

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!

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*Rooted in Faith \* Growing in Spirit \* Reaching Out to Those in Need*  
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April 29, 2018 8:30 am 5th Sunday in Easter

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.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN *(please stand)* _____

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Trusting in the word of life given in baptism,
we are gathered in the name of the Father,
and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God has given to all nations the repentance that leads to life.
Let us come with repentant hearts
to the God who makes all things new.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
we confess to you all the ways
in which we dismiss the resurrection news.
We are slow of heart to believe.
We turn from others and retreat in fear.
Come into our locked rooms
and breathe into us your forgiving Spirit.
Reawaken our trust and strengthen our hope,
that we may be witnesses to your saving power.
Amen.

Peace be with you, sisters and brothers.
In baptism you have received a spirit of adoption;
you are God's beloved children.
In the name of Christ your sins are forgiven.
Rejoice, and welcome this freedom as a gift.
Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

GREETING

The boundless grace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

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. *(please be seated)*

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Praise the Lord"
Zachary Anderson

Hal Hopson

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

WORD

PSALM Psalm 22:25-31

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

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!"

FIRST READING 1 John 4:7-21

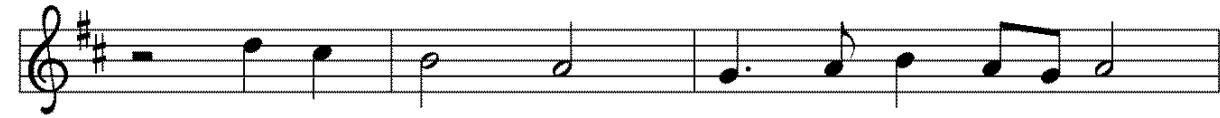
Pew Bible NT p. 260

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.

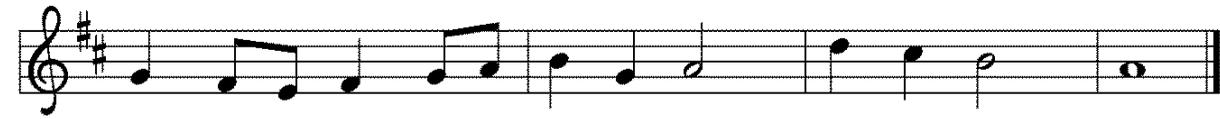
Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (please stand)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to John the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL John 15:1-8

Pew Bible NT p. 113

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ. (please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Marcia

HYMN OF THE DAY

CREED *(please stand)*

**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.** *(please be seated)*

OFFERING

The children are welcome to come forward and place their offerings in the "For Children Everywhere" box.

OFFERTORY HYMN

OFFERING PRAYER *(please stand)*

Be known to us, O Lord,
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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray... **Have mercy, O God.**

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.**

SENDING

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

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.
We will! Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN

POSTLUDE

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LESSONS

PSALM Psalm 22:25-31 (sung)

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

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I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

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FIRST READING 1 John 4:7-21

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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.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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 chemical warfare, 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 elders 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.

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.

