



HOLY COMMUNION

Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2009 + 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Central - in the heart of the city, welcomes all people to celebrate, discover and share the love of Christ

In baptism we are grafted into the vine of Christ

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 that we read of 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.

*The Holy Spirit gathers
us in unity
on the first day
of the week, the day of
Christ's resurrection*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Variations on "This Joyful Eastertide"
*At the sound of the carillon the assembly stands
to face the worship leaders at the back of the church.*

Jan Bender

EASTER PROCLAMATION

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
A **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

as water is poured into the font

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.
A **Amen! Alleluia!**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"This Joyful Eastertide"

*(hymn) 391
stanza 2 in harmony*

GREETING

- P** The grace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
A **And also with you.**

ALLELUIA!

This morning's liturgy is
ELW setting 1.

ALLELUIA!

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This Is the Feast"



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☩ ...who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children are invited to come forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.

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, the Ethiopian is baptized by Philip.

FIRST READING *Philip teaches and baptizes an Ethiopian* Acts 8:26–40

Luke writes:

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.)²⁷ 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 worship²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.”³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”³¹ He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.³² 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.

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?”³⁵ Then 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.³⁹ 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.⁴⁰ 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.

AD **Thanks be to God.**

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 *Loving one another* 1 John 4:7–21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.⁹ 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.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.¹² No 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.¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.¹⁶ 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.¹⁷ 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.

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.²⁰ 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.

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.

AD **Thanks be to God.**


GOSPEL VERSE

"We Have Been Told"

David Haas

A Refrain

All Refrain



We have been told, we've seen his face, and heard his
voice a - live in our hearts; "Live in my love with all your
heart, as the Fa-ther has loved me, so I have loved you."

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A I am the vine, you are the branches,
and all who live in me will bear great fruit.

All Refrain

A You are my friends, if you keep my commands,
no longer slaves, I call you friends.

All Refrain

A No greater love is there than this:
to lay down one's life, for a friend.

All Refrain

*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
would bear fruit, for apart from
him, they could do nothing*



GOSPEL

Christ the vine

John 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to John.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus says:

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.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor D. Foy Christopherson

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

"The Stewardship of the Vine"

HYMN OF THE DAY

(hymn) 447

“O Blessed Spring”

stanza 1 - all; 2 - women; 3 - all (8:30), choir (11:00); 4 - men; 5 - all

NICENE CREED

A With the whole church, let us confess our Easter faith.

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

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

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A With Alleluias on our lips at Christ's victory over death,
let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

after each petition:

Lord in your mercy,

AD hear our prayer.

P Receive these our prayers, O God,
and give us all that we need for this day and the days to come,
for the sake of the crucified and risen one,
Jesus Christ, our redeemer.

AD Amen.

*God feeds us
with the presence
of Jesus Christ*

*Offering of gifts, tithes and
commitment cards may be
brought forward at this time, or
will be received in your pew by
an usher.*

MEAL

PEACE

P The peace of our risen Lord be with you always.

AD **And also with you.**

The assembly is invited to share God's peace with one another.

BLESSING OF QUILTS

PROCESSIONAL OFFERING—GATHERING OF GIFTS

While the offering is received lay ministers prepare the table.

The assembly stands as the procession reaches the chancel.

"How Can I Keep from Singing?" (8:30) *early American, arr. Dick Bolts*

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentations.

I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul: How can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord, my Savior liveth.

What though the darkness gather 'round? Songs in the night he giveth.

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to the refuge clinging.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it.

And day by day this pathway smooths since first I learned to love it.

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing.

All things are mine since I am his; how can I keep from singing?

"Jesus Christ the Apple Tree" (11:00)

Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit, and always green:

The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell

The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:

I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile:

under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive:

which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray together.

AD **Risen Christ, receive these gifts and pledges,
with our hopes, dreams, and prayers.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread,

that our eyes may be opened to see your presence among us,

and our lives filled with the new life of your resurrection. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

AD **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

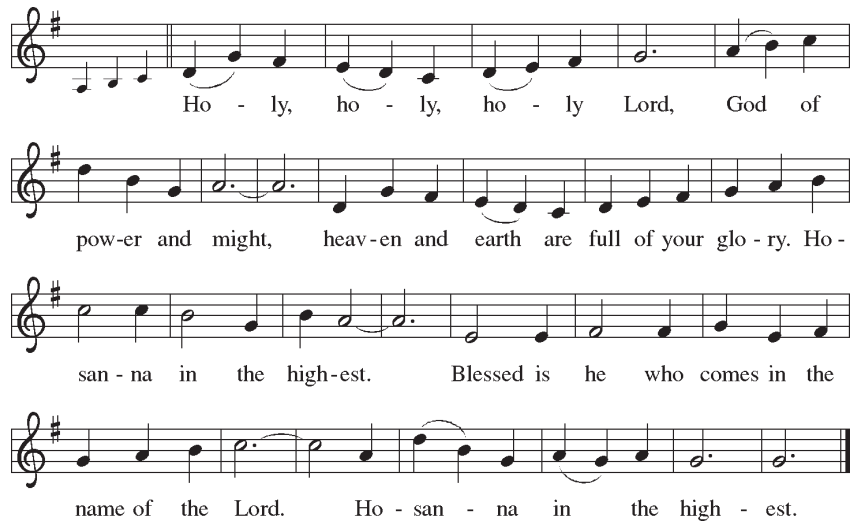
AD **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

AD **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... join their unending hymn:

"Holy, Holy, Holy"



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

Eucharistic Prayer

P ...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

P ...now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

Lord's Prayer (1975)

All 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.



All are invited to receive these gifts of God.

Grape juice and gluten-free bread are available upon request.

Children are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.

Communion at this service is served standing by intinction. Please follow the direction of the ushers to a communion station. Receive the bread and dip it in the chalice of wine.

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to the Table

Communion

Music during Communion

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

(hymn) 379

Blessing and Prayer after Communion

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All Amen

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

ALLELUIA!

- ☩ Let us pray.
... through Jesus Christ our Lord.
☩ **Amen.**
silence for reflection

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☩ May the risen Christ bring you all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

- ☩ **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”

*(hymn) 452
stanzas 3 & 4 in harmony*

DISMISSAL

Please face the processional cross for the dismissal.

- ☩ Go in peace. Share the good news.
☩ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

The carillon sends the assembly into mission.

POSTLUDE

“Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands”

Johann Pachelbel

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Altar flowers today are given by the Floral Guild. If you wish to give flowers contact Gloria Hahn at 952-545-6109.

SERVING TODAY



Pastor Kristen Jacobson *presiding*
Pastor D. Foy Christopherson *preaching*
Sonja Pederson *assisting minister*
Jane Lien *associate cantor/organist*

Ann Oyen *reader, 8:30*
Kristin Vann *soloist, 8:30*
David Molvik *sound operator, 8:30*

Ron Fiscus *reader, 11:00*
Central Choir *choir, 11:00*
Mark Brodin *sound operator, 11:00*

Richard Stegall *sacristan*
Dave Dahl *radio announcer*

Sara Stensaas, Allison Winblad,
Deanne Tibben, Kris Stedje,
Ann Oyen, Amanda Highben,
Barb Hoernemann, Kathy Fiscus,
David Deonarine, Melissa Deonarine,
Rick Johnston *communion ministers*

George & Mary Holtan,
Sally Carlson-Bancroft,
Dick & Linda Shinofield,
Karen Snyder *hosts and greeters*

Christopher Haug, Dave Nelson,
Michael Wickman, David West *seasonal environment & art*

Sunday worship is broadcast locally on WDGY 740 AM at 11 a.m.; or listen online from anywhere at wdgyradio.com. To sponsor a Sunday morning radio broadcast or refreshments in honor or memory of a loved one or a special occasion, contact Barbara Brown at 612.767-9210.



PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Richard Nelson	<i>senior pastor</i>
The Rev. Kristen Jacobson	<i>associate pastor</i>
The Rev. D. Foy Christopherson	<i>associate pastor</i>
The Rev. Mark Peterson	<i>visitation pastor</i>
The Rev. Charles Anderson	<i>visitation pastor</i>

PROGRAM STAFF

David Alexander	<i>business administrator</i>
Joe Bjordahl	<i>communications manager</i>
Barbara Brown	<i>staff & program administrator</i>
Mark Halaas	<i>dir. of development, foundation</i>
Amanda Highben	<i>youth and family minister</i>
Karen Knox	<i>volunteer coordinator</i>
Jane Lien	<i>associate cantor</i>
Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer	<i>community resources</i>
Mark Sedio	<i>cantor</i>

SUPPORT STAFF

Mark Brodin	<i>sound operator</i>
Harold Clough	<i>radio and tape ministry</i>
Erica Doss	<i>events coordinator</i>
Theresa Dunbar	<i>housekeeper</i>
Pam Fergus, Mary Culbertson,	<i>nursery attendants</i>
Jennifer Fischer	<i>bookkeeper</i>
Ron Henderson	<i>custodian</i>
Jeni Hill	<i>executive assistant</i>
George Jackson	<i>security</i>
David Molvik	<i>sound operator</i>
Bruce Person	<i>food service coordinator</i>
David Rodriguez	<i>building supervisor</i>
Betsi Sample	<i>food service</i>
Marissa Sidars	<i>receptionist/pastoral support</i>
Charles Smith	<i>custodian</i>
Al Thielen	<i>custodian</i>
Malcolm Williams	<i>security</i>
Dwayne Wright	<i>director of security</i>

WELCOME!



Everyone is welcome. As a community of the people of God, the members of Central Lutheran Church are called to welcome all people regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male or female” (Galatians 3:28). Christ has made us one.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. We invite guests to complete the “Welcome to Central” card found in the pew racks and leave it with an usher or place it in the offering plate. If you would like more information about Central, please contact us at 612-870-4416, or email info@centralmpls.org.

Children are welcome at all services. Worship bulletins for children and activity bags are available at sanctuary entrances. If you would prefer to use Central’s nursery (available for children ages four and younger), you will find it up the steps from the information desk at the south entrance (across from the fellowship hall). An usher or greeter will be glad to assist you.

Welcome to the Lord’s Table. All are welcome at the Lord’s Table. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to persons in designated access seating areas. If you are not in a designated access seating area and desire to commune where you are seated, please notify an usher who will direct communion ministers to come and serve you. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. Gluten-free breads and alcohol-free wine are available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.

We envision becoming a thriving, vibrant model of urban Lutheran ministry for the 21st century. This lofty vision requires us to ask each day if our goals for worship, learning, and service are clearly reaching a diverse neighborhood and city in language and action that reflect the world as well as our heritage.



Large print service folders,
assisted listening devices, and access seating
are available to aid your participation in worship.
Please inquire with an usher.





**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Grace abounds.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
*in the heart of the city, welcomes all people
to celebrate, discover and share the love of Christ*
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