

Fifth Sunday of Easter

University Lutheran Church
Cambridge, Massachusetts

April 28, 2024

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE “I Know That My Redeemer Liveth” — Text from
Job 19:25–26 & 1 Corinthians 15:20; music from *Messiah* by Georg
Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

GATHERING

BELL AND WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

GATHERING HYMN ELW 358 “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here”

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE “Now the Feast and Celebration”

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

Refrain
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

Refrain
God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING Acts 8:26–40

A reading from Acts.

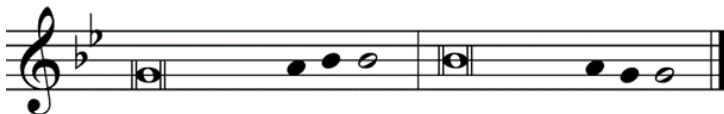
²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So Philip got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire 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. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹The eunuch 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 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 22:25–31

The congregation and choir chant the response and verses; the response is sung at the beginning and when indicated below.

Response



- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.
- ²⁶The 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.
- ²⁸For dominion belongs | to the LORD,
who rules o- | ver the nations. **Response**
- 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 be- | fore
the LORD.
- ³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.
- ³¹They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, “The | LORD has acted!” **Response**

SECOND READING 1 John 4:7–21

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 into the world God's only Son so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the 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 abides in us, and God's love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because we have been given of God's own Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent the 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 the Son 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 God first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate a member of the community are liars, for those who do not love a person, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love the members of the family also.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Celtic Alleluia”

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

GOSPEL John 15:1–8

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²My Father removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit my Father 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.

SERMON *Carrie Ballenger*

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 704 “When Pain of the World Surrounds Us”

NICENE CREED

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith using the words of the 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 whom all things were made;

**who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,**

and by the power of the Holy Spirit

became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,

and was made human;

who, for our sake, was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

suffered death and was buried;

on the third day rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

who will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead;

and whose 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,

who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,

who 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Individuals will be invited to offer prayers aloud or write them in the book found at the entrance to the Sanctuary. For those worshipping via Zoom: Prayers may also be typed in the chat box to be read by the intercessor.

Let us pray for the life of the world, the intentions of all the faithful, and for any in sorrow or need.

Each prayer petition may be concluded with one of these (or similar) responses:

God, in your mercy, or Bless we the Holy One!
Hear our prayer. **Thanks be to God!**

Into your care, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, the Beloved. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERTORY

Many people in our community already give on-line. Visit www.unilu.org/giving if you would like to set up electronic funds transfer or a credit card donation on a recurring or one-time basis. You can also give by mailing a check to 66 Winthrop Street, Cambridge, MA, 02138; there may be a slight delay in processing donations received by mail. **To make a one-time donation by phone (Google or Apple Pay, Venmo, PayPal, or credit card), you may also visit <https://givebutter.com/university-lutheran-church> or scan the QR code.**



OFFERTORY HYMN

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.
Amen.

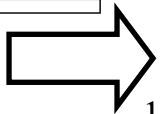
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The presider may invite the assembly to join in proclaiming the mystery of faith with these or similar words:

... we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come, come a - gain.

The presider may invite the assembly to join in exclaiming the Great Amen with these or similar words:

... be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In the Bible, Jesus often speaks of God as “Abba,” Father, reflecting a profound intimacy with the creator of all worlds. Here, we extend that intimacy to name God as our Mother.

Friends, it gladdens the heart of Jesus when we pray,

**God our Mother, God 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 RECEIVE AND SHARE COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

The Body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

Those worshipping via Zoom: Individuals may commune themselves and households may give the bread and wine/grape juice to one another with the same wording: The Body of Christ given for you. The Blood of Christ shed for you.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

ELW 512 “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

ELW 477 “I Received the Living God”

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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.
Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 HYMN ELW 712 “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” [BEACH
SPRING] — Tune from *Sacred Harp* (Philadelphia, 1844); setting by
Wilbur Held (1914–2015)

<p>SERVING TODAY Preacher & Presider: Carrie Ballenger; Assisting Minister: Kenton Goldsby; Reader: Susan Worst; Intercessor: David Hogle; Usher: Dylan Nelson; Musicians: Imogene Stulken, Lorraine Fitzmaurice, and the UniLu Choir; Tech Verger: Chris Pollari.</p>

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE are asked for:

Stacy Alan — friend of Pastor Carrie Ballenger
Floyd Arntz — UniLu member
David Bailey — friend of Gail Bucher
Ellen and Bob Bartlett — sister and brother-in-law of Gail Bucher
Margrit Betke — UniLu member
Louise Cohen — sister-in-law of Susan Worst
Alice Conway — sister of Karin Kutrieb
Solveig Ericson — UniLu member
Bob Flannery — UniLu member
Naomi Goldsby — niece of Kenton Goldsby
Vera Ryen Gregg — UniLu member
Mark Howell — brother-in-law of Chris Pollari
Charles Jaferian — grandson of Nancy Gould
Bill Keto — brother of Karen Nichols
Duncan McCoy Norton — son of Megan McCoy
Anne Minton — colleague of Imogene Stulken
Phyllis Nelson — mother of Elyse Nelson Winger
Larry Nichols — UniLu member
Tony Parkes — friend of Chris Pollari and Ann Ferentz
Birgitta Ralston — UniLu member
Johanna Ralston Lamb and the Ralston/Lamb family — UniLu members
Tim Richards — uncle of K.C. Kohler
Jeanette Searson — sister of Imogene Stulken
Cindy Kent Spiehs — friend of Imogene Stulken
Judy Steele — sister of Phyllis Steele

For our siblings at Faith Lutheran Church in Cambridge and their pastor, Robin Lütjohann.

For our siblings in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we remember the peoples of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

We pray for all who are seeking refuge, who are facing immigration challenges, who have been deported to homes that are not home, and who have been separated from their families.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY:

Carrie Ballenger, *Pastor*

Gracious Moyo, *Associate Pastor*

Kristian Kohler, *Office Administrator*

Lorraine Fitzmaurice, *Music Director — Choir*

Imogene Stulken, *Music Director — Organ*

MC Miller, *Communications Coordinator*

Kenton Goldsby, *Harvard Divinity School Ministry Intern*

Jessica Chicka, *Boston University Chaplain for International Students*

Brian Tracey, *Council President*

Ed Bucher, *Treasurer and Bookkeeper*

Gail Bucher, *Service Deacon*

Chris Porter, *Financial Secretary*

Susan Worst, *Webmaster*

Joyce DeGreeff, *Lutheran Chaplain at Northeastern University*

Andrew Heisen, *Lutheran Chaplain at MIT*

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Cover information: Stained glass window of the Lamb of God and crosses verdant from Battell Chapel (Yale University), photo taken by K.C. Kohler, April 2024.

Welcome to University Lutheran Church, a Christian witness and ministry of and to members of the academic and wider communities in Cambridge-Boston – and, virtually, across the world! We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We are also a member congregation of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO).

Land Acknowledgment: University Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Pawtucket and Massa-adchu-es-et (Massachusetts) peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have called, and who continue to call, this land their home.