



Cross of Christ Lutheran Church  
Guiding our journey of faith.

**April 28, 2024**

***Worship with Holy Communion***

**10:00 a.m.**

**Rev. David Dr. Grafton, Presiding**

*(Thank you for leading us in worship today).*

***Welcome to all who worship with us today, especially our visitors.***

***We invite you to return and worship with us again.*** Hymns are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Service Book & Hymnal (red book).



## + GATHERING +

Welcome and Announcements

\* Confession and Forgiveness

P: O God of the risen Christ, in whose resurrection we find new life, send your Spirit to dwell among us in the day of worship. O risen Christ, Son of God, may we hear your word of peace today. O Spirit of the living God, teach us once more to live in the power of Christ's resurrection in whose name we pray. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

***Silence is kept for reflection.***

Most merciful God,

**C: Bring new life where we are worn and tired; new love where we have turned hard-hearted; forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded; and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are prisoners of ourselves.**

P: To all and to each, on his community and on his friends, where regret and repentance are real, Jesus pronounces his pardon and grants us the right to begin again. Thanks be to God!

**C: Amen**

**Music provided by Barbara Mase. Thank you!**

**Gathering Hymn**

*Let All Things Now Living*

**ELW# 881**

Greeting

L: 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.**

L: Let us pray.

**C: O 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.**

**+ WORD +**

*Reading for us today is Seita Glasgow*

### **Lesson 1 – Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup>An 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.) <sup>27</sup>So 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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now 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. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As 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?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When 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. <sup>40</sup>But 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.**

### **Lesson 2 – 1 John 4:7-21**

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In 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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So 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. <sup>17</sup>Love 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. <sup>18</sup>There 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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those 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. <sup>21</sup>The 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 – John 15:1-8**

The Gospel according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

**Hymn of the Day**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

**ELW# 631**

## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith, in the words of the Apostles' 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

*Today, prayers are shared with us by Blanche Feero*

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.*

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,

**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. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

**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,

**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. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

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,

**hear our prayer.**

Today we pray especially for Dolly C, Arthur F and family, Jacky A, Judi C, Barbara C, Brandi L, Eva B, Sharon B. K., Martin S., Jr, Shawn Y, Jay P, Kristen B, Candie L, The LeClair family, Ed B, Melissa H, Phyllis K, Ernst R, Iliana B, Nadia & Gary M, Glenn & Ann, Betsy C, Adam K, Don M, Lori, Susan A, Randy and Priscilla B, Randolph K, Jeff S, and all whom we send cards through our Care Card Ministry, on our prayer tree and those we now name in our hearts or with our voices. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the life of Dennis White (Pastor Sam's dad) and we pray for peace and comfort his family and friends as they grieve their loss. Hear us, O God

**Your mercy is great.**

Generous God, we know that all good things come from you, and we give you thanks for the many blessings we have received. We name before you now some of the gifts for which we are thankful... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

**\* Sharing the Peace**

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**+ MEAL +**

\* Offering Prayer A: Let us pray,

**C: Good Shepherd, you spread a table before us. We offer you our gifts, signs of your gracious love and tokens of our grateful hearts. Nourish us at the feast of the Lamb, that we may proclaim to all the world your triumphant love in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

\* The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: 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:

**C: 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.**

L: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen.**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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



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.

*Assisting with communion today is Sister Carol Weaver*

**Communion Distribution** In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

\* Post-Communion Blessing

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

A: Let us pray.

**C: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

**+ SENDING +**

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **C: Amen.**



P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

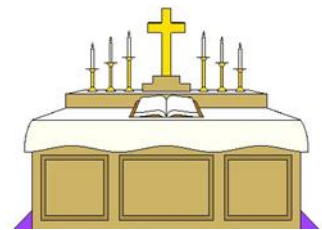
**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Sundays and Seasons v.20220201.1223 Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS016719.*

### **Altar Care Volunteers**

**Today:** Tish Hunter & Janine Kifer

***We are in need of volunteers!***



### **Hospitality Volunteers**

**Today :** Linda Nido & Janine Kifer

**5/5:** Volunteers please

**5/12:** Delphine Blewitt

**5/19:** Charmaine Lawton

**5/26:** Blanche Feero



Coffee Fellowship

### **Conference Series**

\* May 14 (Tues) from 6:30-8:00pm - Charles Rosenay, the author of *True Ghost Stories of Connecticut*, will speak to us by reading parts of the book, having a question and answer session, and doing a book signing. It should be an interesting evening.

**Cross of Christ Lutheran Church a member  
of  
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
America**

1555 Hamilton Ave. Waterbury CT 06706-2401

*Pastor Samantha (Sam) Perret, Presiding*

860-790-1108

Lainey Blanar, Office Admin.

Office: 203-527-3752

Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday available at: 203-578-5080 (text or call)

(9:00—12:00) [tee4twooo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tee4twooo@sbcglobal.net)

[office@crossofchrist-wtby.org](mailto:office@crossofchrist-wtby.org)

[www.crossofchrist-wtby.org](http://www.crossofchrist-wtby.org)

[facebook.com/waterburycrossofchrist](https://facebook.com/waterburycrossofchrist)



To welcome all into safe, sacred relationship, as the Spirit works through us to embody God's love and grace in the world.