



ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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*Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 29, 2018
10:30 AM Holy Communion*

***Celebrating 11 Years Of
Loving, Growing and Serving TOGETHER!***



Introduction

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

Brenda Henderson

CALL TO WORSHIP *“Meditation on Beautiful Savior”* Chime Choir
(Arr. Moglebust)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG (vv. 1,2,4) **ELW #364**
“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

KYRIE *“Kyrie Eleison”* **Setting 8**

*The Refrain & “Let us pray to the Lord” are sung by the congregation.
The Verses will be sung by a congregation leader.*

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-ry day.

A: For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,

Congregation:

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

A: That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the
poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace,

C: let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. Refrain

A: For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,

C: let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. Refrain

A: For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,

C: let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. Refrain

EASTER PRAISE SONG: “*O, The Angels Rolled the Stone Away*”

Refrain: O the angels rolled the stone away
O the angels rolled the stone away
“T’was on that Easter Sunday morning,
That the angels rolled the stone away.”

Sister Mary she came running
Just about the break of day.
She was bringing news from heaven
That the angels rolled the stone away. **Refrain**

Said the angel, “He is not here,
He is risen as he said.
Why seek ye the living,
Way down here among the dead.” **Refrain**

Jesus said, “Don’t touch me, Mary,
But go on ahead of me.
Go and tell all my disciples
To meet me in Galilee.” **Refrain**

Brother Thomas he came running,
And his eyes were open wide.
Jesus said, “Man, if you doubt me,
Come put your hand right in my side.” **Refrain**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.* 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.

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, the Ethiopian is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

³²Now 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.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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.**

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Ellen Koester

“You are a dearly loved child of God.”

SECOND READING

A reading from *1 John 4:7–21*

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.

The word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Advent Adult Choir

"Be Thou My Vision" (Arr. Alice Parker)

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Dennis O'Brien

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY (vv. 1,3,4)

ELW #377

“Alleluia, Jesus Is Risen!”

STATEMENT OF FAITH: “A New Creed”

(The United Church of Canada)

We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating.

Who has come to us in the true Man, Jesus

To reconcile and make new,

Who works in us and others by his Spirit.

We trust him.

**He calls us to be his Church:
To celebrate his presence,
To love and serve others,
To seek justice and resist evil,
To proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death,
In life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
THANKS BE TO GOD!**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

P: Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ crucified, risen and among us now, be with you always.

And also with you.

The minister and the congregation greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG "Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil" **ELW #721**
(Theme Hymn for the Easter Season, 2018)

Please stand as the offering is brought forward.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea;
within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to
those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by
your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

In the words given by our Savior, we are bold to pray:

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

(as the bread is broken)

Jesus said, "I am the true vine. Abide in me as I abide in you."

Please be seated.

COMMUNION SONG *"Lamb of God"*



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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION (by intinction)

SOLO during Communion

Sam Brodahl
Euphonium

Please stand.

COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor Dennis

SENDING SONG “Will You Come and Follow Me?” **ELW #798**

A current favorite hymn for Pastor Dennis. His comment: This song carries a powerful message about the challenge and privilege of following the Christian way. Jesus’ call and the love it expresses come to each and ALL of us, “Will YOU come and follow me, if I but call your name? Will you come and follow me, and NEVER BE THE SAME!”

LITURGY OF DEPARTURE

Becky Gillette: Pastor Dennis O’Brien, on December 7, 2006 we called you to be our pastor; to proclaim God’s Word, to baptize new members into the Church of Christ, to announce God’s forgiveness to us and to preside at our celebration of the Lord’s Supper. With the Gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you have been important to our life together in the Church of Jesus Christ and in your service to this community. You have served this congregation faithfully for 11 years. You are now leaving our midst to retire.

Pastor Dennis: I thank you, members of Advent Lutheran Church for the love, the kindness and support you have shown me during my ministry among you. I ask forgiveness for the times I have not served well. I am grateful for the ways

my ministry has been embraced and received. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

Congregation: Pastor Dennis we receive your thankfulness. We offer you our forgiveness and accept that you now leave to begin your retirement. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask forgiveness for the times we have not served well with you. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Pastor Dennis: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

Synod Representative: Members of Advent Lutheran Church, do you offer encouragement for Pastor Dennis's ministry as it unfolds in a new chapter in his life?

Congregation: We do, with God's help.

Synod Representative: Do you, Pastor Dennis O'Brien, commend the congregation into the care of another pastor?

Pastor Dennis: I do, with God's help.

Synod Representative: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here?

Pastor Dennis: I do, with God's help.

Synod Representative: On behalf of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, I witness to the words spoken here: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release. We will hold you in our prayers as you retire. We pledge our support and love to you and wish you God's blessing. Let us pray:

God whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future that rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw laughter and tears, hopes and disappointments. We give you thanks for the countless ways our lives have been woven together in the tapestry of your church. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories, but move us in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Becky: Let us bless the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Becky: The Lord bless us, defend us from evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Congregation: Amen.

BLESSING “*May the Road Rise Up*” Children & Adult Choir
(Wright)

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ! Go in peace to nurture God’s people, spread God’s word and serve God’s world!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

*Please proceed immediately to the Family Life Center for the luncheon.
Pastor Dennis will greet people there.*

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PICK UP a “Taking Faith Home” sheet as you leave worship today. Built around the 4 Key Faith Practices, it offers ways your household can “take faith home” with you and grow together in grace through the week!

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

VISITORS: THANK YOU FOR SHARING WITH US!! We invite you to sign the guest register in the Narthex and/or the Welcome Mat in your pew. And PLEASE COME AGAIN!!

WELCOME MATS are distributed at the beginning of the Offering. Please sign the sheet and pass the mat down to the next person in your pew. Once all people have signed it in your row, return the mat back to the center. Visitors, please include your contact information as well. Thank you!!

COMMUNION: All baptized Christians who have been instructed in the meaning of the sacrament and believe that the Risen Christ is truly and powerfully present there, are welcome to join us at God’s table. Parents: bring your children forward to receive a blessing.

Communion will be distributed by intinction.

Come forward by the center aisle. The wafer will be handed to you. Dip it in the wine. Return by the side aisles.

We offer both wine and **GRAPE JUICE** for Communion. Wine will be in the BLUE chalices, grape juice will be in the smaller BROWN chalices. **GLUTEN FREE** wafers are also available on the baptismal font.

NURSERY care is available EVERY Sunday for all children 5 years of age and younger during the 8:00 & 10:30 AM worship services.

FLOWERS on the altar are given today by Carl and Karen Kaufman in honor of their anniversary.

LORD, LET US YOUR SERVANTS BE!

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Worship Attendance: 110

Sunday School: 8 Adult Learning Forum: 5

MINISTERS: All Members of Advent Congregation

PASTOR: Rev. Dennis M. O'Brien

STAFF:
Director of Faith Formation: Ellen Koester
Church Office Secretary: Linda Samp
Music Director: Jolynn Lottman
Organist: Brenda Henderson
Custodians: Chris & Marty Hanson family

SERVING TODAY:

Ride for Danny: Kevin & Terri Hartseil
Greeters: Judy Stegmaier & John and Barb Ziah
Ushers: Larry & Mugs Major
Lector: Dave Nason
Acolyte: Owen & Lilya Keenan
Communion: Johnna Maragos & Teresa Johnson
Nursery: Deb Simmons

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

4/29 Sunday ***PASTOR DENNIS' FINAL SUNDAY***
9:30 AM Chime Practice
9:45 AM Choirs with Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship / Communion
11:30 AM P.D. Retirement Luncheon & Program

- 4/30 Monday Pastor Dennis's Last Day in the Office
7:00 PM Exit Interview with Pastor Dennis
- 5/1 Tuesday 12:00 PM Prime Timers in the FLC
7:00 PM Property Committee Mtg.
- 5/2 Wednesday 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice
7:00 PM Adult Choir Practice
- 5/3 Thursday 4:30 PM Exercise Class in the FLC
- 5/6 Sunday 8:00 AM Worship / Communion Service
9:00 AM **CINCO De MAYO BREAKFAST**
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship / Communion Service
2:00 PM Girl Scouts

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CINCO De MAYO BREAKFAST Mark your calendars for next Sunday, May 6, between worship services. This will be a fundraiser for youth ministry activities. The meal includes build your own egg burrito, sausage burrito, and Mexican hash. There will be a PINATA for the kids!!

PRIME TIMERS is having their last meeting until Fall on Tuesday, May 1, at noon in the Family Life Center. Meat will be furnished, so come and bring a dish to pass. Thanks to all who donated gift cards—we had 18. Hope to see you there!

RIDES TO WORSHIP NEEDED We have several households, including the Skinners and Natalie Welty, who need weekly or occasional rides to and from weekend worship. Please talk to Pastor Dennis and Becky Gillette if you would be willing to be part of a "pool" of willing drivers from which they could call as needed.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW? We as God's people at Advent move into a time of transition. That will mean "pulpit supply" pastors leading worship through most of May and an Interim Pastor coming to serve among us in June. Next Sunday the Church Council will be sharing an update and Information about what lies ahead during both services.

SUNDAY SCHOOL has completed its final rotation on Lydia and is gearing up for its performance of "*Legends At Camp Garner Creek*" during 10:30 AM worship on May 13. Rehearsals are next Sunday, Saturday, May 12, 9:30 AM and during the Sunday School hour (final run through) on May 13. We are looking forward to a musical blessing from our children on May 13! Thanks, as always, to Jolynn, for selecting, recruiting and directing!

The Sunday School year will conclude on May 20 with a party during the Sunday School hour and thank yous, recognitions and special activities during the 10:30 AM worship service.

RAMPING IT UP FOR SUMMER Involvement forms for kids (yellow) and for older youth and adults (green) for Summer activities are on the ushers' table at the entrance to the sanctuary. PICK ONE UP today if you didn't get one last week. There is also an on line link which was emailed to member households this week. Talk to Ellen with questions.

Hasn't the **FAVORITE HYMN** program been fun and inspiring? Forms for YOU to share your favorite are also on the ushers table. Fill it out and leave it in the church office or Jolynn's box in the office. THANKS!!

We are also still looking for **VOTING REPRESENTATIVES** for this year's C/SIS Synod Assembly, June 7-9 (Thursday PM through Saturday noon) in Champaign. We need 1 adult female, 1 adult male, and 1 youth. All expenses paid for by the congregation. Serving in this capacity is a wonderful way to gain insight and appreciation of the breadth of the church and of the life and work of the ELCA and the global Lutheran Community. Talk to Council President, Becky Gillette, or Pastor Dennis!!

LUNCH BUNCH is having lunch at The Mercantile in Congerville on Wednesday, May 16. Carpool at the church at 11:00 AM. Lunch 11:30. Hope you can be there and enjoy the fellowship!!

RED GERANIUMS Forms for ordering geraniums are available on the table in the sanctuary. These can be put in the offering plates or brought to the church office. Deadline to order is Wednesday, May 16. Plants are \$6.00 each and will be displayed on Pentecost, Sunday, May 20. Members can take their plants home after the 10:30 AM service.

A Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with a restless **discomfort** about easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy **anger** at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of **tears** to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough **foolishness** to believe that you really can make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

And the blessing of God the Supreme Majesty and our Creator, Jesus Christ the Incarnate Word who is our Brother and Savior, and the Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Guide, be with you and remain with you, this day and forever more. Amen.

Taken from the book, The Hole In Our Gospel, p. 292.