

Welcoming Statement

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church is committed to welcoming, loving, and embracing all. We open our door to people regardless of gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, race, ethnicity, mental or physical abilities, neurodiversity, addiction, citizenship status, housing status, or past imprisonment. We acknowledge and honor our different backgrounds and life experiences, commit ourselves to the work of equity and anti-racism, and come together to celebrate the gifts of unity and diversity as one body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12). As Jesus loves us, we are called to love one another (John 15:12).

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April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

A special welcome to all visitors, it's a joy to worship with you!

Welcome to Worship at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church!

PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES AND PAGERS. THANK YOU!

Worship Information

Hymns and liturgies for the service today are included in the bulletin. The congregation reads aloud anything in bold print following the “C”. You will note directions in the service for when to stand as you are able or to sit. If you would prefer to remain seated throughout worship, please feel free to do so.

Children Are Welcome!

Infants and children are encouraged to be present during worship. Youngsters are welcome and valued as important participants in worship and witness!

Hospitality

An elevator is available and can be accessed by taking the ramp at the front of the worship center entering the chapel and turning right. Restrooms are located off the stairwells leading to the Fellowship Hall and also outside the church office. Diaper changing tables have been placed in both the women’s and men’s restrooms off of Fellowship Hall.

Trouble Hearing?

Personal hearing amplifiers are available in the narthex. Please ask an usher to assist you.





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.

CENTERING

This is an intentional time to find a place of calm and to prepare through silent prayer and contemplation.

BELLS

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

"Take Me to the Water" Verses 1 and 4

ACS 957

1 Take me to the wa - ter, take me to the wa - ter,
2 I . . . love . . Je - sus, I . . . love . . Je - sus,
3 He's . . my . . Sav - ior, he's . . my . . Sav - ior,
4 Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah.

take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.
I . . . love . . Je - sus, oh, yes, I do.
he's . . my . . Sav - ior, oh, yes, he is.
Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: TAKE ME TO THE WATER, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, 1935–2009

Arr. © 1992 Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress

HOLY BAPTISM

We celebrate the holy baptism of Sylvia Rae Sanders

L: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

L: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church

L: Let us welcome Sylvia.

C: Sylvia, we welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

Connor and Emily Helseth.

L: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for Connor and Emily in their life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us. Welcome!

L: Let us welcome Connor and Emily, our siblings in Christ, to this community of faith.

C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God,

C: 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.

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.

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.

PSALM 22:25–31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord. (Ps. 22:27)

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

²⁶**The 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.

²⁸**For 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.

³⁰**Their 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!”

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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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:] 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.”

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

*Rev. Jennifer Luong
Church Partnerships Ministry Specialist*



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us
 2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain
 3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
 4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our
 5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
 heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will
 last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take
 this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -



be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
 rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
 move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
 wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
 vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
 Music: BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
 Text © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Music © 1993 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

A NEW CREED

C: We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our life and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please respond with RECEIVE OUR PRAYER after each petition.

L: 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.

Following the time of quiet for candle lighting, once again respond with RECEIVE OUR PRAYER.

L: 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.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

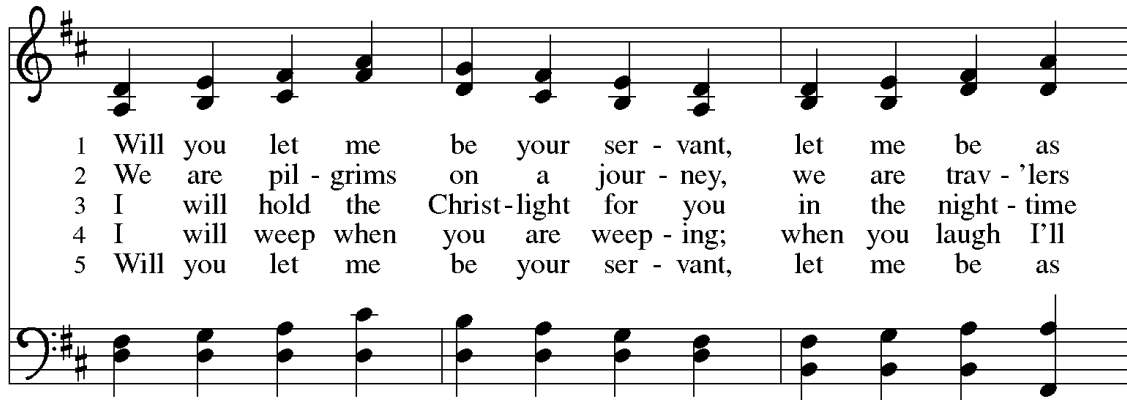
OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

ELW 659

Verses 1-3



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.
walk the mile and bear the load.
speak the peace you long to hear.
till we've seen this jour - ney through.
let you be my ser - vant, too.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray.

C: 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.

BLESSING

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always.

C: Amen.



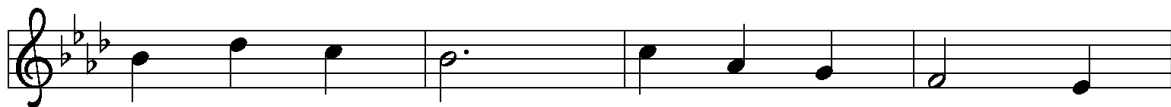
Verses 2 and 3



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain

Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

DISMISSAL

L: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

BELLS

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INTERIM PASTOR: Matthew Johnson

ORGANIST: Richard Duncan

OFFICE MANAGER: Sophie Geister-Jones

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Brenda Robbins

STREAMING TEAM: Zack Robbins, Roxanne Dunlop, Brenda Robbins, Paultina Rollay,
Erin Brothen, Karl and Nick Salkowski

CANTORS: Margaret Wilkes, Bobbie Kuhlman

READER: Barbie Whale

USHERS: Brenda Robbins, Sue Mooney

COOKIE AND COFFEE SERVERS: Patty Dolan, Susan Albers

TELLERS: Cleo Medlock, Pat Botten, Janet Lovejoy

Short-Term Prayer Requests:

Vi Bjorkstrand, Harley Ring, Jane Hagstrom, Chuck Dolezalek (dear friend of Susan & Brian Albers), Eileen Finley, Kathy Mackdanz, MCLC Call Committee, Roberta Holscher, Darryl Kuhlman

Long-Term Prayer Requests:

(ongoing spiritual support for recovery, life-transitions, conditions, and emotional support)

Please pray for: Sharesti Anderson; Raelynn Anderson; Norm Arlandson; Jon Borodine; Allen Eckman; Linda Erickson (sister of Vicky Anderson); Jan Foster; Nancy Gallo; Doug Houge; Deb Lindquist; David & Andrea Olson; LaRhae (longtime friend of Richard); Paultina Rollay; Darlene Sandey; Mickey Trego; Peggy Williams & family; Carol (friend of Roxanne); Peter & family; baby William & mother Isabelle; and those we name in our hearts...

Thank you!

A great many thanks to Reverend Jennifer Luong, Church Partnerships Ministry Specialist, for preaching today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The last confirmation class of the year is following worship today at MCLC.

Longtime friend of the congregation and previous member, Hester Gehling, died recently.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 29–May 5		
Tuesday April 30	11 am	MCLC Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Worship and Music
	7 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous
Wednesday May 1	7 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous
Thursday May 2	7 pm	Narcotics Anonymous
Friday May 3	7 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous
Sunday May 5	9:45 am	Worship & Sunday School

Rummage Sale

Rummage Sale

Friday, May 17 | 9 am to 3 pm

Saturday, May 18 | 9 am to 1 pm

Bag Sale

Saturday, May 18 | 12 pm to 1 pm

Please bring your gently used/clean items to the church by May 12th. This is a good time to clean out the closets! Please do not bring items that are in disrepair or electronics.

Lots of able hands are needed to work the sale—people to set up on Wednesday and Thursday (May 15 and 16th), work the sale on Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18 and clean up after 1:00 on Saturday. *We especially need folks who are available to help us pack up and haul out.* Please see Cleo Medlock, Patty Dolan, Mary Foslien or Pat Botten if you can help in any way.