



## House of Prayer Lutheran Church

Sunday, April 28, 2024

### Fifth Sunday in Easter, Year B

(The “+” insignia indicates where the congregation should stand)

**Prelude:** *O Filii et Filiae*

Francois Dandrieu/arr. E. Power Biggs

## Welcome and Gathering

### Announcements

**Ringing of the Bell** (*please remain seated*)

**+Gathering Hymn:**

*ELW 379*

### Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958  
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol  
Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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### **+Greeting**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

### **+Call to Confession & Assurance of Forgiveness**

L: We gather as people on a journey.

**C: We believe and we have doubts, we do good and we sin.**

**We are imperfect humans, and still beloved by God.**

L: Love and grace. Hope and faith. These are the essence of the one we call God.

**C: We seek forgiveness and grace from God and from those we've harmed.**

### *Silence for self-reflection*

L: Almighty God,

**C: Creator of the heavens and earth, we confess that we do not always live into the message of hope and salvation, the promise of eternal life. We live in ways that make the here and now more important than the future. We live in ways that put ourselves and our own success first over the needs of others and the long-term needs of the world.**

**Forgive us for our selfish ways and call us into the path of Christ, who humbled himself and gave himself up for us on the cross, so that death might be no more and that all can share in the joy of salvation and eternal life, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

L: Open your hearts to receive the good news. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Assured of that grace, prepare to grow in Christ's love.

**C: We yearn for a new way, a new perspective, and a clear path.**

L: Though we are full of trust and full of doubt, we are here. Speak to us, God! Continue creating us!

**C: Inspire our hearts. Enlighten our minds. Guide our actions. Amen.**

### **+Prayer of the Day**

L: God of Abundance,

**C: you create all things and call them good; you shower us with abundance, and we lament what we do not have. Guide us see the world through your eyes of love and compassion, sharing the gifts we've been given for the good of our neighbor. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

*You may be seated*

## Word

### First Reading: 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 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 <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. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He 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 he was 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.

### Psalm 22:25-31

<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.**

<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!"

**Second Reading: 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 his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In 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. <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 lives 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 do testify that the Father has sent his 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 he 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 he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those 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. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: Word of God, Word of Life: **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.

## **+Gospel: John 15:1-8**

L: The Gospel according to John, the fifteenth chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he 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.”

L: The Good News of God. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*You may be seated*

**Sermon: What Prevents Us?**



Hymn: *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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**+Apostle's Creed**

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

**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.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*You may be seated*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

L: 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.

**Spoken Response:** L: God of Grace, **C: Receive our Prayer.**

*prayers end with:* 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.**

**Peace:** L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

*You are invited to share the peace with those around you as you feel comfortable.*

## **Meal**

**Offering:** *I Know That My Redeemer Lives*

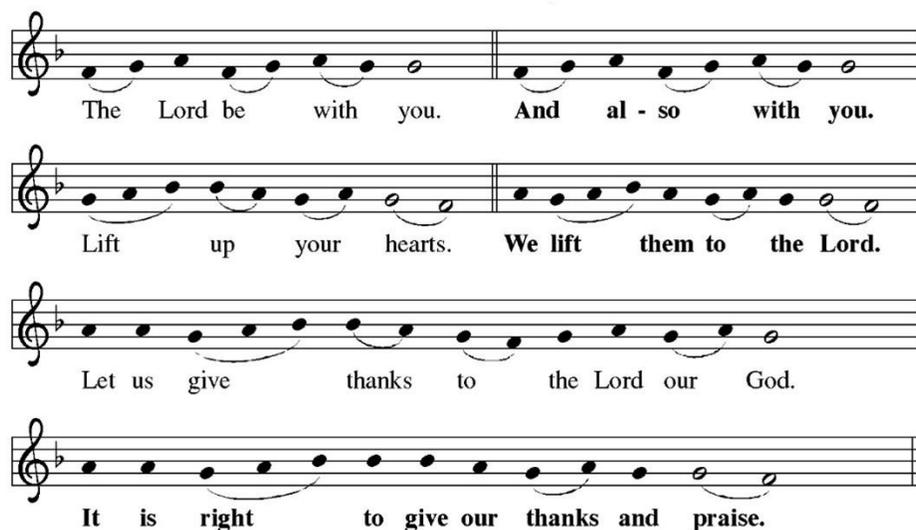
Wilbur Held

### **Offering Prayer**

L: Holy One, your living Spirit moves among us to inspire us to offer our gifts to you. This morning we commit our lives, our finances, and our skills to your mission through this church and each place we go. Receive our commitments of support and do the miraculous with them. Surprise us with your love and grace and inspire us to surprise others with the same. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

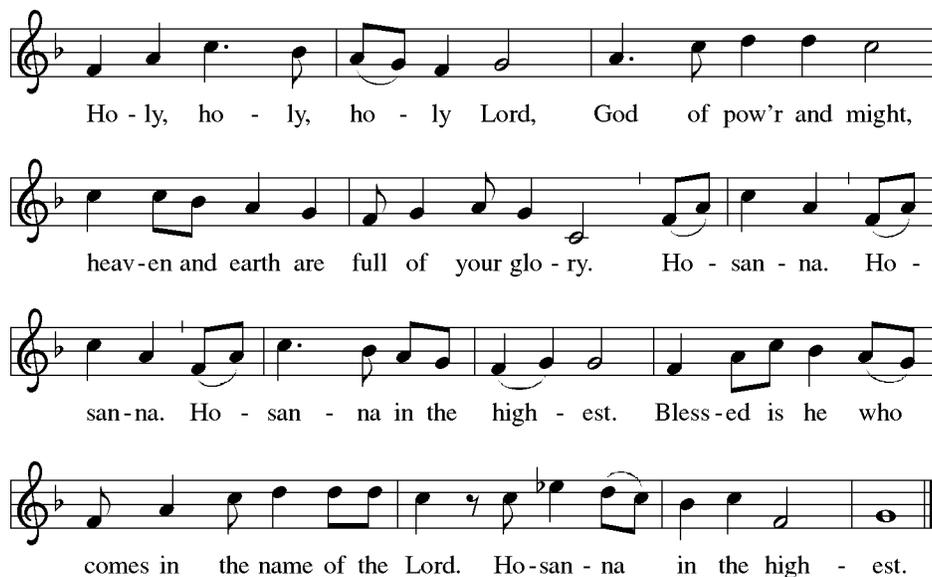


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Preface

L: 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...we **stand** to praise your name and join their unending hymn... *(please stand)*

## +Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## +Words of Institution

## +Lord's Prayer

**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.**

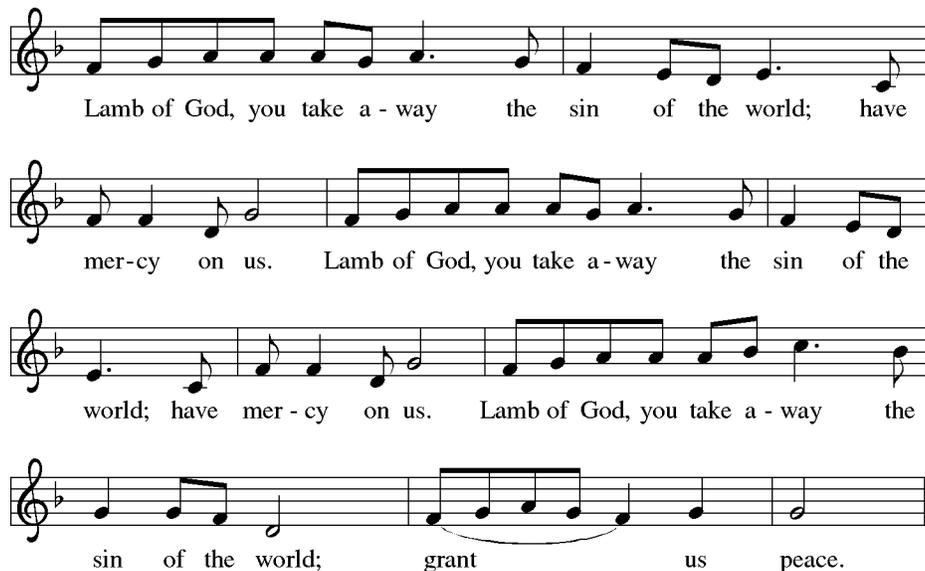
**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

## +Invitation to Communion

L: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

*(You may be seated)*

## Communion



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Music during Distribution:

### *ELW 359 Where Charity and Love Prevail*

#### 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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## Prayer after Communion

L: Holy, gracious, God,

Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.

We have rested in the depth of your love and tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;

Together, at this table, you have offered us life and by your grace, we accept the life you offer.

We give you thanks in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

**C: Amen.**

## **Welcome of New Members**

At House of Prayer Lutheran Church, we welcome all people to participate fully in worship and the activities of our congregation. For many who participate in the life of this congregation, we have chosen to make a public proclamation of our commitment to this faith community that in the name of Jesus Christ we would financially support the ministry of House of Prayer, be regularly present in worship and the activities of the church, and support our fellow community members through prayer and acts of compassion. When we make this commitment we become *members* of House of Prayer Lutheran Church.

This morning we celebrate that Carol Farnham and Andrea (Andy) Schulz have chosen to become members of House of Prayer Lutheran Church. In response to their decision, the members of House of Prayer commit to supporting Carol and Andy in their faith lives; praying for them in times of joy, sorrow, and even average ordinary moments of life; walking alongside them as followers of Jesus Christ.

*Let us join in prayer to celebrate our new members.*

## **Sending**

### **+Blessing**

L: Go out into the world in the joy and peace of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

Care for God's redeemed creation; follow Christ as children of the light;  
make disciples by your life and words; and glorify God by your dedication and love;  
The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord's face shines upon you with grace and mercy,  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**



# Let All Things Now Living



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.  
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.  
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune  
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

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**+Ringing of the Bell**

**+Dismissal**

L: Go in peace, seeking Christ in one another,

**C: We will, by the grace of God.**

**Postlude:** *Llanfair-Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

Robert J. Powell

*Following worship, in celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day and as a reflection of our missional commitment to care for creation, we will go outside for a blessing of creation. If the weather does not permit us to go outside, we will offer this blessing in the Narthex.*

L: Gathered in this space we celebrate creation and our place as servant keepers of creation.

Scripture tells us that “creation waits with eager longing for the children of God to be revealed.”

**C: Creation is waiting for us.**

L: To open our eyes to the devastation in our world.

To put the needs of the most vulnerable above the greed of the powerful.

To move from doing what is easy to doing what is necessary and right.

**C: Creation is waiting for us.**

L: To prioritize the needs of community over the convenience of self.

To remove the pollution from our seas, land, air, bodies and hearts.

To think before we throw, and be thoughtful in the ways we use and misuse natural resources.

**C: Creation is waiting for us.**

L: In all these things and more, we commit to our roles as creation’s servants and protectors.

**C: With God’s help, we will answer creation’s call. Amen.**

L: As we celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day, we lament the decisions we have made that led to the widespread diseases that have annihilated the trees of our community. We have learned from our past mistakes and the research of experts who lead us into a hopeful future. We celebrate the actions we have taken to replenish and renew the property that we have been called to steward.

**C: We thank you, God, for the trees and flowers that beautify this property and nurture the environment in which we live. We thank you for their fruits, nuts, and spices; for their sheltering shade; for the wood we use to build; for the fuel for warmth and ambiance; for the home they provide to birds and wildlife; for the ways they enrich the soul; for the oxygen they produce for us to breathe.**

**C: Thank you, God, for trusting us to be caretakers of creation. Amen.**

## Worship Participants

<b>Presider:</b>	Pastor Korla Masters
<b>Preacher:</b>	Pastor Eric Luedtke
<b>Musicians:</b>	Roselyn Hanson Weber, Director of Liturgical Worship
<b>Organist</b>	Jon Kietzer
<b>Special Music:</b>	Jon Kietzer
<b>Lector/Intercessor:</b>	Shirley Moen
<b>Communion Servers:</b>	Pastor Korla, Ann Barnes, Shirley Moen, Monica Nelson
<b>Ushers:</b>	Steve and Ann Barnes, Wayne Peterson
<b>AV Engineer:</b>	Ethan Alberg



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For more information about House of Prayer Lutheran Church,  
please refer to our website: [hoplc.org](http://hoplc.org)  
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