



Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 28, 2024



# The Gathering

*The assembly's parts are in **bold type**.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on John 15:1-8)

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

**We come because we seek to abide in Christ.**

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

**We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, and loving.**

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

**We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.**

We gather to worship God, the ultimate gardener.

**May we flourish abundantly under God's loving care.**

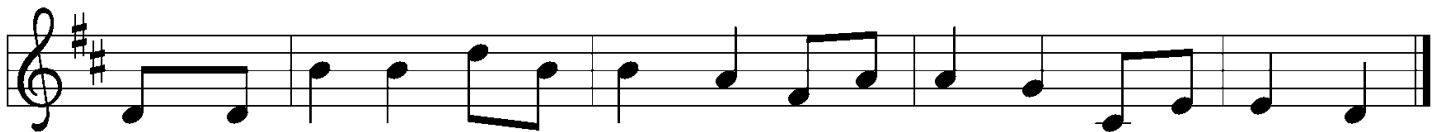
## GATHERING SONG

## Children of the Heavenly Father

ELW 781



- 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
- 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
- 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil-dren sev - er;
- 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak-eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as children of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, you are the river of life, the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might, you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus. In baptismal waters, our old life is washed away, and in them, we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans, lakes, rivers, and streams. Thank you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture crops and creatures. Praise you for the life-giving water of baptism and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.**

**Empower our witness to your resurrection.**

**Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns forever. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. 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.**

## **The Word**

*The writer of the Psalm is expressing everlasting gratitude towards God and encouraging the upcoming generation to learn about the wonderful works of God.*

A reading from Psalm 22:25-31

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord.

May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord

and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying that he has done it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*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.*

The gospel according to John 15:1-8.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

This is the gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**



*"I am the true vine, and  
my Father is the vine grower."*

# SONG OF THE DAY

# Today We Are Called To Be Disciples



1. To - day we all are called to be Dis - ci - ples of the Lord,
2. God made the world and at its birth Or - dained our hu - man race
3. Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down As in a might-y stream,
4. May we in ser - vice to our God Act out the liv - ing Word,



To help to set the cap - tive free, Make plow-share out of sword,  
To live as stew-ards of the earth, Re - spond-ing to God's grace.  
With righ-teous - ness in field and town To cleanse us and re - deem.  
And walk the road the saints have trod Till all have seen and heard.



To feed the hun-gry, quench their thirst, Make love and peace our fast,  
But we are vain and sad - ly proud, We sow not peace but strife,  
For God is long-ing to re - store An earth where con - flicts cease,  
As stew-ards of the earth may we Give thanks in one ac - cord



To serve the poor and home-less first, Our ease and com-fort last.  
Our dis - cord spreads a dead - ly cloud That threat-ens all of life.  
A world that was cre - at - ed for A har - mo - ny of peace.  
To God who calls us all to be Dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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.

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,

**you hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters (local bodies of water may be named). Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

**you hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

**you hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. For those who are ill, especially those we now name out loud or silently in our hearts. *(30 seconds of silence)* God of grace,

**you hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

**you hear our prayer.**

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

**you hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

## **SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **BLESSING OF THE QUILTS**

God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, sewing machines, and the items collected for the kits. May their presence be a sign of hope, may these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love, and may these kits offer dignity and healing.

**Jesus, help us reach out in hope to our neighbors.**

God, we give thanks for our faithful quilters, who have faithfully met to make these beautiful quilts. We thank you for their devoted service. We pray that they will continue to use their talents to create beautiful messages of love for the people in your world who may be desperately seeking your word of grace and comfort.

**Jesus, help us share a taste of hope with our neighbors.**

God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope.

**Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# **The Meal**

## **OFFERTORY**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

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. **Amen.**

## **INVITATION**

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.**

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, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with the disciples, the earth and sea and all her creatures, and the angels, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

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.

Holy one, pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal, and make us one in this faith community and with your people worldwide. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

As a community, we 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.**

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Come and receive Jesus, who welcomes all to his table.

## **COMMUNION MEDITATION**



## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Welcoming 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. **Amen.**

## The Sending

### BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always. Amen.

### SENDING SONG

### Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

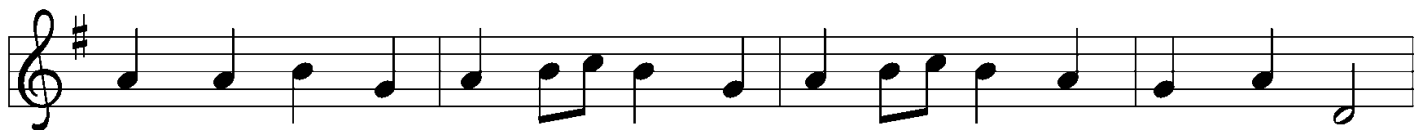
ELW 836



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace.

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE**

Pastor: Rev. Courtney Geibert    Minister of Music: Terry Williams  
Organist: Jerel Ellison

Cover Art: "The Vine" by Steve Thomason

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# Messiah Happenings

## Worship Sundays at 10 AM In-Person or on Zoom

Zoom sign-on information is available at the end of this bulletin and on our website, [www.messiahredwoodcity.org](http://www.messiahredwoodcity.org).

## Sumud: For Justice in Palestine and Israel Bible Study Tuesdays at 7 pm on Zoom

Through this journey we will explore the Holy Land, the theology of Sumud (steadfastness), and what it means for Palestinian Christians today. In partnership with Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, we will watch videos of where Jesus walked and hear from Christians in the Holy Land! The link is on the last page of the bulletin.

## Looking For A Synod Assembly Representative - June 7-8

Want to represent Messiah Lutheran Church and make decision on behalf of the wider Lutheran church? Feel like going to Fresno with Pastor Courtney? Chat with Pastor Courtney if you are interested in this unique opportunity!



- April 2 - Rev. Dawn Roginski
- April 4 - Kristen Sullivan
- April 6 - Nicholas Crettol
- April 7 - Jeremiah Phillips
- April 9 - De Modderman  
David Harris
- April 10 - Michele Graham  
Mary Farrankop
- April 15 - Vincent Phillips
- April 21 - Clifford Bechtel
- April 22 - Zoe Sullivan

## Prayer Requests

- \*Family and friends of **Thelma Samuelsson**, who passed away
- \*Family and friends of **Elaine Hansen**, who passed away on April 18
- \***Ellen Schillig**, palliative care and **MaryAnne Chase**, her caregiver
- \***Ella Harris** (Terry Williams' Granddaughter), prayers for successful treatment of heart conditions
- \***Judy Imperiale**, (Judith Yoakum's friend) prayers for good medical results
- \***Greta Guida**, recovering after pneumonia
- \***Owens Gamblin**, our custodian, relief from kidney issues
- \***Leani Marie Taylor** (Ramona's daughter), healing from blood clots
- \***Carly McReynolds**, (Pat Goerlitz's granddaughter), as she and her parents Gretchen and Mac navigate Carly's health challenges
- \***Edith Albert**, living in an assisted living facility in Sunnyvale
- \***Katie Karas & Lennox Pieraldi** (Kitty Nelson's friends), undergoing cancer treatment
- \***Ardie Cashman** (Kitty Nelson's sister), undergoing cancer treatment
- \***Eli Mayen** \***Roberta Thurston** \***Ginger Wilsey** \***Becky Harris**

## Offerings

If you wish to continue with your weekly offering or make a special gift to our ministry, you may send your donation to Messiah Lutheran Church, 1835 Valota Road Redwood City, CA 94061. You can also donate online through [tithely.com](https://tithely.com)! Use your camera phone to scan the QR code to the right!

Scan Me!



## Zoom Meeting Access

Worship: Sundays at 10 am, Bible Study: Tuesdays at 7 pm,  
(Please sign in 5 minutes before the meeting)

To gain meeting access, go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82833746708>.

**Phone access:** Dial 1-669-900-6833 You will then be directed to dial in the meeting ID #82833746708. After a pause, you will be granted access.