



St. Andrew Church's "Why" Statement... To come together as a worshipping community, nourished by God's love so that we may reflect God's love to others.

Adopted April 2023

April 28, 2024 Fifth Sunday of Easter

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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! Amen.

GATHERING HYMN Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen ELW 377

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!Trumpets resounding in glorious light!Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!

- Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open our eyes; breaking our bread, giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. Refrain
- 3 Jesus the vine, we are the branches; life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree; heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing to me. Refrain
- 4 Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent: death put asunder, and Easter is bright. Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!

Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. Refrain

5 City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb, river of life, saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM! Refrain

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.

ACS p. 31 vs. 2



PRAYER OF THE DAY.

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.

+WORD+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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.

A reading from Acts

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD,

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

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.

A reading from John.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174

We all sing

Refrain



I am the vine, you I are the branches.* Those who abide in me and I in them I bear much fruit. Repeat refrain

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.

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 1"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 2He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4Abide 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. 5I 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. 6Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8My 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 Now All The Vault of Heaven Resounds ELW 367

- Now all the vault of heav'n resounds in praise of love that still abounds:
 "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
 Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
 Repeat their song of glory here:
 "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 Eternal is the gift he brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Now still he comes to give us life and by his presence stills all strife.

- "Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; set heart and will on things above that we conquer through your triumph; grant grace sufficient for life's day that by our lives we truly say:
 "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Adoring praises now we bring and with the heav'nly blessed sing: "Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
 Be to the Father, and our Lord, to Spirit blest, most holy God, all the glory, never ending!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead.

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

A 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.

A 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.

A 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.

A 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, especially Bill, Marge, Callum, Paul, Charles, Steven, Johanna, Carole, Anna, Nancy, Tracey, Donna, Larry, Denise, Roy, Lee, Charlie, Todd, Patricia, Ann, Vincent, and those we name before you, on our lips or in the silence of our hearts.

(Pause for silence)

God of grace, hear our prayer.

A 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.

A Guide and nurture our Lutheran congregations in Bristol and Plainville as we continue charting and discovering pathways of joining together in proclaiming your Good News and building a servant community of healing, hope and new life. Open our hearts and minds to visions of your church for a new day.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

A With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

A Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERTORY HYMN Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful ELW 181



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 1978 Litheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

OFFERING 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

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

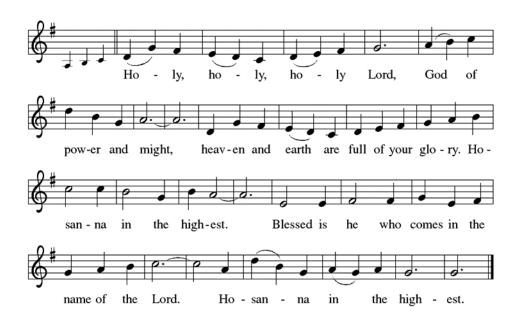
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 108



GREAT THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

You are invited to come forward down the center aisle to the altar railing receive the Meal today. Please fill in along the railing from the pulpit to lectern sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive the Meal. The Meal will be served continuously. After you have received the Meal and after a quiet prayer of thanksgiving you may return to your seats via the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are available as an alternative. Please ask. White grape juice, in the center ring of each serving tray, is available as an alternative to the wine. Praise God for the

life giving presence of the crucified-risen Christ in the bread and wine of this holy meal!

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

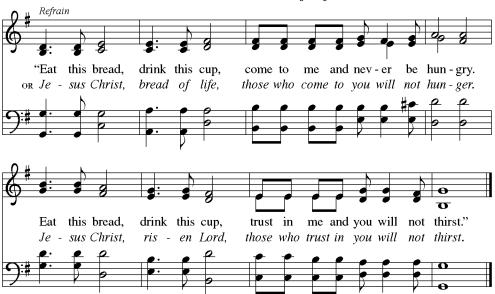
COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN Eat This Bread

ELW 472

Sing verse 1 repeatedly as a chant

Fat This Bread Jesus Christ, Bread of Life



Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

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 We Know That Christ Is Raised ELW 449

- 1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold, and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Hallelujah!
- We share by water in his saving death. Reborn, we share with him an Easter life, as living members of our Savior Christ. Hallelujah!
- 3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life. The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God. Baptized, we live with God the Three in One. Hallelujah!
- 4 A new creation comes to life and grows as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood. The universe restored and whole will sing: Hallelujah!

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, April 28, 2024

Pastor Les Swenson

Guest Pianist: Carol Yachanin **Assistant Minister**: Mike Beaudoin

Lector: Jen Alling

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Noah Galvin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Tina Beaudoin, Gerald Beaudoin, Carol Emond

Altar Guild: Denise Martin

From Sundays and Seasons.com. **Copyright 2024** Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26763.

Permission to reprint and stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-724528. All rights reserved.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday, April 29, 2024

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

No Hand Bells

No Voice Choir

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Easter Season Bible Study, "The Church's Expansive

Mission...Stories from the Book of Acts," via Zoom

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81822006513?pwd=QWpDazltQmdzeUM2WIV1

QTU2Y0Y3Zz09

Thursday, May 2, 2024

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (Youth Room)

Sunday, May 5, 2024; Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour/Special Congregational Meeting To Officially

Endorse Moving Ahead With The Three-Church Collaboration

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

Church Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

Email: churchoffice@standrewct.org

The Rev. Les Swenson, Transition Pastor, phone #: 860.857.9362

Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator