

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

### Order of Worship: Holy Communion, Setting Four

Portions of the liturgy are from Sundaysandseasons.com, copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Prayers of the Church, copyright 2024 Lutheran Core. Sermon, copyright 2024 Jared Stillions or other listed preacher. Used by permission. All other material not covered by other copyright is copyright 2024 St. Peter Lutheran Church of Hallettsville, Texas. Reprinted by permission under one or more of the following licenses: Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SB140201, One License A-727829, CCLI 11158184. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-727829 and/or CCLI with license 11158184. No reproduction allowed without permission.

**Congregational responses are printed in bold type.**

*Hearing assistance is available near the elevator. See an usher for help.*

*St. Peter worship services are recorded and broadcasted.*

When you enter a St. Peter Lutheran Church worship service/event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording may occur. Such photographs and audio/visual recordings may be used by St. Peter for any reason. By entering the service/event premises, you consent to, photography, audio recording, video recording and its/their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction you waive all rights you may have to any claims for payment or royalties or inspection.

PRELUDE & BELLS *We observe a moment of silence for prayer and meditation.*

WELCOME

Blessed be the Kingdom...now and forever **and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

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

*We stand* OPENING HYMN

#826

“Thine the Amen”

✠BRIEF RITE FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS✠

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thought of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence is kept for reflection and personal confession.*

*1John 1:8-9*

Most merciful God... **we confess that we are born captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you- who believe and repent- of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

✠HOLY COMMUNION✠

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

LITANY

*Kyrie Eleison*

Lord, Have Mercy

*2 Corinthians 13:13*



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



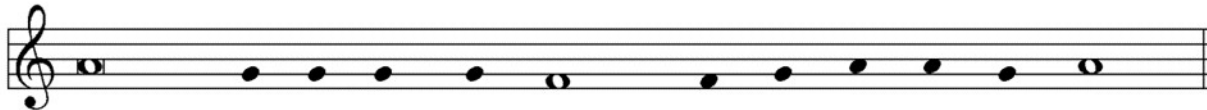
**A** For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



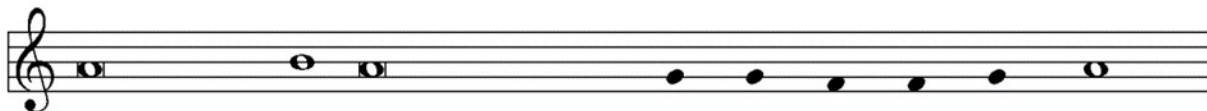
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



**B** Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray...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.**

Next Steps Weekly Memory Verse: JOHN 15:5

*I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.*

## FIRST READING: ACTS 8:26-40

<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!**

RESPONSE & MEDITATION: PSALM 22:24-30

<sup>24</sup>My praise is of him in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

<sup>25</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: "May your heart live forever!"**

<sup>26</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

<sup>27</sup>**For kingship belongs to the LORD;  
he rules over the nations.**

<sup>28</sup>To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

<sup>29</sup>**My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him;  
they shall be known as the LORD's forever.**

<sup>30</sup>They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn  
the saving deeds that he has done.

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 4:7-21

<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!**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
 You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 15:1-8

**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.”

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to You, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

#447

“O Blessed Spring”

We sit. SERMON

*Abide*  
**New Life**

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

*We stand.* PROFESSION OF FAITH                      Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the + resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.** \*means whole, entire Christi

#### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray to our victorious Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people.

*A brief silence*

Lord Jesus, thank you for cutting us from our tree of death and grafting us to yourself, the Living Vine. Give us courage: your Father's pruning shears frighten us at times! Give us faith: he prunes us to bear much fruit in you! Give us love: it is the sweetest fruit of your blessed vine.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that your holy Church may always abide in you, and you in it. May its words and deeds bear the fruits of your Holy Spirit. Through its witness, graft many souls to yourself.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give to your persecuted servants the knowledge that through their faithful endurance, they will bear rich fruit that refreshes and nourishes many hearts – perhaps even their enemies'.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the vine, and we are the branches. Keep this congregation united to you. We pray for our mission to develop fully devoted followers of Jesus; to support Solid Rock our mission in action; and that you send us adults for baptism. Make our ministries bear fruit in the lives of those around us. Give us joy in knowing and serving you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless and direct everyone learning the way of being your disciple. May their friendship with those who do not yet know you well, bear much fruit. Use them to kindle or renew faith in many hearts.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Prune the hearts of our earthly rulers. Cut away the greed, pride, and lust for power that leads to hatred and violence. Build up all that enriches the lives of the poor and humble. Let the desire to do your Father's will abide in all our hearts and minds.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have overcome the world. Be the joy and strength of all those who defend us against violence, sickness, and injustice. Protect and guide them. Prosper all they do that works for peace and health. Bring them home safely and soon.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to all who suffer a double portion of your Spirit, including: {List}. Fill them with your life. Keep them steadfast in faith. Bless and strengthen all who care for them.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, death shall never have the last word over your beloved people. We pray especially for the families of {List}. Thank you for speaking words of forgiveness and life to all who have died trusting in you. Abide with us. Lead us to that place where we shall dwell with you and with all the redeemed, and shall feast at your heavenly Table forever.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to us all that is in accordance with your will, dear Jesus, and accomplish your salvation among us; for you are risen from the dead and dwell in majesty with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also, with you.**

*We briefly greet those in our row with the words "Peace be with you."*



*We sit.* OFFERING, OFFERTORY SONG & PRAYER- *Giving back to God*



*First- and second-time guests are not expected to give a monetary offering; your Connection Card and your presence this morning are your gifts. Safe, secure & easy electronic giving is available on our website [stpeterhallettsville.org/giving](http://stpeterhallettsville.org/giving) or by scanning this code.*

*We stand* #884

“Praise God”

*tune* #883

A musical score for the hymn 'Praise God'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.' The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines in both hands.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711  
Music: OLD HUNDREDDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, king of the universe. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary . . . and join their unending hymn:

*Sung*

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth... as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, ... Do this for the remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.**

## *We sit.* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

As often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Thanks be to God.**

*Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ present and received in, with, and under the bread and wine. All who are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and who believe the Lord's words "This is my body given for you" and "This is my blood poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins" may receive Communion. Young children, not yet receiving Communion, may receive a blessing.*

*(Matt 26:26ff, Mark 14:22ff, Luke 22:19ff, 1 Cor. 11:24ff)*

*Communion administration occurs in a continuous fashion at the Communion rail. The ushers will guide you to the rail. To receive the elements, extend your hand, palm up, to the ministers. White grape juice is available in the center of the trays. For those unable to consume either bread or wine, the Church affirms the Lord's full presence in each element alone. Once you have received the elements, return to your seat by the side aisles. If you do not desire to receive Holy Communion, you may remain seated.*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#195

"Lamb of God"

*John 1:29*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Lamb of God" in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "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." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

*We stand* POST-COMMUNION BLESSING, SONG, & PRAYER  
May the true body and blood...keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

“Thank the Lord”

*9AM only*



☞ **Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.**



**Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.**



**He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy**



**with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.**

Let us pray, Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

#### BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

#### CLOSING HYMN

#629

“Abide with Me”

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
100 North Promenade, Hallettsville, Texas 77964  
(361) 798-2808    www.stpeterhallettsville.org

Our mission is Christ's mission – "I will build my church"  
by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

**ENTRANCE HYMN (ELW) *Thine the Amen* (ELW 826)**

Text by Herbert F. Brokering; Music by Carl F. Schalk

1 Thine the amen thine the praise  
alleluias angels raise  
thine the everlasting head  
thine the breaking of the bread  
thine the glory thine the story  
thine the harvest then the cup  
thine the vineyard then the cup  
is lifted up lifted up.

2 Thine the life eternally  
thine the promise let there be  
thine the vision thine the tree  
all the earth on bended knee  
gone the nailing gone the railing  
gone the pleading gone the cry  
gone the sighing gone the dying  
what was loss lifted high.

3 Thine the truly thine the yes  
thine the table we the guest  
thine the mercy all from thee  
thine the glory yet to be  
then the ringing and the singing  
then the end of all the war  
thine the living thine the loving  
evermore evermore.

4 Thine the kingdom thine the prize  
thine the wonder full surprise  
thine the banquet then the praise  
then the justice of thy ways  
thine the glory thine the story  
then the welcome to the least  
then the wonder all increasing  
at thy feast at thy feast.

5 Thine the glory in the night  
no more dying only light  
thine the river thine the tree

then the Lamb eternally  
then the holy holy holy  
celebration jubilee  
thine the splendor thine the brightness  
only thee only thee.

**HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW) (TUNE #843) *O Blessed Spring* (ELW 447)**

Text by Thomas E. Herbranson; Music by North American traditional

**1 O blessed spring, where word and sign  
embrace us into Christ the Vine:  
here Christ enjoins each one to be  
a branch of this life-giving Tree.**

**2 Through summer heat of youthful years,  
uncertain faith, rebellious tears,  
sustained by Christ's infusing rain,  
the boughs will shout for joy again.**

**3 When autumn cools and youth is cold,  
when limbs their heavy harvest hold,  
then through us, warm, the Christ will move  
with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.**

**4 As winter comes, as winters must,  
we breathe our last, return to dust;  
still held in Christ, our souls take wing  
and trust the promise of the spring.**

**5 Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree,  
be praised for this blest mystery:  
that word and water thus revive  
and join us to your Tree of Life.**

**CLOSING HYMN (ELW) *Abide with Me* (ELW 629)**

Text by Henry F. Lyte; Music by William H. Monk

1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

3 I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.

3 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me!

4 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;  
heav'n's morning breaks,  
and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.