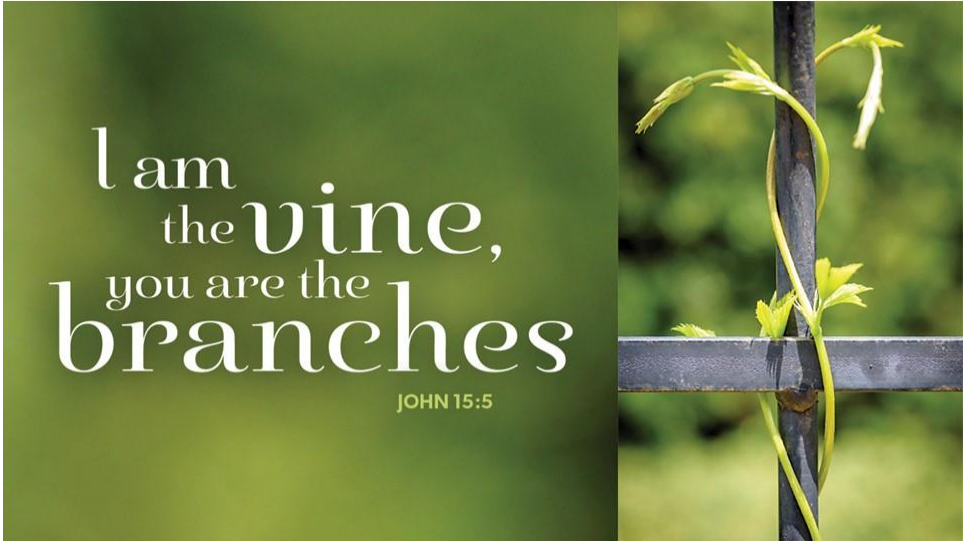


**Fifth Sunday of Easter
Affirmation of Baptism
A combined worship of
Redeemer and Bethel Lutheran Churches
April 28, 2024 10:00 am**



**Redeemer Lutheran Church
332 Riverview 3 W
Great Falls, MT 59404**

Rev. Steve Van Gilder

Redeemer and Bethel Lutheran Churches are congregations
of the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Song

LBW 352 *I Know That My Redeemer Lives [1,3,5,7,8]*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,

giving all honor and praise to you,

through the risen Christ, our source of living water,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

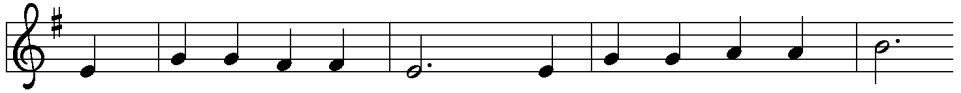
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

KYRIE

ELW S203– Setting 10



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW S204 a– Setting 10



- 1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: ACTS 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

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.) 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 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.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 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?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip

baptized him. 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. 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

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 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. 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. 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. We love because he first loved us. 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. 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 ACCLAMATION

ELW S205a – Setting 10



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The holy gospel according to John the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

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.

[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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Rev. Steve Van Gilder

Hymn of the Day

LBW 315 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Affirmation of Baptism

**Josie Delorit, Teagan Hegdal, Jeramiah Mueller, Ella Woldtvedt
and Julia Woldtvedt.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church.

Do you renounce the devil, and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the power of 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 again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear his Word and share in his supper,

- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person answers in turn.

R: (Josie, Teagan, Jeremiah, Ella, Julia)

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support these young adults, and pray for them in their life in Christ. If so, then answer:

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Congregation is seated.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
God of grace. Hear our prayer.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

ELW 185 – Create In Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW S207 – Setting 10



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first 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.**

Invitation to Communion

The Lord's Table is open to believers of all Christian traditions. We believe that Christ comes to us in the bread and cup for the forgiveness of sins and new life. Gluten free wafers are available, please let your server know. Choice of red wine and white grape juice offered.

ELW 336 LAMB OF GOD

1. Your on - ly Son no sin to hide, But You have
2. Your gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and
3. I was so lost I should have died But You have

Sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y
Scorned Him as He died, The hum - ble King they named a
Brought me to Your side. To be led by Your staff and

Sod And to be - come the Lamb of God.
fraud And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod And to be called a Lamb of God.

Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God I love the
ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh wash me in His pre-cious
blood, My Je-sus Christ the Lamb of God.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

LBW 212

Let Us Break Bread Together

LBW 200

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

LBW 214

Come, Let Us Eat

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

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.**

BENEDICTION

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

LBW 370

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!
And all God's children said: **Amen.**

Serving Today

Accompanist

Jody Winter

Lay Assistant

Fran Gossack

Ushers

Betty Stedman

Altar flowers are given today by Wanda Malin in memory of her grandson Cole Christopher Malin.

Narthex flowers are given today by Earl Terwilliger in celebration of Trudy's heavenly birthday.

Announcements

Today we celebrate **the Affirmation of Baptism** for **Josie Delorit, Teagan Hegdal, Jeramiah Mueller, Ella and Julia Woldtvedt**. Also, thank you to the confirmands, from both congregations, who insisted that they make Affirmation of Baptism all together.

We thank **Pastor Steve Van Gilder** for preaching and presiding in worship this morning, and to congregational leaders **Patty Braget** (Bethel Council President) and **Cheryl Laveson** (Past Council President Redeemer) for their leadership in coordinating this combined worship service today as well as Bethel Administrative Assistant, **Tami Grosenick**, for her support with the order of worship.

Thanks to **Jim Carlson, LPA and Warren Johnson** both of Bethel who served as lay catechists to all the confirmands during this past year.

Thank you to **Shelly Murphy** for the beautiful confirmation stoles and to the photographer **John Metcalf** for taking the confirmation pictures.

Thank you to **Redeemer Lutheran Church** for hosting the service and potluck after worship.

Thank you to **Bethel Lutheran Church** for the boutonnieres and cake celebrating the confirmands.

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Worship Songs: I Know That My Redeemer Lives, Loves Divine All Loves Excelling, and Blest Be The Ties That Bind used with permission under One License #A704354