

Pleasant View Evangelical Lutheran Church
Staunton, Virginia

Called by God's love...inviting, nurturing, growing and serving

The Rev. Phyllis Diamond, Pastor

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

Welcome

Prelude

Let us rise as we are able

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

C. Amen.

P. Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

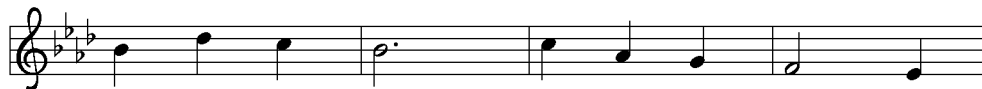
Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



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.

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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.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.


Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen, amen.



CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:




Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to




Refrain

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



Refrain

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

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. 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.

C. Amen.

We are seated

WORD

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

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, he is baptized by Philip.

L. A reading from Acts

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.

L. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)

read responsively

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

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

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

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

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,**

who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, 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.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,**

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Second Reading: 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.

L. A reading from 1 John

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.

L. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Let us rise as we are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

P. The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 15th chapter

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

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 bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 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."

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

We are seated
CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON

Pastor Phyllis Diamond

Let us rise as we are able
HYMN OF THE DAY

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.

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Apostles' Creed

A. God has made us his children through our baptism into Christ. Living in trust and hope, together we confess our faith.

**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.**

We are seated

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.

A brief silence.

A. 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.

A. For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

C. hear our prayer.

A. 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.

A. 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. God of grace,

C. hear our prayer.

A. 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.

A. For whom else and what else do we pray...

God of grace,

C. hear our prayer.

A. 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.

We are seated

OFFERING – Choir Anthem

Let us rise as we are able

OFFERTORY

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The musical score is written in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. There are some slurs and ties used throughout the piece. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. Let us pray. 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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes, with lyrics underneath. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The third staff also continues the melody. The fourth staff concludes the phrase with a final cadence. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

PREFACE

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

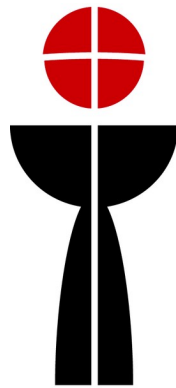
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes, with lyrics underneath. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff also continues the melody. The fourth staff concludes the phrase with a final cadence. The lyrics are: '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.'

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P. 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.



LORD'S PRAYER

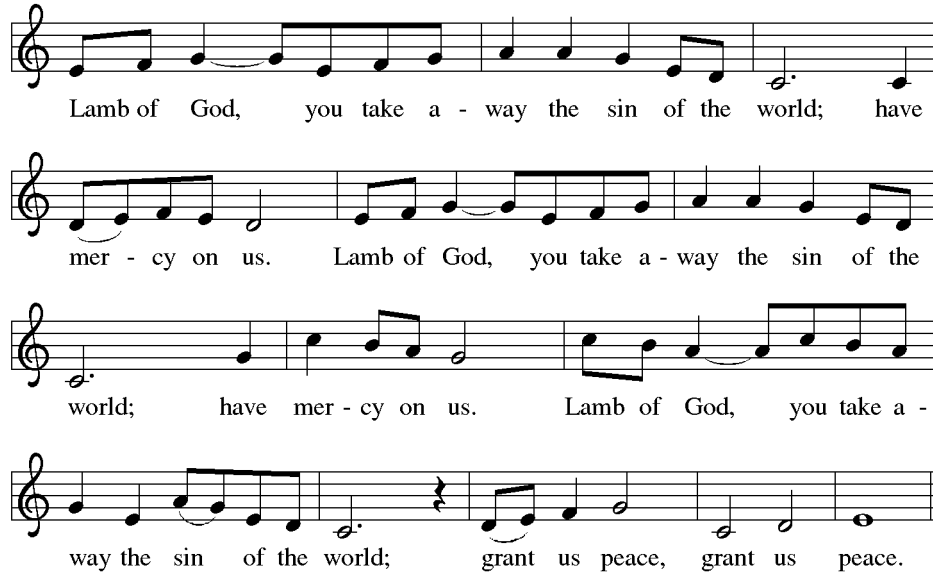
P. Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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 Holy Communion

We are seated

HOLY COMMUNION SONG



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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

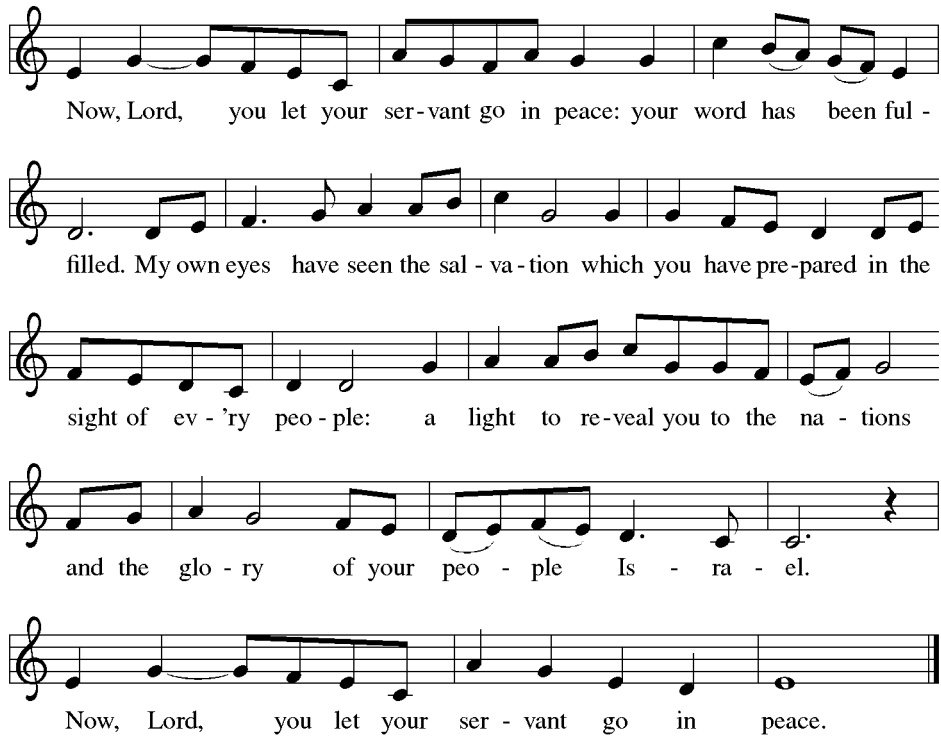
The communicant may make the sign of the cross and say: Amen

Let us rise as we are able

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

C. Amen.

SONG AFTER HOLY COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

POST-HOLY COMMUNION PRAYER

P. 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.

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

Let All Things Now Living

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

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DISMISSAL

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

C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Come to me, all you who are burdened with heavy loads and I will give you rest. Take on my ways and learn from me, for I will guide you and walk with you and you will find rest for your souls.

Jesus

If you have received this worship material from a friend or you have found it lying on your table, please know that the person who left it for you wants to include you in the journey we take together as those who follow Jesus. You are warmly welcomed in our congregation but most of all, you are welcomed to come to our Lord Jesus for rest. *Pastor Phyllis Diamond*

Pleasant View Evangelical Lutheran Church – 2733 Spring Hill Road- Staunton, VA 24401:

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April 28, 2024

Worship Team Serving Today

Worship Leader: Pastor Phyllis Diamond

Music Director: Gary Flavin Organist: Stephen Dickerson

Assisting Minister: Larry Landes Lector: Larry Landes Acolyte: Robyn Dean

Ushers and Communion Preparation: Gene & Mandy Lilly

Worship Team Serving Next Week

Worship Leader: Pastor Phyllis Diamond

Music Director: Gary Flavin Organist: Stephen Dickerson

Assisting Minister: Terry Bunch Lector: Gary Flavin Acolyte: Bill Luders

Ushers and Communion Preparation: Roger & Goldie Shiflett

Our Prayers:

For the good of the church: Our bishops, Elizabeth and Phyllis, Pastor Phyllis and all pastors and deacons.

For those serving on military active duty: Alex Rankin

For healing and recovery: Bill Braithwaite, Fred Cox, Pastor Price, Mary Tueting, Rebecca Perrin, Jimmy Cox, Martha Arehart, Steve Troxell and Kenneth Page

For our friends and neighbors: **Lilly Myers**, granddaughter of a friend of Joy Landes; **Dwight Dart**, son of Karen Fauber; **Pam**, friend of Alice Fauber and Mary Garber; **Timmy Simmons**, friend of Mark Price; **Terri Pomphrey and her mother**, friends of Tina Puffenbarger-Carrillo; **Vera Baker**, friend of Mandy Lilly

Church Leadership Contact Information

Pastor: Phyllis Diamond: 540-589-6988 revpdiamond2018@gmail.com

Treasurer: Karen Fauber 290-1999

Council President: Terry Bunch 292-1086

The Altar Flowers, dedicated to the glory of God, are given by Sue Cook, Karen Fauber and Val Smith in memory of their mother, Daphne Bauer.

A creed is something that tells what you believe. Christians say creeds to share what they believe about God.

Listen to the Apostles' Creed in worship. Then draw pictures to make your own creed. What will your pictures tell about God?

I believe in God who made everything.

I believe in Jesus who died and rose again.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who is with me all the time.

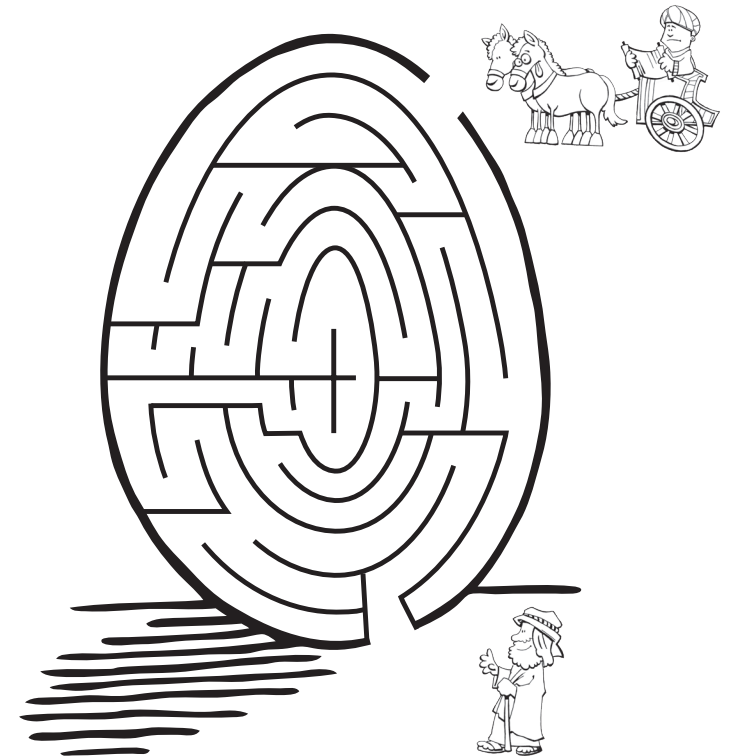


PRE-READER

Easter 5

- Today is the **5th Sunday** in Easter.
- An important word during Easter is **Alleluia**.
- Alleluia means **Praise God!**

Many stories in the Bible happen on a road! The Ethiopian man met Philip on a desert road. The man was a long way from home. The Ethiopian man rode in a chariot. Philip walked on the road. When they met, Philip talked with him about Jesus. Do the maze to connect them to each other.

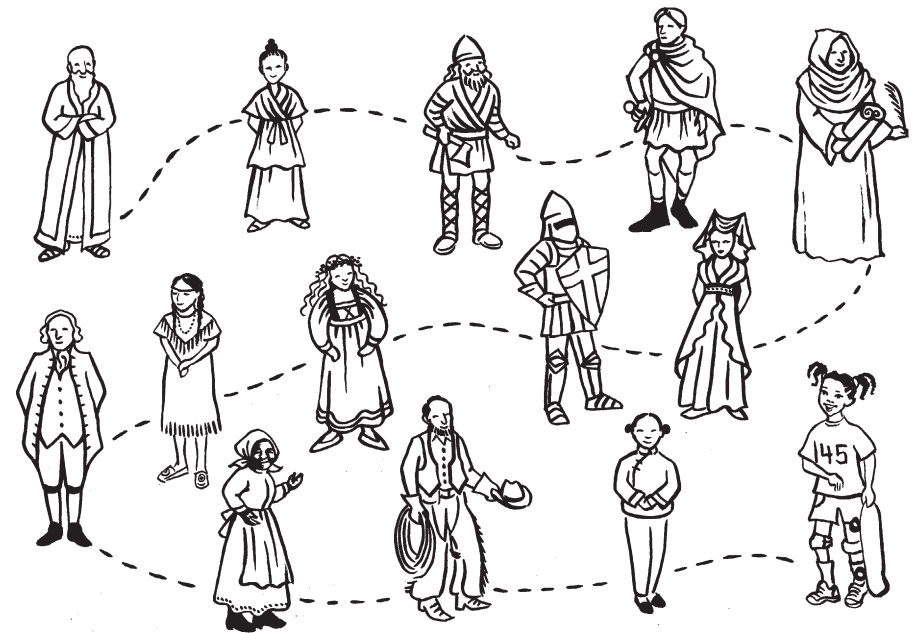




Philip baptized the man, and God's love filled the man's heart.

The Ethiopian man learned about Jesus from Philip. He promised to share the good news of Jesus. During this time, lots of people learned the good news!

Connect all of God's children together to make a chain of storytellers. Mark each person with the sign of the cross. We can all share God's love!



Jesus Hears Our Prayers

Jesus hears all of our prayers. He hears prayers of thanks, prayers for ourselves, prayers for others, and "I'm sorry" prayers.

What are your prayers today? Write or draw them here.

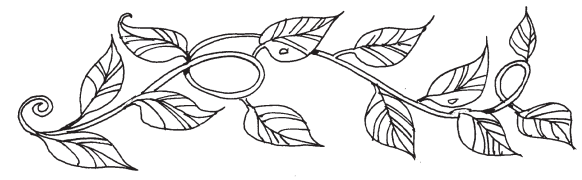
DEAR GOD, THANK YOU FOR...	DEAR GOD, I AM ASKING YOU TO HELP ME WITH...
DEAR GOD, I AM SORRY FOR...	DEAR GOD, I AM ASKING YOU TO HELP THIS PERSON...



- Today is the **5th Sunday** in Easter.
- During the Easter season, Jesus **changes our lives**.
- Jesus is **always** with us.

Jesus Loves Us

The Bible uses many different images to help us know about Jesus and his love for us. What does each image tell you about Jesus? Write or draw below.



It's All about the Love

The book of 1 John is all about God's love. "We love God because he first loved us" John says in chapter 4, verse 19. How can we love others?

Look up 1 John 4:7-21 to learn more about God's powerful love! Then, unscramble the words in the hearts below to complete each message of love.

"If we **leov** one **atonerh**,
God **lisev** in us, and his love
is **peercteld** in us."
1 John 4:12

"The **atomcnmnde** we have
from him is **htis: teosh** who love
God must love their **robresth**
and **stsrise** also."
1 John 4:21

"**delbove**, let us love one another,
because **olve** is **omfr** God;
eynveore who loves is **ronb** of
God and **nskow** God."
1 John 4:7

During Bible times, many followers of Jesus were skilled travelers. Sharing the gospel took them all over Jerusalem, Palestine, and Syria. In today's reading, an Ethiopian official traveled to Jerusalem. His journey was over 1,000 miles! Can you imagine traveling over 1,000 miles to hear the good news?



Healthy Fruit, Healthy Vine

Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. Fruit cannot grow unless it is connected to a vine. We can't grow unless we are connected to God!

What are your strengths? Fill this vine with your strengths—thank God for giving you these gifts!



Jesus says he is the true vine of this world. Search the fruit of the vine to find the letters missing from the memory verse below.



"I a ____ the ____ ine, ____ o ____ are
the ____ ra ____ ____ hes. Those who a ____ ide in
____ e and ____ n them be ____ ____ much ____ rui ____ , because
a ____ art from me you can do ____ of ____ ing." —John 15:5

