

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 5th, 2024



Ebenezer Lutheran Church
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ALL are welcome to come forward for Communion.

We would like to welcome all visitors to Ebenezer! If you would like to have someone contact you about community life and ministry at Ebenezer please fill out the Visitor Information Card and place it in the offering plate.

Visit our new website at ebenezerlutheranchurch.org

Or

you can scan the QR code with your phone's camera and it will take you directly to the website!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The next book study will begin this Tuesday, May 7th, at 10a and 7p.**
- **We are looking for helpers with the nursery. If you can help please let Pastor Kayla know.**
- **The next meeting for the Anniversary Committee will be May 19th at 11:15am.**

Prelude: Follow You by Leeland

You lived among the least of these, the weary and the weak
And it would be a tragedy for me to turn away
All my needs You have supplied
When I was dead You gave me life
How could I not give it away so freely

Chorus:

And I'll follow You into the homes of the broken
Follow You into the world
Meet the needs for the poor and the needy God
Follow You into the World

Use my hands, use my feet to make Your kingdom come
To the corners of the earth until Your work is done
'Cause faith without works is dead
And on the cross Your blood was shed
So how could I not give it away so freely

Chorus x 2

I give all myself, I give all myself, I give all myself to You
And I give all myself, yes, I give all myself
And I give all myself... to You

Chorus x 2

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Stand as you are able*

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 are known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts 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.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage 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, therefore, declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN: Thy Holy Wings

No. 613

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

Psalm: 98

¹Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O Lord, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, re-joice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the Lord.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the
earth.**

⁹The Lord will judge the world with righteousness
and the people with equity.

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Stand as you are able*



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

Gospel: John 15:9-17

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

SERMON

HYMN: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

No. 708

Stand as you are able

APOSTLE'S CREED

**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

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.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. (*We pray especially for . . .*) God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation (*ministries may be named*), that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us (*especially*). At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

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.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

(Please note that you can share the Peace however you are comfortable, including moving out of your pew or staying and sharing the peace sign) *be seated for the offering*

OFFERING

ANTHEM: *Lead Us, O Master* by William Burleigh and James Edmiston

Lead us, O Master in the paths of Peace;
Without Thy guiding hand we go a-stray;
When doubts ap-pal and sorrows still in-crease;
Lead us, O Christ, the true and living way.
Lead us, O Master in the paths of Truth;
Un-helped by Thee, in er-ror's maze we grope;
From sin-ful thoughts and pas-sions free our youth
Lead us, O Christ, the Way of Faith and Hope.
Lead us, O Mas-ter, in the paths of Right.
Involved in shad-ows of a dark-some night,
Only with Thee we jour-ney safe-ly on.
Lead us, O Mas-ter to Thy heaven-ly rest,
How-ev-er rough and steep the path may be;
Though joy or sor-row as Thou deem-est best
Un-til our lives are per-fect-ed in Thee
A-men.

OFFERING SONG *Stand as you are able*



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 to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You are who we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,
Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also 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

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead, and in whom our hope of resurrection dawns. The sting of death has been removed by the glorious promise of his risen life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son, Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most-High, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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**

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.

COMMUNION HYMN: How Firm a Foundation
Kelly Doley

No. 796

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING *Stand as you are able*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life.

Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

Amen.

Blessing – by Rev. Sarah Speed *stand as you are able*

As you leave this place, may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.
May you laugh, and it be contagious. May you overflow with love for those
around you. May you be expressive with hope and quick to point out joy.
And in all of your living, and breathing, and being, may you find yourself full to the
brim with God's Holy Spirit, and may it change your life.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—go in peace, full to the
brim. **Amen.**

HYMN: I Know That My Redeemer Lives! (verses 1-4) **No. 619**

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

EBENEZER LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Kayla Keilholtz	Pastor
Larry Hutton	Chancel Choir Director
Kim Slemph	Musician
Michael Karnes	Musician
Bill Huber	Musician
Heather Repass	Bell Choir Director
Jennifer McBroom	Administrative Assistant
Annette Greer	Treasurer

ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE

Acolyte/Crucifer	TBD
Lector/Lay assistant	Mike White
Altar	Jo Ann Clark
Ushers	Vince & Joanne Groseclose
Tellers	Mike White & Billy Buchanan

EBENEZER EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, May 6th – Coffee Shop Hours @ Starbucks 9a-11a

Tuesday, May 7th – Book Study @ 10a and 7p

Sunday, May 12th – 10a Worship