**Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church**

**Sunday, April 28 2024**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**10:00 A.M. Worship with Holy Communion**

Welcome visitors! We have a weekly email you can join to be notified about

upcoming events (aageorge27@sbcglobal.net), as well as a  
 website ([www.sov-lc.org](http://www.sov-lc.org)) and a Facebook presence.

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Normal print indicates Pastor

L: indicates Lay Reader

Bold indicates congregational response

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

**PRELUDE** *Adoration* by John Leavitt

*English Melody* arranged by John Carter

**welcomE**

**Worship Announcements and Prayer concern sharing**

**Ringing of the church bell**

**confession and forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us

and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

To you, O God,

**all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of ☩ Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

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



**GREETING**

P: Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed**.

P: Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed!**

P: Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed!  Alleluia!**

**KYRIE**



**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** *Glory be to God*



**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.  **And also with you**

Let us pray. **O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

### A Reading from Acts 8:26-40

### 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.

Word of God, Word of Life **Thanks be to God.**

### Responsive Prayer: Psalm 22:25-31

25From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
  I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.  
26**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**  
  **Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!**  
27All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;  
  all the families of nations shall bow before God.  
28**For dominion belongs to the Lord,**  
  **who rules over the nations.**  
29Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
  all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.  
30**Their descendants shall serve the Lord,**  
  **whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**  
31They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
  saying to them, “The Lord has acted!”

### A Reading from 1 John 4:7-21

### 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.

Word of God, Word of Life **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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### GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to John **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### [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.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** Pastor Gaeta

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *In Christ Called to Baptism* ELW #575



**APOSTLES’ 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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.*

**L:** 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, **hear our prayer.**

**L:** For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**L:** 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, **hear our prayer.**

**L:** 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, **hear our prayer.**

**L:** 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, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**Shepherd of the Valley Prayer List**

**Those needing healing in body, mind or spirit:**

Olivia, Pastor Gaeta’s friend

Annette, Denise’s mom

Joanne, Bodys’ neighbor

Tamara Howes, friend of SOV

Melanie Karl

Amber, Celia's friend

Verell Boaen

Ewan Rae, friend of Jeanne Iburg

Joanie Neihaus, Val's friend

Maureen Karr, Bob Nelson's friend

Lynne Nelson, Bob's ex-wife

Vincent Trotta, Karen's friend

Michael Trotta, Karen's friend

Art Rogers, Karen Sheldon's friend

Mr. Regnault, Celia's friend's father

Kit and Jen Bolton, friends of SOV

Bob Nelson

Ellen Baxendale

Karen Bergen, Cathy's mom

Sue Soto, Karen Sheldon's friend

Melissa McCarthy, Karen’s friend

Jane, Bill Roper's aunt

Cindy, friend of the Boyds

Judy Grande, friend of SOV

Cassidy, Cliff's niece

Dawn Weborg, Karen’s friend

George Heiter, Stefanie's father

Kassie Pinard, Wilsons’ friend

Nina Ward, friend of Jeanne Iburg

Cherylle Bowman, Fed member

Bette Eldredge, Denise's friend

Gail Korsman, Denise’s friend

Karyn, Dane's sister

Tom, Mark Imbibo's friend

Darin Simonson, Denise's brother

Mary Clement, Denise's friend

Sally Marshall, Denise’s colleague

Mary Johnson, Denise’s colleague

Anne Celino, Cindy's sister

Tyler Rysnik, Nancy's nephew

Thomas McInerney, father of Kerry Bielicki's friend Jen

Judy, prayers for transition

Sonia Hardgraves, Christine Anderson's daughter

David Scott, Nancy's friend

Barbara Krampitz, Dane’s mother

Elizabeth (Liz) Pearce Hunt, friend of Cliff Bailey

Amy Phillipo, Kerry Bielicki's friend

Carol Wolfe, friend of the Nelsons

Jerrlyn, friend of the Boyds

Michael LeMay, Cathy’s nephew

Chalisse Botero, Derek Karl’s niece

Zachary Nelson, Wilsons’ neighbor

Kim O'Brokta, Melanie Karl’s friend

Barbara Christopher, Boyds’ friend

Jane Detillion, friend of the Bailey family

**Ministries with whom we partner:**

Stone Soup Kitchen

Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM)

The ELCA and the New England Synod

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

The PACH Outreach

The Townsend Ecumenical Outreach

Common Cathedral - City Reach

**Those Serving in the Military, especially those who are deployed and their families**

**Other Prayer Concerns**

Workplaces facing staffing cuts

Election process for Bishop and other leaders of New England Synod

Global conflicts, especially in Gaza and Ukraine

Those seeking asylum

Devenscrest tenants facing eviction or unaffordable rent increases

**Prayers of Thanksgiving**

Ali, Celia’s friend

Cassidy, Cliff’s niece

Erik Meehan's safe return from deployment

**Family and Friends of those who have died:**

Melissa McCarthy, Karen’s friend

Betty P., Cathy's coworker

Joe Roper, Bill's uncle

Kathy Huard, Nancy's sister

Nilda Barrera, Richard's aunt

Elke Mahlke, Britta's aunt

Kyle Sweeney, friend of Duhamels

**L:** 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, **hear our prayer.**

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. **Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Christ*

**offering prayer**

**L:** Let us pray. **Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

**THe Great thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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…**

**…. unending hymn:**

**HOly, HOly, HOly**

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**Eucharistic prayer with words of institution**

**…**Proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYEr** *(Whichever form or language you prefer)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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. | 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**

**Lamb of GOd**



**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

**post-communion Canticle**

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**Post-Communion Prayer**

**L:** Let us pray. **We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thrist are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

**BLESSING**

**sending hymn** *Let All Things Now Living* ELW #881

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS & DISMISSAL**

Go in peace and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Ash Grove* arranged by Lloyd Larsen

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