

# WATER OF LIFE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH



**“I am the  
true vine...”**

**John 15:1**

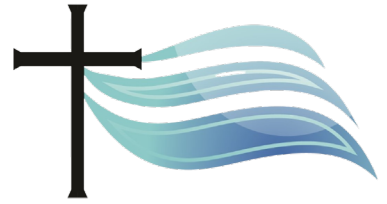
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
APRIL 28, 2024 | 10 AM

# WATER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 28, 2024 | 10 AM

PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL ✝ SEEK THE THIRSTY ✝ TEACH THE WORD



### ✝ Welcome ✝

**IF YOU ARE WATCHING OUR LIVESTREAM FOR THE FIRST TIME**, please fill out a Connection Card so we may get to know you better. Simply scan this QR code and follow the instructions.



### ✝ As We Gather ✝

✝ When Jesus uses the image of the vine and speaks of vineyards, He is choosing something very familiar to His hearers. Today, the cultivation of vineyards is still an important agricultural component in both Israel and the Jordan, lands where Jesus walked and taught. Life in the vineyard is vital! As branches grafted to the Vine that is Christ, we are vitalized by His power. As we worship, God's life-supporting power infuses us! It is time to continue growing!

✝ The service in its entirety is printed in this service bulletin.

### ✝ Preparation ✝

#### OPENING SONG

*I Will Follow*

Praise Team

Where You go, I'll go; Where You stay, I'll stay; When You move, I'll move. I will follow.

All Your ways are good, all Your ways are sure; I will trust in You alone.  
Higher than my sight, high above my life; I will trust in You alone.

*Chorus:* Where You go, I'll go; Where You stay, I'll stay; When You move, I'll move. I will follow You.  
Whom You love, I'll love; How You serve, I'll serve; If this life I lose, I will follow You, yeah.  
I will follow You, yeah.

Light into the world, Light into my life— I will live for You alone.  
You're the One I seek, knowing I will find all I need in You alone. *Chorus*

## INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

*Psalm 66:1-4, 8-9*

P Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

C **Sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

P Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!

C **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name."**

P Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

C **Who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

P Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## OPENING SONG

*Lord I Need You*

Praise Team

Lord, I come, I confess. Bowing here, I find my rest.  
And without You, I fall apart. You're the one that guides my heart.

*Chorus:* Lord, I need You, oh, I need You. Ev'ry hour I need You.  
My one defense, my righteousness; Oh, God, how I need You.

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more. Where grace is found is where You are.  
And where You are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me.  
Where You are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me. *Chorus*

So, teach my song to rise to You when temptation comes my way.  
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You. Jesus, You're my hope and stay.  
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You. Jesus, You're my hope and stay. *Chorus*

## ✠ *Service of the Word* ✠

### KYRIE

P Lord, have mercy.

**C Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

### SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

**C O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### FIRST READING

**Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter  
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not 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>And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>And he commanded

the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE READING**

**1 John 4:1-21**

<sup>1</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, 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 his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup>By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also 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 been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*(Please rise for the reading of the Holy Gospel)*

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**John 15:1-8**

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

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

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. 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. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **NICENE CREED**

C **I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.**

SERMON HYMN

Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

LSB 691



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en  
 2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er  
 3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern  
 4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,  
 loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,  
 and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,  
 har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.  
 Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.  
 Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.  
 Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

SERMON

Rev. Shawn Deterding

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts. Colossians 3:1

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Psalm 136

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for You have graciously blessed us through the Word incarnate, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has come in the flesh and for our sake died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death. Rejoicing in our Baptism, which creates faith in our hearts and daily renews us, we laud and magnify Your holy name. With joy we join in the unending praise of the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, evermore praising You and saying:

## **SANCTUS**

**C Holy Lord, God of power and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have showed Your gracious power to us through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. We give You thanks for nourishing us in His most Holy Supper that, firmly connected to Christ the Vine, we may grow in grace. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood that we grow as people of faith and peace, hope-filled and eagerly awaiting the eternal feast in glory everlasting. Hear us now as we pray in His name and in the words He has taught us:

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.**

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

*Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

## **PAX DOMINI**

*John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION ~ *Welcome to the Lord's table.* (An usher will direct you.)**





1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
 2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
 3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,  
 4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
 What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
 But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;  
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.  
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.  
 Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.  
 O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.

- 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;  
 Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
 I triumph still if Thou abide with me!
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
 Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
 Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
 In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**P** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24-26*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✝}$  give you peace.

C **Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG

*Shout to the Lord*

Praise Team

My Jesus, my Saviour, Lord, there is none like You;  
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.  
My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength;  
Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing. Power and majesty, praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of Your name.  
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands, forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand,  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTLUDE

*Shout to the Lord (reprise)*

Praise Team

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## *Tithes & Offerings*

Tithes and offerings may be placed in the offering plate during worship or in the offering box at the Sanctuary doors as you exit. You can also give through your banking institution's bill pay service, online via our website, or by texting your amount to 469-515-8118.

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