Fifth Sunday of Easter



April 28, 2024

9:30 AM

(You are welcome to share a prayer request to be used in worship today by filling out a Prayer Card.

They will be collected by the ushers during the Hymn of the Day.)

WELCOME AND HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS TO COME

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Kent Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Duwamish and Muckleshoot peoples. We recognize, honor, and thank these Indigenous siblings – caretakers of this land who have lived, and continue to live here since time immemorial.

PRELUDE (and lighting of the altar candles)



EASTER DECLARATION

Leader: Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed.

Leader: Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed.

Leader: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

GATHERING

Pastor: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

> the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters

and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

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

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,

making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,

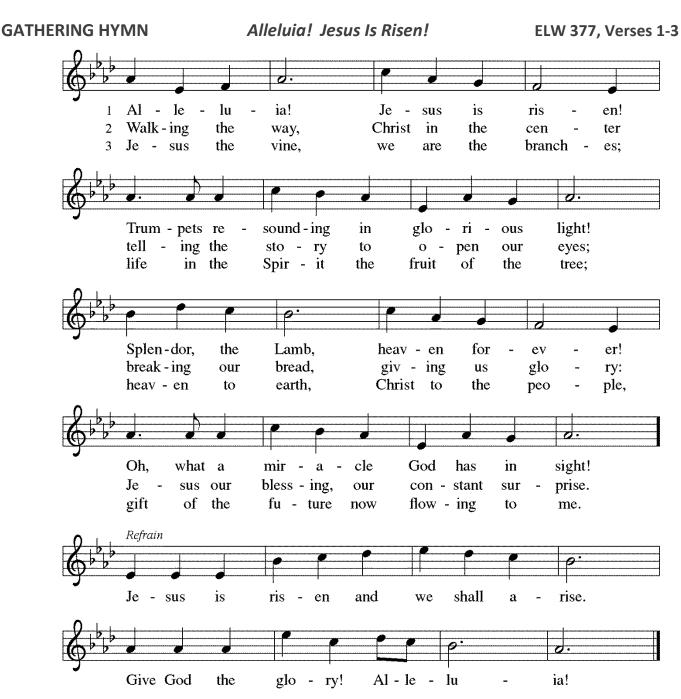
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit,

and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord

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



Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

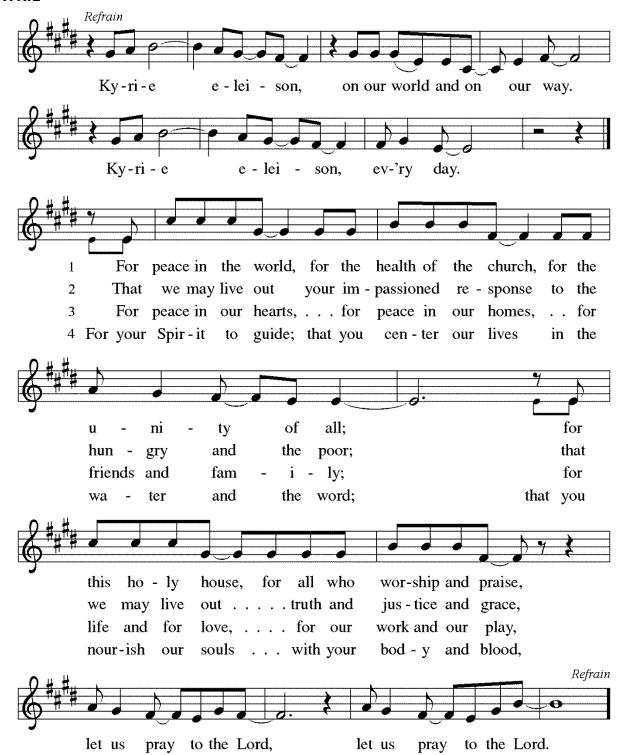
All: And also with you.

Leader: 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.

All: Amen.

KYRIE



CANTICLE OF PRAISE





WORD

THE FIRST READING Acts 8:26-40

Reader: The first reading today is from the eighth chapter of the book of Acts.

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

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ 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?" ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, 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 snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ 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.

All: Thanks be to God.



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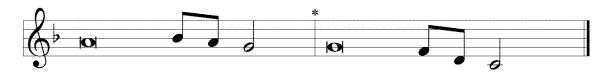
Psalm 22:25-31

Refrain (Worship Leaders sing the first time through, then the Congregation joins for the repeat):



All the ends of the earth shall re-mem-ber and turn to the LORD.

Cantor Tones



Cantor:

- ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great | congregation; my vows I will pay before those | who fear him.
- The poor shall eat and be | satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts | live forever!

All: (Refrain sung once):

Cantor:

All the ends of the earth shall | remember and turn | to the LORD; and all the families of | the nations shall worship | before him.

All: (Refrain sung once):

Cantor:

- ²⁸ For dominion belongs | to the LORD, and he rules over | the nations.
- ²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the | earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall | live for him.

All: (Refrain sung once):

Cantor:

- ³⁰ Posterity | will serve him; future generations will be told a- | bout the Lord,
- ³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people | yet unborn, saying that he | has done it.

All: Refrain (sung twice):



All the ends of the earth shall re-mem-ber and turn to the LORD.

THE SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-21

Reader: The second reading is from the fourth chapter of First John:

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.
¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.
¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.
¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

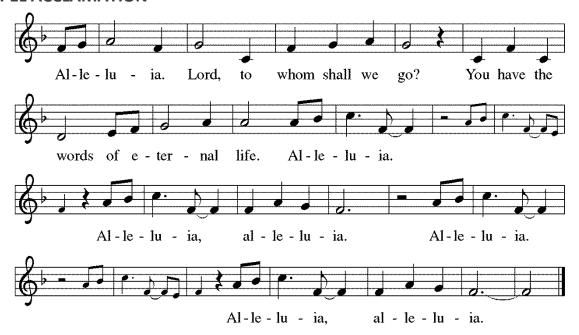
God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

We invite you to stand for the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING John 15:1-8

Reader: The holy gospel according to the fifteenth chapter of John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Reader:

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

If you are standing, you may now be seated.



Text: Marcus Veenstra; tr. composite
Music: GLORIA A DIOS, Marcus Veenstra; arr. Greg Scheer, b. 1966
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ACS 911

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



SERMON

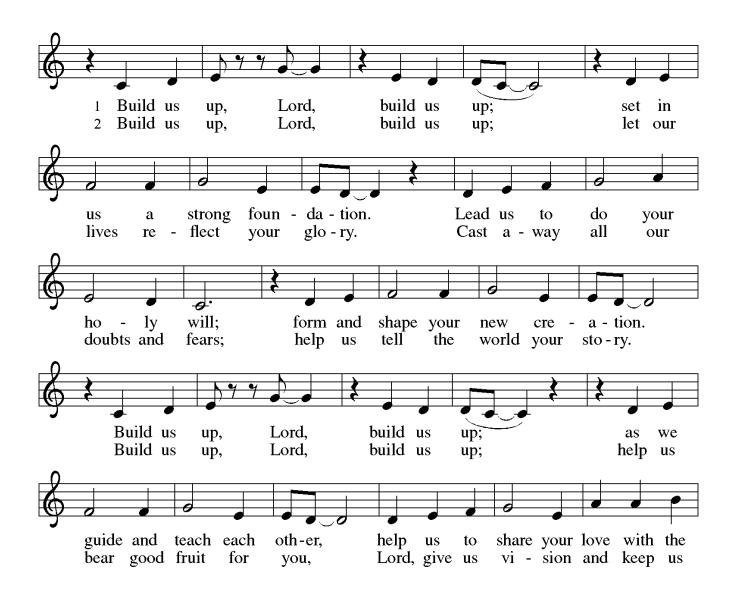
Pastor Tormod Svensson

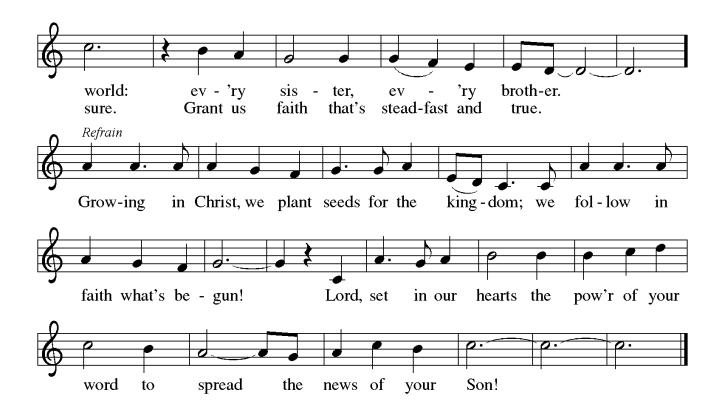


HYMN OF THE DAY

Build Us Up, Lord

ELW 670





Text: Mark Glaeser, b. 1956, and Donna Hanna, b. 1952 Music: BUILD US UP, Mark Glaeser and Donna Hanna Text and music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

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DECLARATION OF FAITH (Inclusive Language Version)

Please join me as we declare our faith together. Leader:

All: I believe in God, the Creator almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by 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 Creator,

and 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 life everlasting.

Amen.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Leader:

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)

We pray:

for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Bless our international and national ELCA Lutheran leadership, particularly our national Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, and our Bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod, Shelley Bryan Wee. Guide our Northwest Washington Synod New and Emerging Congregations; our Local Partners in Ministry; our Global, National, and Local Ministries Supported; and our Kent Lutheran Ministries. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care.

God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader:

for the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Shower us with your goodness and help us to renew and restore the face of the earth.

God of grace,

All: hear our prayer. Leader:

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,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader:

for all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for healing and hope for all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit— especially those who are homebound or hospitalized; those who have or are in treatment for cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, or other potentially debilitating conditions; those who are struggling with mental illness, PTSD, or dementia; and those afflicted by addiction, depression, or uncontrolled anger. Give support and comfort to their families and friends through these trying times. And guide and sustain the medical care professionals, therapists, social workers, counselors, and caretakers who are tending to their needs, particularly those who are close to our congregational family. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader:

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. Encourage, inspire, and sustain all of our Kent Lutheran staff, church leaders, and committee members. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always.

God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader:

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. Comfort those who mourn the physical loss of their loved ones, especially the families and friends of.... Be with them as they struggle to find a path through their grief back to joy.

God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: Listen now to the prayers of your people, spoken aloud or silently...

(pause for personal prayers)

(special congregational prayers are lifted up)

The complete list of all whom the congregation is praying for this week is in the announcement insert in your bulletin.

God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: 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.

MEAL



(Note: The ushers will collect your offerings in the center aisle during the hymn.)



Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, Cantica Lauda, 1850

OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ,

give us glad and generous hearts,

ready to praise you and to respond to those in need,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



GREAT THANKSGIVING

Reader: We give great thanksgiving as we participate in this meal of joy for God's presence is here.

We invite you in Jesus' name to commune with him at this table,

across political lines and economic lines, in places of powerfully protected affluence,

and among the poorest of the poor.

Come, for this is a table where all are invited.

Come, whether this is your first time or your hundredth.

Come, because this feast is a reminder that God's Table is big enough for all of us.

We share this meal, remembering and celebrating the One who increases joy.

Jesus Christ has risen and he rose for you.

God has a seat saved at this table, specifically for you.

So, come.

All are welcome.

We will commune those in the Sanctuary first and then with those who are online.

If you are joining us online and want to participate in Holy Communion, have your piece of bread or cracker and your wine or juice ready.

DIALOGUE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

Pastor: 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.

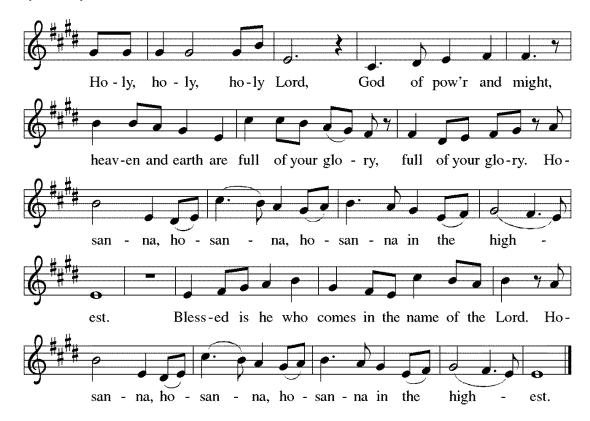
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

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



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: 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.



LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: 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,

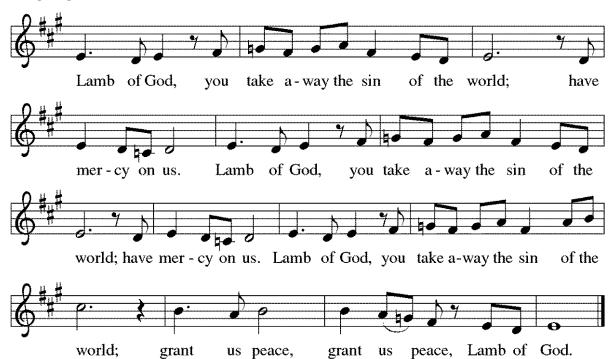
and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever.

Amen.



COMMUNION HYMN





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ABOUT COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the Lord's Supper. Please wait in your pew until the usher indicates that it is your turn, then come forward using the center aisle. If you and/or your children are not comfortable participating in the Rite of Communion, know that all are still welcome to come forward for a blessing – just let the presider know your preference when you and/or your children are at the rail. When you are at the front, please fill in a vacant spot at the altar rail. You may either kneel or stand, whichever is most comfortable for you. If you would like a gluten free alternative to the bread, or If you prefer grape juice instead of wine, please indicate that to the appropriate provider. After you have communed, please discard the empty cup to be recycled in the trash can by the side wall before returning to your seat.

COMMUNION INVITATION AND DISTRIBUTION

Pastor: The risen Christ is made known to us

in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.



(when all in the sanctuary have been fed)

Pastor: Those joining us online – pick up your bread and hear these words:

This is the body of Christ given for you.

Eat and receive saying, "Amen."

Lift up your cup of wine or juice and hear these words:

This is the blood of Christ shed for you.

Drink and receive saying, "Amen."

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: 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.



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, Choralbuch, 1815

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BLESSING

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

Leader: The God of resurrection power,

the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope

bless you now and always.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: The love and peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Alleluia!

Go in peace.

Rejoice and be glad.

All: Thanks be to God!

Alleluia!

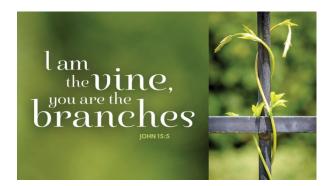
Pastor: Let us share God's peace with one another as we leave today.

(As we pass the peace,

ALL people have the right to choose if they would like a verbal greeting, a handshake, or a hug.)

POSTLUDE





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Assyrian Chariot ~ from https://etc.usf.edu/clipart/78800/78895/78895 warchariot md.gif

Jesus with Children ~ from http://www.clker.com/cliparts/6/f/a/2/15163052791737896005jesus-loves-little-children-clipart.med.png

Praying Hands ~ from http://clipart-library.com/clipart/516920.htm

Bread and Wine in front of Stained Glass Window ~ from http://clipart-library.com/clipart/1629554.htm

Come to the Table ~ from http://clipart-library.com/clipart/702688.htm



KENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

lives and celebrates the accepting love of Christ

CORE VALUES

We affirm the following values:

- * We value the love of God revealed in Christ Jesus;
- * We value God's love as a gift to be shared with everyone;
- * We value everyone as a child of God, and invite all to be embraced by God;
- * We value providing a loving, caring environment supporting spiritual needs;
- * We value that all people are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve God and community.
- * We value the participation of people of all ages, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, educational background, different abilities, and economic conditions.

OUR VISION

Kent Lutheran Church, a Christ-centered, sacred place for spiritual, cultural, and community enrichment.

Kent Lutheran Church is an RIC (Reconciling in Christ) congregation.

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Web Site: www.kentlutheran.org

Visit us on Facebook: Kent Lutheran Church, Kent Lutheran Youth, KLC South Sudan Other KLC related web sites: www.KentGrandOrgan.org, www.klcsouthsudan.blogspot.com

Pastor Tormod Svensson

Pastor's Cell Phone: 301-707-1548 Pastor's email: <u>pastorsvensson@gmail.com</u>

Sean Haley, Director of Music Ministries Jody McCaw, Office Ministries Manager Mona Lee, Treasurer Kathy Nixon, Financial Secretary

Joseph Lual, Seminarian

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