

Order of Service – April 28, 2024 – 10:00AM Fifth Sunday of Easter

Preaching – Pastor Rick • Presiding – Pastor Bart

Music Team: Erica, Mel, Lynn, Lyndsay, Kathy, Rebecca, Janelle, Bart and Elisa.

Welcome to worship!

If you are a visitor today, please pick up a gift bag and learn more about our programs at the Welcome Table at the back of the narthex. Grab a coffee and mingle following the service. A family friendly area is available in the Gateway to sit with other parents or to allow your children to enjoy some snacks following the worship service and Sunday school. If your children require a quiet place during the service, feel free to take them to the narthex near the fireplace area where we have few quiet toys for them to enjoy.

If you are a visitor, we welcome you to come forward for communion. If your children have gone through communion instruction, they are welcome as well. If they are not taking communion, please bring them forward for a blessing. If you would like personal prayer this morning, you are invited to meet with our prayer team in the narthex either before or after you have taken communion. Individual prayer is also available following the service.

PRELUDE: Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

Awake, my heart, with gladness – see what today is done!
Now, after gloom and sadness, comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid where our bed must be made
When to the realms of light our spirit wings its flight.

The foe in triumph shouted when Christ lay in the tomb;
But lo, he now is routed, his boast is turned to gloom.
For Christ again is free, in glorious victory
He who is strong to save has triumphed o'er the grave.

This is a sight that gladdens – what peace it does impart!
Now nothing ever saddens the joy within my heart.
No gloom shall ever shake; no foe shall ever take
The hope which God's own Son in love for me has won.

Now I will cling forever to Christ, my Savior true,
My Lord will leave me never; whate'er He passes through.
He rends death's iron chain; He breaks through sin and pain.
He shatters hell's dark thrall; I follow Him through all.

He brings me to the portal that leads to bliss untold,
Whereon this rhyme immortal is found in script of gold:
"Who there my cross has shared finds here a crown prepared;
Who there with me has died shall here be glorified."

OPENING HYMN: Jesus Shall Reign

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till sun shall rise and set no more
Blessings abound where'er He reigns
The pris'ner leaps to lose his chains
The weary find eternal rest
And all the sons of want are blessed

Chorus:

To our King be highest praise
Rising through eternal days
Just and faithful He shall reign
Jesus shall reign

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name

Chorus:

Let every creature rise and bring
Blessing and honor to our King
Angels descend with songs again
And earth repeat the loud amen

Chorus:

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LIGHTING THE CANDLES • WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

All: Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit we invite your presence into our worship this morning and consecrate this time to you. Be glorified in the preaching, in the singing, our praying and our meditation on your word. We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, beseeching Him, in the name of our Lord Jesus, to forgive the iniquity of our sin.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open
All desires known, from You no secrets are hidd'n
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
By the power of your Spirit
That we love and magnify your name

P: If we say that 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.

(Silence for reflection)

P: Most merciful God...

C: 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE 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.

KYRIE

Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy (2x)
Christe eleison, Christ have mercy (2x)
Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy (2x)
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

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Gloria

Gloria! [Gloria!] Gloria! [Gloria!]
In excelsis [In excelsis] Deo! [Deo!]
He is risen! [He is risen!]
He is alive! [He is alive!]
Alleluia! [Alleluia!]
Now glorified! [Now glorified!]

We praise you! We bless you! We worship and magnify you!

Gloria! [Gloria!] Gloria! [Gloria!]
In excelsis [In excelsis] Deo! [Deo!]
He is risen! [He is risen!]
He is alive! [He is alive!]
Alleluia! [Alleluia!]
Now glorified! [Now glorified!]
Now glorified! [Now glorified!]

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PRAYER: O God, from the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that admin all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixes where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

CHILDREN'S STORY – Pastor Rick

CHILDREN'S Song- There's no one like Jesus

There's no one, there's no one like Jesus
There's no one, there's no one like Him
There's no one, there's no one like Jesus
There's no one, there's no one like Him

I looked and looked (over, over)
I searched and searched (over, over)
I turned around (over, over)
There's no one, there's no one like Him
(Repeat song)

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40 NIV

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." ³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. ³¹ "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth."³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" ³⁷ ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Psalms 22:25-31 NIV

²⁵ From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows. ²⁶ The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him—may your hearts live forever! ²⁷ All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, ²⁸ for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. ²⁹ All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—those who cannot keep themselves alive. ³⁰ Posterity will serve him;

future generations will be told about the Lord. ³¹ They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 John 4:7-21 NIV

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. ¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

ALLELUIA

Alleluia! Lord to whom shall we go, shall we go? (2x)
You have the words of eternal life, O Lord (2x)
Alleluia! Lord to whom shall we go
Shall we go, shall we go?

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GOSPEL: John 15:1-8 NIV

¹⁵ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

PRE-SERMON HYMN: Ancient Words

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world;
They resound with God's own heart, O, let the ancient words impart;

Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope;
In this world, where e'er we roam, ancient words will guide us home.

Chorus

Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you;
We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.

Holy words of our faith handed down to this age,
Came to us through sacrifice; O, heed the faithful words of Christ.

Chorus

Martyr's blood stains each page, they have died for this faith;
Hear them cry through the years; Heed these words and hold them dear.

Chorus

We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.

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SERMON – PASTOR Rick

OFFERTORY DURING HYMN

OFFERTORY HYMN: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace

My gracious Master and my God assist me to proclaim
To spread thru all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name

Jesus the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease
'Tis music in the sinner's ears. 'tis life and health and peace

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; He sets the pris'ner free
His blood can make the foulest clean: His blood availed for me

Hear Him ye deaf, His praise ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ
Ye blind behold your Savior come and leap ye lame for joy

Glory to God and praise and love ae ever ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above the Church in earth and heav'n

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Blessed are you.

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your Goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of Him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYERS FOR FAMILY OF GOD

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them to the Lord

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of pow'r and might
Heaven and earth are full of you glory (repeat)**

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might
Heaven and earth are full of you glory,**

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WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father, who art in Heaven...

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION SONGS:

The Colouring Song

Red is the color of the blood that flowed
Down the face of Someone who loved us so
He's the Perfect Man, He's the Lord's own Son
He's the Lamb of God, He's the only One,
That can give us life, that can make us grow,
That can make the love between us flow

Blue is the color of a heart so cold
That will not bend when the story's told
Of the Love of God for a sinful race
Of the Blood that flowed down Jesus' face
That can give us life, that can make us grow,
That can keep our hearts from growing cold

Gold is the color of the morning sun
That shines so freely on everyone
It's the sun above that keeps us warm
It's the Son of Love that calms the storm
That can give us life, that can make us grow,
That can turn our mornings into gold

Brown is the color of the autumn leaves
When the winter comes to the barren trees
There is birth, there is death, there is a plan
And there's just one God and there's just one Man
That can give us life, that can make us grow,
That can make our sins as white as snow

Green is the colour of the branch that's grown
From the One True Vine when the Word is sown
It's the Fire of God that removes our dross
And there's just one Branch and there's just one Cross
That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can make God's grace between us flow

Ending:

That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can turn our mornings into gold
That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can keep our hearts from growing cold
That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can make the love between us flow

Now the Green Blade Rises (Tune: Noël nouvelet)

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain
Love lives again that with the dead has been
Love is come again like wheat arising green

In the grave they laid Him: Love whom men had slain
Think-ing that never He would wake again
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen
Love is come again like wheat arising green

Forth He came at Easter like the rising grain
He that for three days in the grave had lain
Raised from the dead, my risen Lord is seen
Love is come again like wheat arising green

When our hearts are wintry grieving or in pain
Thy touch can call us back to life again
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been
Love is come again like wheat arising green

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BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Please see attached

CLOSING HYMN: Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne
Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own
Awake my soul and sing of Him who died for thee
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity

Crown Him the Lord of life who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save
His glories now we sing who died and rose on high
Who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die

Crown Him the Lord of love: Behold His hands and side
Rich wounds yet visible above in beauty glorified
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight
But downward bends each burning eye at mysteries so bright

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, one with the Father known
One with the Spirit thro' Him giv'n from yonder glorious throne
To Thee be endless praise for Thou for us hast died
Be Thou O Lord thro' endless days adored and magnified

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THE SENDING

P: Go in Peace.

C: Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week-at-a-Glance:

Apr 29- Mon, 9 AM -12. Pastor Rick's office hours

May 1 – Wed, 9 AM: Staff Meeting

May 5 – Sun, 10:00 AM: Worship, and Sunday School

Month in Advance:

May 6- Mon, 9 AM -12. Pastor Rick's office hours

May 7 - Tues, 10:00AM – Women's Bible Study

May 8 – Wed, 9 AM: Staff Meeting

May 8 – Wed, 7 PM: Grandparenting and the Faith

May 8 – Wed, 7 PM: Small Group Roundup

May 11 – Sat, 7 PM: The Tabernacle

May 12 – Sun, 10:00 AM: Worship, and Sunday School (Mothers Day)

May 13 - Mon, 9 AM -12. Pastor Rick's office hours

May 14 – Tues, 7:00 PM: Getting to Know You at the Bergh's

May 15 – Wed, 9 AM: Staff Meeting

May 18 – Sat, 9:00AM: Annual church clean up

May 19 – Sun, 10:00 AM: Worship, and Sunday School – Pentecost Sunday

May 22 – Wed, 10:00 AM: - Staff Meeting

May 24- Fri, 9 AM -12. Pastor Rick's office hours

May 25- Sat, 8 AM- Men's Breakfast

May 26 – Sun, 10:00 AM: Worship, and Sunday School – Trinity Sunday

May 27- Mon, 9 AM -12. Pastor Rick's office hours

May 28 – Tues, 7:00 PM: Getting to Know You at the Bergh's

Pray for St. Peter's

Please remember to keep praying for the church, our pastors, leaders, members and their families.

St. Peter's Women's Bible Group – May 7, 10 AM

Second Chances – New Beginnings, Rebirth and Starting Over.

Small Group Round-Up - May 8, 7 PM – 9PM

An evening to explore our first year of small groups. We share what we have learned and hear stories of why small groups are important in our faith journey. Come and see if joining a small group might be a good opportunity to grow your faith, meet new friends and draw closer to Jesus. All those who enjoyed the study on Pilgrims Progress, please come and share you experience.

The Tabernacle - May 11, 7PM

Make sure you put The Tabernacle evening worship service on your calendar and invite a friend!

Church Spring Clean-up - May 18

Please put this on your calendar. More information to how you might help is forth coming.

Getting to Know You

Last year, Erica and Pastor Rick invited people to their home to get to know them and hear their stories. We have so many new people in the church. They would love to open up their home again on Tuesday evenings. One of the side benefits is that you get to know each other as well! There are sheets on the welcoming table where you can sign up for one of the following Tuesday evenings:

May 21 or 28 / June 4 or 18

Bible Camps

Don't miss out on registering for one of our church Bible camps! Please find information on the bulletin board. You can also check them out directly:

- Hasting Lake Lutheran Bible Camp (www.hastingslake.com)
- Mulhurst Lutheran Bible Camp (<https://www.mulhurstcamp.ca/>)
- Wilderness Ranch Camp (<https://www.wildernessranchalberta.com/>)

Learn Guitar – Every Sunday after Worship

Starting at very beginner level and aiming at grade 4 children and up to and including adults. This is a group class, not private lessons, and we just learn basic chords and strumming, but it's free. Some kids can have troubles playing guitar, others have no troubles. But if you are interested, talk to Pastor Bart.

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- Mulhurst Lutheran Bible Camp (<https://www.mulhurstcamp.ca/>)
- Wilderness Ranch Camp (<https://www.wildernessranchalberta.com/>)
- Camp Kuriakos (<https://kuriakos.ab.ca/>)

Men's Ministry

Now that Pastor Rick's call has been confirmed, he will be working hard to develop a strong and vibrant men's ministry for all ages. He is looking for committed men to help him design, construct and implement a strategy to encourage men in their faith. Interested? Our first big event is a men's retreat scheduled for the weekend of November 1-3 at Rivers Edge Bible Camp. Please speak with him or email him rick@rickbergh.com

Steve Bell Workshop at St. Peter's – February 2025

This amazing opportunity will take place in early February (Friday evening and all-day Saturday workshop, date TBC). Come and explore the depth and mystery of the Trinity with musician and liturgist, Steve Bell. Join Pastor Rick and Mike Gawryletz to be part of the planning and implementation of this important event. This is rare opportunity to have Steve Bell come to a small venue and to have him all to ourselves. You won't want to miss out on this!