

Zion

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

9:15 am Worship

Live streamed on Zion's facebook page

Or posted at www.zionmanheim.com (Ministry Tab, then video) to view

Order for Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

*GATHERING HYMN "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.

* ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*GREETING


Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!


The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



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



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

1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

refrain


2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are his.

refrain


3 Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

refrain

4 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.



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



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

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

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.

FIRST READING: 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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!"

SECOND READING: 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.

The Word of the Lord. **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.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

***GOSPEL: John 15:1-8**

[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 Kate

*HYMN OF THE DAY "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.

*NICENE CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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 THE PEOPLE**

*Each petition ends "God of grace" and the congregation responds
"Hear our prayer."*

***SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY CANTICLE (*remain seated*)



☞ Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our



cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the



seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
 prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

A stewardship note: Offering plates have been placed near the entrance to receive your gifts. An additional offering plate is on the stand near the organ. If you miss the chance to drop off your offering when you arrive, you are welcome to place your offering in the plate at the close of the service.

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

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.
 It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,...
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 and DISTRIBUTION

We gather at the Lord's Table and all are welcome. Communion will be distributed by continuous progression at the front of the sanctuary, and you are welcome to come forward by side, as directed by the pastor. In addition to the pre-poured cups of wine, grape juice (darker in color) is available in the center of each tray, and gluten free wafers are available upon request. You are welcome to kneel at the rail for prayer after receiving the elements. The communion cups may be placed in the small baskets near the end of the pews as you return to your seat.

COMMUNION HYMNS



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

QUIET MUSIC

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Shepherding God,
**you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

*THE BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope

✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN “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 ocean proclaim 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!"

*THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Go in peace. Share the good news!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Flowers are presented by Marc & Carol Phillips
in celebration of their 51st anniversary

Bulletins are sponsored by Susan & Jim Scales

TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM:
Pastor Kate, Carol Atherholt
Ushers/Greeters – Jim & Susan Scales
Lay Reader – Brian Miller
Communion Assistant – Denny Valins

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Weekly Record **Last week** **Mo. Total** **Budget**

Attendance (in-person)	47	132	-----
Attendance (on-line)	n/a	n/a	-----
General Fund offering	2,885	11,615	18,963
Greater Zion Fund offering	102	1,812	-----



*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.*

John 15:5

Announcements

Following worship we continue a study focusing on the Bible's understandings of peace as a cornerstone for faithful living in a violent world.

Thanks go to Carol Atherholt today for filling in for Karen while she is away. We appreciate sharing your gift of music with us.

Summer Lunch Planning Meeting will be held Thursday, May 2nd at 11:30am.

We will hold a congregational meeting after worship on May 5th to vote on the proposed purchase of a new boiler system. After reviewing three proposals, one was chosen and approved at the Council meeting on April 8th. Please plan to attend, as we will present the information about and vote on the new boiler at that time.

We are in need of some flower sponsors for the month of May. Please check the poster and add your names to the list on the bulletin board on your way home from church today. Thank you.

Zion's Camping Group is planning another camping weekend on May 10-12, this time to Harper's Ferry, WV. If you'd like to join in the fun, or for more information, please contact Sharon Lynes at 717-413-0895.

MC Food Pantry Needs for the month of April are: diapers, applesauce, Spam, soup, and canned fruit. They could use some reusable grocery bags. At this time they do not need any one-use plastic bags. Please make sure any donations are not out of date. You may place your food donations in the shopping cart outside the church office. Thank you.



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E-mail: zmanheim@ptd.net

Zion's web page: www.zionmanheim.com

<https://www.facebook.com/ZELCManheim>

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