

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
TOGETHER IN CHRIST
EMPOWERED TO BE AND MAKE DISCIPLES

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 25, 2021

FIND US ON: FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE
RADIO: SUN. 10:45 AM ON KWLM 1340AM AND 96.3FM
TV: SUN. 1:00PM & 8:00PM, TUES. 9:30AM & 6:30PM
WRAC CHANNEL 181 ON SPECTRUM

Prelude: Pastor David Severtson

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.**

**We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.**

**Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.**

**Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.**

**To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.
Amen.**

Gathering Song: *Praise and Thanksgiving* (ELW 689)

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 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 Sav-**

ior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gospel: Mark 4:26-32 (GNT Pew Bible page 1187)

²⁶ Jesus went on to say, "The Kingdom of God is like this. A man scatters seed in his field. ²⁷ He sleeps at night, is up and about during the day, and all the while the seeds are sprouting and growing. Yet he does not know how it happens. ²⁸ The soil itself makes the plants grow and bear fruit; first the tender stalk appears, then the head, and finally the head full of grain. ²⁹ When the grain is ripe, the man starts cutting it with his sickle, because harvest time has come.

³⁰ "What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like?" asked Jesus. "What parable shall we use to explain it? ³¹ It is like this. A man takes a mustard seed, the smallest seed in the world, and plants it in the ground. ³² After a while it grows up and becomes the biggest of all plants. It puts out such large branches that the birds come and make their nests in its shade."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Reading: Acts 8:26-40 (GNT Pew Bible page 1315)

²⁶ An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get ready and go south to the road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This road is not used nowadays.) ²⁷⁻²⁸ So Philip got ready and went. Now an Ethiopian eunuch, who was an important official in charge of the treasury of the queen of Ethiopia, was on his way home. He had been to Jerusalem to worship God and was going back home in his carriage. As he rode along, he was reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to that carriage and stay close to it." ³⁰ Philip ran over and heard him reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. He asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

³¹ The official replied, "How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?" And he invited Philip to climb up and sit in the carriage with him. ³² The passage of scripture which he was reading was this:

"He was like a sheep that is taken to be slaughtered,
like a lamb that makes no sound when its wool is cut off.
He did not say a word.

³³ He was humiliated, and justice was denied him.
No one will be able to tell about his descendants,
because his life on earth has come to an end."

³⁴ The official asked Philip, "Tell me, of whom is the prophet saying this? Of himself or of someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak; starting from this passage of scripture, he told him the Good News about Jesus. ³⁶ As they traveled down the road, they came to a place where there was some water, and the official said, "Here is some water. What is to keep me from being baptized?" ³⁷

³⁸ The official ordered the carriage to stop, and both Philip and the official went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away. The official did not see him again, but continued on his way, full of joy. ⁴⁰ Philip found himself in Azotus; he went on to Caesarea, and on the way he preached the Good News in every town.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *"Everyone, Everywhere, Everything"* Pastor Tim Malek

Hymn of the Day: *For the Fruit of All Creation* (ELW 679)

Rogation Prayers of Blessing

Prayer for Seeds (hold seed aloft)

Creating God, you have given seed for the sower and bread to the people.
Nourish, protect, and bless the seeds which your people have sown in hope.
By your loving and bountiful giving, may they bring forth their fruit in due season, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for the Soil (hold soil aloft)

Giver of life, we give you thanks that in the richness of the soil, nature awakens your call to spring.
We praise you for the smell of freshly tilled earth, the beauty of a cleanly cut furrow, and a well-plowed field.
We ask that you help us to be good stewards of the land.
In the name of the one who gives us new life, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Prayer for Water and Rain (hold water aloft)

Sustaining God, we receive the fruits of the earth from you. We give you thanks for the smell of the earth after rain, for its welcome cooling, and its necessary hydration for the land.
We ask that the rain come as often as it is needed so that crops may flourish and the coming harvest be indeed bountiful. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Offering & Offering Prayer

God of love,
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession and Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Temple Talk John Dean

Blessing

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song: *God of the Fertile Fields* (ACS 1063)

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude: Pastor David Severtson

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Portion of the Prayer of the Day — copyright Barry Robinson 2005

Known Hospitalized - Sandy Bruns

We Express Our Sympathy and Remember In Our Prayers - The families of Tom Arends and Richard Schroeder, father of Dan Schroeder.