirth.  
grate - ful, ev - er - last - ing song.

*This hymn, new lyrics to an old traditional tune, speaks to the text from Acts in the expansiveness of the welcome that we all receive.*

*The radical welcome of Jesus is not just through the waters of baptism but also at the Table of the Lamb, the Lord's Supper.*

ACS 1062

## Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.  
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984  
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol  
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*Using several images (the seasons, spring—in two meanings—and The Vine and Tree), Susan Paolo Cherwien speaks to the gifts of baptism that accompany each of us throughout our entire lives—not just as individual members of the Body of Christ, but as an entire beloved community with Christ at our center.*

ELW 447

## O Blessed Spring



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us  
2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain  
3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their  
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our  
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for

in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to  
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing  
 heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will  
 last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take  
 this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -

be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.  
 rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.  
 move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.  
 wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.  
 vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
 Music: BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950  
 Text © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
 Music © 1993 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## TABLE BLESSING

☐ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, keep you in all goodness and health, and bring you to everlasting life.

☑ Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

1 O Lord of the blos som, O God of the seed, O gra - cious pro -  
 2 O Lord of the har - vest, O God of the feast, where sor - rows are

vi - der for all hu - man need, you havenour - ished our faith at your  
 van - quished and joys are in - creased, where the tree of life grows in your

ta - ble of grace, and nur - tured new life in the light of your  
 or - chards a - bove, we'll join in the cho - rus in praise of your

face, O Lord of the grain - field, O God of the  
 love. Sing praise to the Fa - ther, sing praise to the

vine, you've fed us your pres - ence in bread and in  
 Son, sing praise to the Spir - it. Praise God, Three in

wine. In com - mun - ion you've blest to us ar - bor and  
 One! You have made us one peo - ple you've fed by the

plow, and shown us the gos - pel, your word for us now.  
 hand, O Lord of the heav - ens, O God of the land.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A** Shepherding God,...Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

**C** Amen.

*SENDING – “God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.”*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

## BLESSING

**P** ...  $\dagger$  bless you now and always.

**C** Amen.

*A newer composition and included in the ELCA worship resource All Creation Sings, the author uses the phrase “Let us enter in...” to begin and end each verse.*

*However, it is not about entering in to worship, but rather entering into mission and ministry once we leave this place.*

## SENDING HYMN

ACS 985

### Let Us Enter In



1 Let us en-ter in to the song of thanks - giv - ing and free - dom.  
2 Let us en-ter in to the place where our God has pre - ced - ed.  
3 Let us en-ter in to the heart of a world that is bro - ken.



Let us en-ter in to the long line of peo - ple in need.  
Let us en-ter in to the face of the fear and the pain.  
Let us en-ter in to the start of a hope we can share.



Let us en-ter in to the strong mind that God is still liv - ing.  
Let us en-ter in to the grace of the love when it's need - ed.  
Let us en-ter in to the part where we call one an - oth - er



Heal - ing, for - giv - ing— Let us en - ter in.  
Death is de - feat - ed! Let us en - ter in.  
sis - ter and broth - er. Let us en - ter in.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943  
Music: LET US ENTER IN, Ray Makeever  
Text and music © 1983 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress



## DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

☞ Alleluia! Christ is risen!

☞ **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

☞ Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. Alleluia! Alleluia!

☞ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE – "Build a Longer Table"

arr. David Cherwien, John Carter

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### — SERVING TODAY —

ACOLYTES – Tessa & Jack Bartlett

ASSISTING MINISTER – Julie Ditz

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Pam Masiroff

LECTOR – Bill Lasher

USHERS – Diana Alvaro, Cathy Beck, Linda Graffius, Carl Moore

BREAD BAKER – Cathie Dugan

ALTAR GUILD – Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels

VIDEO STREAMING – Nick Lang



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of in memory of my husband, Dave, and my son, John, by Mary Mumford.

### Today's Events

A **bowling party** will be held honoring our **First Holy Communion students** beginning at 1:00pm today at Westway Bowling Lanes, Girard, PA. Please join us for this celebration. There will be no charge for our Holy Communion class. The cost of bowling is \$4.25/game; shoes are free. Pizza and beverages may be purchased at the bowling lanes.

**Greeting cards** can be found in the information rack located near the parlor area. A large variety of cards that will fit every occasion are available. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

### Worship Matters

The **gospel text** for the last three weeks of Easter can be found in John 14-17. These chapters are known as The Final Discourse. In them, we hear Jesus teaching his disciples the last things he will teach before being arrested in the garden. Having washed their feet after supper in John 13 and telling them to love one another as a sign of the covenant he makes with them—by this everyone will know that you are my disciples, he says—he spends some time explaining just what that means. For the next three Sundays, we will hear from Jesus in some of the most poetic (and sometimes confusing) images he gives us to explain what it means to be loved by God and to love as God has loved us. As we hear these passages, let us remember their context. We hear them, now, after the resurrection and empty tomb, after the ascension and Pentecost, after 2000 years of striving to live with Christ-like love. But for the disciples, Jesus is preparing them to witness his death and Passion. How do we carry both into our witness of who Jesus is for us?

### Worship

A **festival service** celebrating the **Ascension of Our Lord** will be held at Luther Memorial on the evening of Thursday, May 9 at 7:00. All of the Erie County ELCA churches are welcome and Rev. Erik Young will be preaching. A reception will follow in our parlor.

**Our prelude** begins at 10:25 each week and flows into the 10:30am worship time. We hope that this will draw us together and into our time of worship. Please remember to be mindful of those around you and those worshipping at home by keeping conversations and visiting to the lobbies once the prelude has begun. Thank you.

A **reminder** that our livestream runs from the beginning of the prelude through the end of the postlude. To maintain a worshipful space for those joining from home, please remember to leave the chancel area (the area around the altar) clear until after the postlude.

### **Opportunities for Fellowship**

**Deborah and Tuesday W/ELCA** circles will gather for their General Meeting on Tuesday, May 7 at 12:00 noon in the parlor.

**Magic Fingers Grace Group** invites you to spend the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month with them for knitting, crocheting and any yarn project you may be creating. These are wonderful mornings of fellowship and laughter. Join us May 14 and May 28 from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

**OWLS** will head to the Penn State Planetarium on Wednesday, May 22 for a presentation by Jim Gavio on astronomy and our amazing universe. The presentation begins at 11:00am; carpooling is available by meeting at the church between 9:45 and 10:00am. Cost is \$3.50/person and permits will be provided for free parking on campus. Please RSVP to Jan MacInnes or the church office by Wednesday, May 15.

**CampBlast** will be held at Camp Lutherlyn, Butler, Pa, on Saturday, May 11 from 11:00am – 4:30pm. Rain or shine, this is a day of fun for the entire family; archery, gaga ball, zipline, crafts, hiking, hay rides, kayaking, and so much more. The entire day is free. What a wonderful way to spend your day!

### **Health Opportunity**

**CPR Training** will be offered at Luther Memorial Church on either **Tuesday, May 21** or **Thursday, May 23**. The class is free and will be held in the parlor from 3:00-4:00pm. Please contact the church office or list your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet located at the welcome tables.

### **Support for our Youth**

**Flea Market** will be held Saturday, May 4 from 8:00am – 12:00 noon in our parking lot. It's time to clean out the clutter and stop down to find some deals. Each parking space is \$10. Bring your own table to display items. Please see Sarah Prylinski to participate.

**Car Washes** will be held Sunday, May 5 and Sunday, May 19 following worship services; 9:00am and 11:30am. Our youth will be armed with buckets of suds to give your car a sparkling shine.

**The Salt Spa**, 101 Center Street in Corry, is offering **salt room** and **floatation therapy** sessions through June 1. A 45 minute session in the salt room is \$30. A 16 minute floatation therapy session is \$65. Our LYO will receive \$10 for each session booked. Sign-up sheets are located at the welcome tables and the church office; you will be contacted to arrange your visit.

### **Youth Event**

**Willy Wonka** Movie Night is scheduled for Friday, May 17 from 5:30 – 9:00pm for youth in grades 5 and up. Join us for more fun and lots of chocolate! Please RSVP to Beth Keller or the church office.

### **Luther Memorial Academy**

**LMA Spring Program** will be held Monday, May 6. Stop down for a very enjoyable program, view the artistic talents of our students and have some lemonade and cookies. A book fair, provided by Werner Books, will be open in the library following the Spring Program for a little shopping.

### **Community Event**

**First Annual Day of Learning** will be held Saturday, May 4 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3108 Sterrettania Road, from 9:30am – 3:00pm. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Teresa Smallwood, United Lutheran Seminary Associate Professor of Public Theology. Dr. Smallwood will share her deep interest in public theology. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. We will welcome Dr. Smallwood as our guest preacher at Luther Memorial on Sunday, May 5.

## Items to Note

**In case of an emergency** and unable to reach Pastor Jay, please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. During the weekend and evening you are welcome to contact Norma Buerk at 450-7162. Thank you.

### – PRAYER LIST –

<b>PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:</b>			
<b>Our Members:</b>			
Lois Fobes	Dave Parsh	Rose-Marie Rose	Phil McAfee
Cathy Beck & Jim			
<b>Friends and Family:</b>			
Kate Collins & family	Lorraine Melms	Jeannette Bowers	Doug Blum
Jeff Granger & family	Janice Carpenter	Heather Keaster	Russ Wiest
Nikki & Ayden Moyer & family	Paul Gustafson	Marky Stein	Jonah Allgeier
Jenny Hallgren	Tony B.	Betty M.	Kay Kaberline
Katja Mestrom	Stephanie Voland	Betty Peters	Marlo
Jessica Bulos Grubb	Lily	Jean Peterson	Amy Roschy
<b>Grief:</b>			
Cheryl Lucht family			
<b>Our Military Service Men &amp; Women:</b>			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			

### Readings and Commemorations This Week

**April 29 – Catherine of Siena, Theologian, 1380** – Psalm 36:5-10; I John 1:5-2:2; Luke 12:22-24, 29-31 -- *This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.*

**May 1 – Philip and James, apostles** – Isaih 30:18-21; Psalm 119:33-40; II Corinthians 4:1-6; John 14:6-14 -- *Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.*

**May 2 – Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, 373** – Psalm 71:1-8; I John 5:1-5; Matthew 10:22-32 -- *Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicaea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.*

**May 3** – Psalm 98; Isaiah 42:5-9; Acts 10:34-43

**Mary 4 – Monica, mother of Augustine, 387** – Sirach 26:1-4, 16-21; Psalm 115:12-18; Luke 7:11-17 -- *Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.*

## CALENDAR

**MONDAY, APRIL 29**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 30**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1**                      6:30pm                      Bible After Dark (Brewerie)

**THURSDAY, MAY 2**                      5:30pm                      Handbell Rehearsal  
6:30pm                      Choir Rehearsal

**FRIDAY, MAY 3**

**SATURDAY, MAY 4**                      8:00am                      Flea Market / parking lot  
10:00am                      Quilt Gathering

### **SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024 THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Worship services** at 8:15am in Faith Chapel and 10:30am in the main church.

**Get your car washed** at 9:00 and 11:30am; following services.

<b>SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024</b>		
<b>ASSISTING IN WORSHIP</b>		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Rob Benacci
	10:30am	Linda Swanson
Communion Assistant	10:30am	Elaine Kern
Lector	10:30am	Linda Melaragno
Altar Guild	8:15am	Nancy Benacci
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	<i>(1 needed)</i>
Video Streaming	10:30am	Christy Adams
Counters	10:30am	Jeanne McMillin, Pat Young
Ushers <i>(4 needed)</i>	10:30am	Sue Cappelletty, Pat Gilbert