



## **Saint Peter's Lutheran Church**

**April 28th, 2024**

**2570 St. Peter's Church Road, Salisbury, NC 28146**

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**Pastor Sue Lynn White**

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## Fifth Sunday of Easter: April 28th, 2024

\* Indicates to stand as you are able. P=Pastor, C=Congregation, A=Assisting Minister, L=Lector

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

\*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!**

**GATHERING:**....."Love Divine, All Loves Excelling".....**ELW 631**  
**KYRIE SETTING 10**.....**P. 203**  
**CANTICLE OF PRAISE SETTING 10...GLORY BE**.....**P. 204**

## **APOSTOLIC 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.**

## **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.**

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US**

First Reading.....**Acts 8:26-40**

L: A reading from Acts chapter 8.....**(Lynn DeBerry)**

<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.

L: The word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

### **PSALM 22:25-31**

<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**

L: A reading from 1st John chapter 4.....**(Lynn DeBerry)**

<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.

L: The word of the Lord    **C: Thanks be to God**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



\*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

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

[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.”

\*P: The Gospel of our Lord. \*C: **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children’s Sermon.....**Lucy Shue**

The Sermon.....**Pastor Sue Lynn White**

\***Hymn of the Day**.....”Lord, Be Glorified” .....**ELW 744**

\***APOSTLES’ CREED**.....(**Assistant Minister: Lynn DeBerry**)

\*A: Let us profess 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 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**

\*A: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. (*Pause*)

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters *we especially pray for High Rock Lake, the Yadkin and Pee Dee Rivers, tributaries and creeks.* Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international

organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering, especially Marlene Shue, Rose Swicegood, John Trexler, Guy & Betty Puckett, Jim & Phyllis Cornelison, Frank King, Jerry Sides, Ernie & Linda Cooper, Phil & Carol Boyette, Ruth Shaver, Brenda H. Trexler, Kathie Brown, Debbi Duke, Ellen Troutman, Glenda Vickers, Lynn DeBerry, George Lentz, Friends of St. Peter’s and all those we hold in our hearts or speak aloud now. (Pause) God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

\*P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **C: Amen.**

**PEACE**

\*P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**\*C: And also with you.**

\*P: Let us share the peace with one another.

**THE OFFERING**

**Anthem.....””**

**Offering Hymn.....“We Are An Offering”.....ELW 692**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

\*A: 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.**

**MEAL**

## PREFACE 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.**

\*P: It is indeed our duty and our joy... and join their unending hymn:

\*C: **Holy, Holy, Holy**

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical score is written on four staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,". The second staff contains: "heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est." The third staff contains: "Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -". The fourth staff contains: "san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est." The score ends with a double bar line.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

\*P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught.

\*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

**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. \*C: **Thanks be to God.**

**LAMB OF GOD**

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**DISTRIBUTION**

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

\*P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace. Amen.

**POST COMMUNION HYMN.....ELW 207**

**Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise**

Thank-ful hearts and voice-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let  
 ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ,  
 Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
 shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

\*A: 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. **\*C: Amen.**

## **SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

### **BLESSING**

\*P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**\*C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

\*P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always.

**\*C: Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN...."Let All Things Now Living".....ELW 881**

### **THE DISMISSAL**

\*A: Rooted in the love of Christ

**\*C: We grow in grace and joyfully branch into a broken World!**

\*P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**\*C: Thanks be to God.**

*\*Silent Prayer and Chiming of the Trinity*

*Postlude*