

**Sunday, April 29, 2018**

Fifth Sunday of Easter



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

***MISSION STATEMENT***

*We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH*

*we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS*

*we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.*

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

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## INTRODUCTION

*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.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN: "We Came to You for Healing, Lord" #617 ELW**

Please Stand on the Last Verse

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

### **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*As an alternative to the assembly's spoken response, a sung refrain may be used.*

Just as God's work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

### **We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.**

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from our tap, for rain and snow, for *[local water sources may be named]*.

### **We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.**

We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

### **We give you thanks for your salvation through water.**

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized, and for all who gather here; for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

### **We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.**

We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters, for our new birth into a life of freedom and

service, for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.  
**We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**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**

*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.*

<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.

The Word of the Lord.

## Thanks Be to God

### Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31

*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)*

<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

*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.*

<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.

The Word of the Lord.

## **Thanks Be to God**

*Please rise for the Reading of the Gospel*

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

#### **Glory to you, O Lord**

*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.*

[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.”

The Gospel of the Lord

#### **Praise to You, O Christ**

*Please be seated*

### **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “When Morning Gilds the Skies” #853 ELW**

### **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.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion.*

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

For ministries that nurture faith formation. For missionaries and Bible study leaders. For those who are seeking, questioning, or curious. For seminarians, campus ministers, and the newly baptized, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the beauty and health of the earth. For vineyards and orchards, groves and plains. For rain forests and arctic tundra. For volcanoes and mountains, hills and valleys. For oceans deep and rivers wide, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For spears to be beat into pruning hooks. For harsh words to be reformed into loving speech. For bombs and sniper attacks to cease. For justice and peace in every land, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For homeless youth and rejected children. For isolated grandparents and lonely nursing home residents. For the shamed, the slighted, and the disregarded members of our communities. For all the sick (*especially*), let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For all who live with post-traumatic stress disorder and postpartum depression. For all who struggle with eating disorders and anorexia. For all who suffer in silence and all who suffer alone, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving for (*Catherine of Siena and*) all the mystics and theologians who live eternally with you. For those we mourn and those we would rather forget. For the kingdom on earth to be as it is in heaven, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

*Ushers will begin passing the offering plate.*

*Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **BLESSING**

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**                      **“King of Love”**                      **I Am They**                      **(Insert)**

**Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship!  
Please come again.**

## **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music: Digital Hymnal

Greeters: Ron & Joni Mehlhop

Ushers: 8:30am: George & Patti Smith

Lectors: 8:30am Carolyn Morris

10:00am: Darrell Kelly

10:00am Dick Stebbins

Hospitality Hosts: Bruce Gingerich & Carol Schlottman, Dennis & Lynn Meidlinger

***Thank you for your service!***

Response to God's Word Last Week: Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>: 8:30am: 89 10:00pm 25

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda****April 23 through April 29, 2018**

Monday	4/30	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle AA/Alanon
Tuesday	5/1	12-2:00 pm	Pastor Tex Study
Wednesday	5/2	9:00 am 10:0 am 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bible Study Stitchers Catechism Choir Practice Praise Team
Thursday	5/3	8:00am 10:30 am 12:00 pm	ROMEOS Worship & Music Meeting Funtimers-Pot Luck (Noon) & Cards (12:30pm)
Friday	5/4	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	5/5	1:00-4:00pm	Foot Care
Sunday	5/6	8:30 am 10:00 am	Worship Worship

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ATTENDANCE REGISTRY** Please sign and pass the new attendance registry folders which you will find in the pew.

**JELLY MAKING:** The date for our annual jelly making has been set for Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Please come and join in the fun. No experience needed. Signup sheets will be in the fellowship hall. The jelly will be sold at the veggie stand this summer. All proceeds go to the Benevolence fund. Donations are very welcome. Some items needed are: Sugar, Sure Jell, Certo, and 8 oz. jelly jars, and monetary donations for purchasing fruit are also welcome. If you have Rhubarb or hot peppers in your freezer from last year we could use them also. Please mark all items “Jelly making” and all donations need to be in by April 30<sup>th</sup> so we can take inventory. Thank you to everyone that helps out.

**ITEMS NEEDED FOR ISLE SCHOOL PANTRY** •Oatmeal Packets •Ramen Noodles •Peanut Butter & Jelly •Men’s Deodorant •Women’s Hygiene Products •Bottled Water •Granola or Protein Bars •Pop Tarts •Canned Meats (Tuna, Spam or Chicken) •Tooth Brush & Toothpaste •Athletic Shorts •Money for School Lunch Accounts

**TABLE TALK** today’s table talk between services will be “Veggie Stand”. Anyone interested in learning more about helping out at the Veggie Stand is welcome to come to the table.

**MEMORY GARDEN** Paver orders will be taken now through mid-June. We have a new preferred customer status that will allow you to purchase pavers at a reduced cost. A 3 line pavers is now \$25.00 and a large paver of up to 5 lines is \$35.00. Order forms are in the narthex and can be completed and returned to the Memory Garden/Nature Trail office mailbox. They can also be given to either church secretary or Val Benton.



## King of Love - by: I Am They

1. The King of Love my Shepherd is  
Whose goodness faileth never  
I nothing lack if I am His  
And He is mine forever  
And He is mine forever  
  
Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul He leadeth  
And where the verdant pastures grow  
With food celestial feedeth

### **CHORUS:**

Never failing, Ruler of my heart  
Everlasting, Lover of my soul  
On the mountain high or in the valley low  
The King of Love my Shepherd is  
The King of Love my Shepherd is

2. Lost and foolish off I strayed  
But yet in love He sought me  
And on His shoulder gently laid  
And home rejoicing brought me  
  
In death's dark veil I fear no ill  
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still  
Thy cross before to guide me (*Chorus*)

3. Oh, Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Oh, Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
  
Never failing, Ruler of my heart  
Everlasting, Lover of my soul  
On the mountain high or in the valley low  
The King of Love my Shepherd is (*Chorus*)

4. And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Your praise  
Within Your house forever  
Within Your house forever