



Sunday, April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday After Easter
Hope Lutheran Church, Plainwell
Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting Seven
www.hopeplainwell.org

Hope's Mission Statement: We, Hope Lutheran Church, are CALLED by God,
REDEEMED by Jesus Christ, SPROUTING from
the seed of God's Word, and BRANCHING out to reach God's people...

*Please stand as you are comfortable
Congregational responses are in bold text
‡ invites you to make the sign of the cross.

Please silence your phone, pager, or other electronic device for worship.
Children's worship bags are available in the nursery.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

PASTORAL WELCOME

***CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS (pg. 94)**

***GATHERING HYMN: We Plow the Fields and Scatter ELW #680**

***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.

***GLORIA (p. 176)**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

At the conclusion of the prayer...Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

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.

Psalm 22:25-31

Psalms are read responsively whole verse by whole verse.

From you comes my praise in the | great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the Lord.

The poor shall eat | and be satisfied, Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the Lord; all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

For dominion belongs | to the Lord, who rules o- | ver the nations.

Indeed, 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.

Their descendants shall | serve the Lord, whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn, saying to them, "The | Lord has acted!"

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

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 (p. 179)**

***GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-8**

The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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 SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** We Know That Christ Is Raised ELW #449

***NICENE CREED** (*p. 104*)

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

If you have a prayer request that you would like added to our weekly worship prayers please contact Pr. Nicole. If we will be praying for an individual or family please make sure you have their permission to have them listed.

*Please respond to God of grace with... **Hear our prayer.***

SPECIAL MUSIC

***PEACE**

HOLY COMMUNION

Please quietly return to your seat when the offering hymn plays so we can prepare for Holy Communion.

***OFFERING HYMN** Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *ELW #184*

Thank you for your support of Hope and our missions! Checks and cash can be placed on the offering plate located outside the sanctuary doors. You can also give instantly and securely through online giving using the QR code below.



***OFFERING PRAYER**

At the conclusion of the prayer...Amen.

***DIALOGUE** (p. 152)

***SANCTUS** (p. 181)

***LORD'S PRAYER** (p. 182)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come taste and see that the Lord is good.

During Communion individual cups of wine & grape juice are available. The wine is red & the grape juice is white. There is also a common cup of wine. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. If you are not yet baptized, or do not feel prepared to receive Communion, you are invited to participate by coming forward to receive a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD (p. 182)

COMMUNION HYMN Where Charity and Love Prevail ELW #359

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

At the conclusion of the prayer...Amen.

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING HYMN** Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death ELW #452

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DISMISSAL**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Celebrate Cinco de Mayo at Hope on Sunday, May 5th after worship. For a free will donation you can enjoy a build your own taco bar and other goodies. All proceeds will go to kitchen renovations. For more information or if you have any questions please see Pr. Nicole.
- Terri Shaler is retiring from her post as Executive Director of Christian Neighbors in May 2024 after 30 years of service. There will be an Open House at Christian neighbors on Tuesday, May 21st from 3-6 pm to wish her well and honor her service. The public is invited to attend.
- Saturday, June 1st Hope will have a table at the Island City Festival! We are looking for volunteers to take a turn at the table giving away activity bags for kids, information on our congregation for adults, and selling crafts to benefit Hope. Please see the sign up sheet on the hymnal cart for available time slots. If you have questions please see Pr. Nicole.
- Time for Baseball! Immanuel Lutheran has invited us to join them for a White Caps baseball game on Saturday, August 24th. The game begins at 7:05 pm. Tickets are \$16 each. Your ticket money is due by Saturday, July 14th. Please make checks out to Hope Lutheran with White Caps

Game in the memo line. If you have any questions please see Pr. Nicole.

- Hope's May item for Christian Neighbors is Hamburger Helper.
- Please keep and use the hand sanitizer in the Narthex, not in the Sanctuary due to allergies. Thank you.