

# WE are **Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (elca)**

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## **Welcome and thank you for coming to worship!**

We welcome all visitors this morning to our service of Word and Sacrament. ALL are invited to receive the bread and the wine. Please know that at CELC this common meal is for all who feel moved to receive. This sacrament is God's gift to all, and is not tied to membership, doctrine or creed.

# 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

9:00 am

*-Service of Word and Sacrament-*

*The Gathering*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER GREETING

P: Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 671 *"SHINE, JESUS, SHINE"*

*Refrain*



Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;



blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.



Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;



send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!



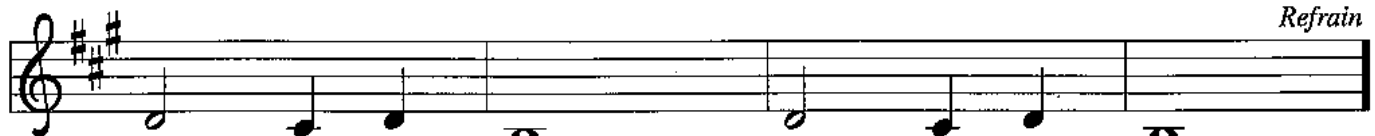
1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the  
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, so our fac - es dis -



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,  
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,



set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.



Shine on me, shine on me:  
Shine on me, shine on me:

*Refrain*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

**P** In the waters of baptism,  
we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ,  
and we are a new creation.  
For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come.

Now breathe upon this water  
and awaken your church once more.  
Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.  
Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End,  
our Shepherd and Lamb,  
be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

## PASTORAL GREETING

**P** The beauty of the Creator inspire you,  
the unity of the Breath of Life enfold you.  
And the grace of the Good Shepherd be with you,  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*[Congregation is seated.]*

## The Word

### FIRST READING: ACTS 10:44-48

*While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

44 While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.  
45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47 “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” 48 So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

**Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: PSALM 98

*Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)*

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>**O Lord, you have made known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the Lord with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before the king, the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
the world and those who dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the  
earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

## SECOND READING: I JOHN 5:1-6

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

1Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. 2By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, 4for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. 5Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

6This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

**Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION      *"RESUCITO"*

Refrain:      Resucito, resucito, resucito, aleluya.  
Aleluya, Aleluya, Aleluya, Resucito.

Vs.      With him then, die and live with him then,  
Rise and sing our hymn then, sing alleluia!

## GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 9“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's

commandments and abide in his love. 11I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

12“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: PASTOR JEFF

PROFESSION OF FAITH

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**A** 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.*

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another.

*(We pray especially for . . . )* God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

**P:** 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.**

## *The Meal*

### OFFERTORY / OFFERTORY MUSIC

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** 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.**

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,..  
We praise your name and join their unending hymn...

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

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



[THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE] (NUMBER 4)

**P** In the night in which he was betrayed...

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks...

And so we remember your Son, his life, his death, and his glorious resurrection, his word, and his presence in this meal, and we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We pray that you send your Spirit, your breath, your fire, your wisdom, your guidance everywhere in the church.

Send your Spirit upon this bread and cup; inspire your people for service, always be making us new; and renew the world with your mercy, with your healing, your justice and your peace, reconciling us with you and our neighbors.

We praise you, all-holy God, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, Abba, Living Water, Breath of Life, today, tomorrow and forever. **Amen!**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
**have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
**Have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
**Grant us peace, grant us peace.**

COMMUNION SONG: ELW 482     *"I COME WITH JOY"*



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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## PASTORAL BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P:** 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.

### *The Sending*

#### BENEDICTION:

**P** 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 SONG: ELW 367 *“NOW ALL THE VAULT OF HEAVEN RESOUNDS” VS. 1-3*

#### DISMISSAL:

**P** Go in peace. Journey gently on this planet's green pasture.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort  
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -  
 3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to  
 4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to

this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who  
 ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,  
 guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort  
 wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my

once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!  
 throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.  
 me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.  
 trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.