

The Season of Easter



I am the vine and you are the branches. John 15:5

May 2, 2021

Advent Lutheran Church

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"Love God, Serve Neighbor

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

“The Day of Resurrection”

Morning Chimes

Call to Worship

L: Lord, we would grow with you
New shoots reaching out
Hands stretched upward
Like leaves newly formed
Soaking up your light and warmth
Lord, we would grow with you

Lord, we would grow with you
In sunshine and rain
In darkness and light
In cold days and summer days
From Springtime to Winter
Lord, we would grow with you

Lord, we would grow with you
And bring forth fruit
That is pleasing to you
Fed by your living water
Giving sustenance to others

(Contemporary Welsh Prayer)

Confession & Forgiveness

L: God of love, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ the true vine, with his roots eternally grounded in you. We rejoice that by grace we have been grafted into Christ, to be branches on a vine which bears the fruit of your abundant life. Yet we confess that all is not well with the way we live.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

**C: God of love, forgive us when we limit you –
When we remake you in our image,
When we claim our causes as your own,
When we box you in,
And explain you away,
And in our attempts at understanding, whittle away all mystery.
Forgive us for our human impulses, and change us:
Awaken us to your blinding glory,
Confound us by your love,**

**Shower us with grace so that we will be made new,
Recreated in your image,
Grateful for all that we cannot know.
In the name of Christ, who brought us closer to you, we pray. Amen.**

L: Friends, hear the Good News: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus to us, not to condemn the world but in order that we might be saved – healed and forgiven – through him. Thanks be to God!

Easter Greeting

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C: **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer of the Day

L: God of love,
plant us in the soil of your grace.
Nurture us with the strength of Christ,
the vine of everlasting life.
Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit,
which flows through us.
Abide in us,
that we may abide in you
and live in your love.
In your holy name, we pray.

C: **Amen.**

The First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Alex Christ

Gospel Acclamation

“Word of God Speak”

The Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8

The Message

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Prayers of the Faithful

L: God of love, may we abide in your presence and so abide in your love: as we freely receive your love, let us freely share with others all that you have given us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

(Brief silence)

L: We pray for your church, that it may be a caring, loving and accepting of all people. We pray for the outreach of your church, that it may seek out the needy, the outcasts and the rejected: That love may be revealed in action. As you abide in us,

C: May we abide in you.

L: We come with sorrow for all who have denied freedom or peace. We pray for places where communities have been destroyed, where families have been divided or separated, and where children who have lost contact with their parents.

May we be those who seek justice and work to heal all that divides.

As you abide in us,

C: May we abide in you.

L: God of love, you call us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. We pray for all of our sisters and brothers who seek comfort, healing, refuge, rest, peace, wholeness, community, acceptance, and unconditional love.

We especially pray for:

- Josh Baker
- Lindsay Baker
- Lemont Bell
- Dallas Collins
- Eileen Folkert
- Mary Jo Gouge
- Donnell Horton
- Nylah Howard
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Amy Leonard
- Ray Matthews
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Rick Messina
- Lucy Mullis
- Judy Murphy
- Leo Peeler
- Joan Readling
- Calvin Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- Spillars and Dunn families
- David Townsend
- Herbert Watson
- Velia Watson
- Jenny Weems
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Renate Wilson

L: We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name (*give time for community to pray*).

L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially:

- Frank Tirro, friend of Pastor Ward
- Jessica Embry, friend of Jennifer Frisina
- Charlie Anderson, friend of Pastor Ward
- Kathleen Basilice, mother of John Basilice
- Bryce Tomberlin, friend of Pam Rhynes

By your Holy Spirit, comfort their families, and all who grieve, give peace to those who mourn, strengthen all through the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

L: We give thanks for the birth of Belle Josephine Reid, born April 22, the granddaughter of Gene & Brenda Reid.

L: As you abide in us,

C: May we abide in you.

L: We pray for all healthcare professionals and relief workers, especially those who find themselves on the frontlines to bring healing, comfort and care to all impacted by the coronavirus. We are grateful for the development of a vaccine and for those who are assisting in making it available. Strengthen, encourage, and empower us to be people of peace in the midst of anxiety, impatience and worry. As you abide in us,

C: **May we abide in you.**

L: God of love, may we abide in your presence and so abide in your love: as we freely receive your love, let us freely share with others all that you have given us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

C: **Amen.**

SHARING THE MEAL

Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer (*spoken*)

C: **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 GOD'S PEOPLE

Benediction

L: May God tend you and make you fruitful.
May the abiding presence of Jesus give you life.
And may the Holy Spirit fill you with love.

C: **Amen.**

VERSE

F C Dm Dm⁷ Am

1. You are my strength when I am weak. You are the treas - ure that I
 2. Tak - ing my sin, my cross, my shame, Ris - ing a - gain I bless Your

3 Gm⁷ F/C C⁷ F C⁷ F C

seek. You are my all in all. _____ Seek - ing You as a pre - cious
 name; You are my all in all. _____ When I fall down, You pick me

CHORUS

6 Dm Dm⁷ Am Gm⁷ F/C C⁷ Bb/F F F C

jew'l, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool. You are my all in all. Je - sus,
 up; When I am dry, You fill my cup; You are my all in all.

10 Dm Dm⁷ Am Gm⁷ F/C C⁷ F C⁷

Lamb of God, wor - thy is Your name! _____

13 F C Dm Dm⁷ Am Gm⁷ F/C C⁷ Bb/F F

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is Your name!

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.