



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024



900 Washington Crossing Road
Newtown PA 18940
215-497-0447
ascensionlutheranchurch.org

WELCOME TO ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome! *Whether this is your first time worshiping with us or this has been your faith community for many years, we welcome you to worship.*

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 described 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.

A few notes on how we worship together:

During the Prayers of People, you are welcome to voice your prayers out loud or you may fill out the yellow prayer sheet found in your bulletin. The yellow prayer sheets will be collected by the usher after the sermon. Prayer requests will be voiced by the Pastor and added to the weekly prayer list circulated by email.

We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We believe that the living Christ is present in Holy Communion and that this meal offers forgiveness and new life. We welcome all who seek these gifts.

We are in a season of rejoicing! You are invited to take an egg-shaker or a scarf for worship. Waive it in the air when you hear the "alleluia" proclaimed!

Cover Image: Tanja Butler, "Christ the Vine" www.tanjabutler.com.

Installation found from:

https://ecva.org/wordimage/articles/butler_residency/residency_detail_3.htm.

Presiding Minister (P), Assisting Minister (AM), Congregation (C)

*The flowers above the altar are given by the Grannie Annie and Gramps
In honor of Tristen Graf on his birthday*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All children are invited to join our Pastor at the baptismal font.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

C Amen.

P Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

P Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN | WE KNOW THAT CHRIST IS RAISED



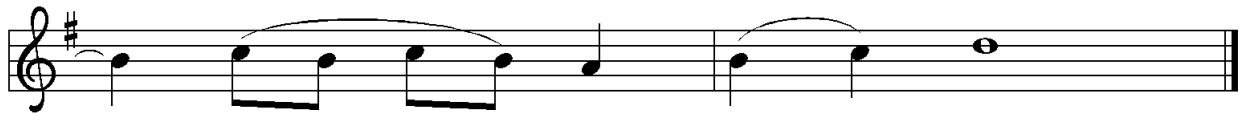
1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924
Text © John B. Geyer.

GREETING

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

C **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE | THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
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

- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING | ACTS 8:26-40

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

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the

prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 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?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 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. 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.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM | PSALM 22:25-31 *Prayed responsively*

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

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

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

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.

**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

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

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 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. 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. 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. We love because he first loved us. 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
 Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

GOSPEL | JOHN 15:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

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

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood

SERMON

Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood

HYMN OF THE DAY | ALLELUIA, JESUS IS RISEN

An usher will collect prayer requests during the hymn of the day



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES CREED

P Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed:

C 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 to heaven, he is seated at the right hand of God 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 THE PEOPLE

AM God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of risen Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

CHORAL ANTHEM | FAIREST LORD JESUS

arr. Jack Schrader

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A brass plate will be passed during the offertory for your tithes and offerings. You may also give online by visiting ascensionlutheranchurch.org/give. Thank you for your gifts.

OFFERING HYMN | PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major. The treble staff contains a vocal line with lyrics. The bass staff contains a piano accompaniment with block chords and moving lines.

praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The second system of musical notation continues the hymn. It features the same treble and bass staff arrangement as the first system, with lyrics and piano accompaniment.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

OFFERING PRAYER

AM 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.

C Amen.

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.
You give us friends and families,
busy streets for young and old,
the life of an earthly city
fulfilled in your city to come.
You made us all,
each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels
and sing your praise:

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P We thank you, loving God,
 because, when we turned away,
 you sent Jesus, your Son.
 He gave his life on the cross
 and opened his arms to all.

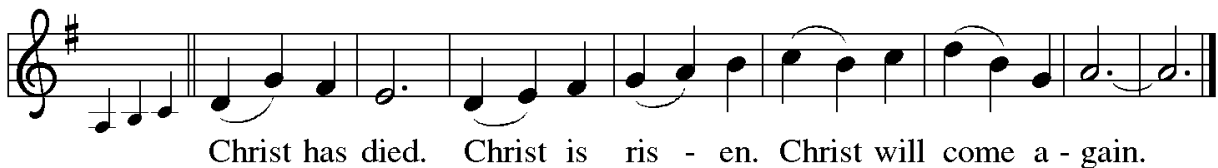
On the night before he died,
 when darkness had fallen,
 Jesus took bread.

He gave thanks, broke it,
 and shared it with his disciples, saying:
 'Take and eat. This is my body, given for you.
 Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
 gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

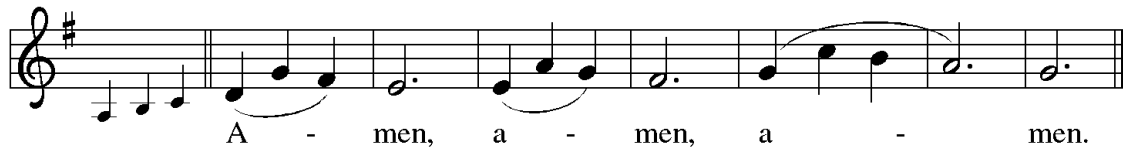
'This cup is the new testament in my blood,
poured out for you and for all people,
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this to remember me.'

And so, O God, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate Jesus's love, his death, his risen life,
proclaiming triumphantly:



P As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit.
Fill us with your blessing and grace,
Free us from our sins,
Form us to be your people.

Help us, O God, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.
And now with all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Spirit,
today and forever:



LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

COMMUNION

The gifts of God belong to you, the people of God. We believe that the living Christ is present in Holy Communion and that this meal offers forgiveness and new life. We welcome all who seek these gifts.

Communion is celebrated by intinction. Extend your open palms to receive the bread, then dip the bread into either the red wine or white grape juice in the divided chalice. If you desire gluten-free bread, please tell the pastor. If you require Holy Communion brought to your seat, please inform an usher.

You may also come forward to the Table with your arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing from the pastor.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
 way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION | Eat this Bread (Taizé)

Refrain

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
 OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
 Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com.
 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AM Shepherd 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.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF LIFE & MINISTRY AT ALC

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.

SENDING HYMN | NOW ALL THE VAULT OF HEAVEN RESOUNDS



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
 Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

AM Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Thank you to our volunteers:

- Assisting Minister Lynn D’Esmond
- ReaderAnne Chmielewski
- Altar ServiceSue Baumgarten
- UsherTony Eith
- CountersAnne Chmielewski
Sheryl White
- GreeterMonica Shuster-Orth
Jarrett Orth
- Fellowship.....Beth Schultz
- TechJohn Carducci

To give online please scan the QR Code below.



Listening Circle Focused on Outreach – After Worship Today

The last of our three listening circle opportunities will take place after worship today, Sunday, April 28th. All are welcome to attend as we dream about how to serve our community together.

Connect with Ascension

The best way to stay informed of church activities is to subscribe to our Constant Contact email listserv. You will receive the weekly worship link, the newsletter, and event reminders and updates. To sign up, visit ascensionlutheranchurch.org/contactus, or email the office at officealc900@gmail.com

Opportunities to Donate Flowers

Altar Flower Donations

There is an opportunity for you to donate flowers for the altar at Ascension and to designate the flowers. You may designate the flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone. There is a sign up posted in the Narthex.

Geraniums for Pentecost

We will be decorating with red geraniums for Pentecost. There is a signup to donate in the Narthex. 4.5" Geraniums are \$6.00 and 7" pots are \$18. You may pick up the geraniums after the worship service on May 19th.

You may send your payment for flowers to the Church at 900 Washington Crossing Road, Newtown, PA 18940. Make your check payable to: "Ascension Lutheran Church" and put "Altar Flowers" or "Geraniums" in the memo line. You may also place your payment in the offering plate.



Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood, *Pastor* | pastor.kayla.alc@gmail.com
Peter de Mets, *Director of Music* | pdm@peterdemetsmusic.com
Ginny Kraft, *Church Administrator* | officealc900@gmail.com
Beth Peroni, *Bookkeeper* | bookkeeperalc900@gmail.com

The Church Office is open Wednesdays from
9AM - 1PM and Thursdays from 12-4PM.
Pr. Kayla is available by appointment Tuesdays through Thursdays.

Learn more about our community at ascensionlutheranchurch.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranNewtown
Instagram: AscensionLutheranNewtown