

**Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024**

**Christ Lutheran Church
Cottonwood, Minnesota**



Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We are grateful to God you are here.
We pray that you will feel the Spirit and welcome of this faith
community, and we look forward to seeing you again!

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.

(adapted from Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2023)

GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.*

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

WORDS OF WELCOME

P: This is the day that the Lord has made,
All: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

OPENING WORDS OF FAITH

from Psalm 67

P: May God be merciful to us and bless us.

All: May God show us the light of his presence and come to us.

P: Let the earth be glad and shout for joy,

All: for you have offered your salvation to people of all nations.

P: Indeed, the earth has brought forth new growth.

All: The vines and the branches spring forth and offer the promise of rich fruit.

P: So let us thank and praise God for all his blessings.

All: And may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of all that he has done.

EASTER SONG OF PRAISE

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!” ELW# 385

Please rise in body or spirit.

THANKSGIVING OF BAPTISM AND CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

P: By our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, God raised us to new life. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silence for a time of self-reflection

P: God of grace,

All: we confess that we do not always live as resurrected people. We live within the fears and cares of this world, that we do not have enough, that we are not good enough. Forgive us for not seeing your image in us. Forgive us for not seeking your life in us. Help us to see we are made in your love, your image, your peace. We ask all of these things in the name of the risen Christ.

P: Hear the Good News: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ †, your sins are forgiven. May the

almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God.

GREETING

P: 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God,

All: we resist your unfailing love for us and for others, and we turn our backs on the gift of new life, choosing instead the old way of sin, the way that takes us away from you and leads us back toward death. Free us from this power of sin, guide us by your Spirit and help us in our weakness, that we may live as your children, restored to new and everlasting life. Amen.

Please be seated.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR JAXSON RAE DUBBELDEE

Son of Dylan Dubbeldee and Allison Chheng
Godparents: Yvonne Boehne and Taylor Dubbeldee

PROFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED

P: Let us profess our faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin and confess the faith of the church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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

All: 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 Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

BAPTISMAL WORDS OF WELCOME

All: **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.**

HYMN

“Baptized and Set Free”

ELW# 453

WORD

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

THE READING

1 John 4:7-21

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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life

All: Thanks be to God

Please rise in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Shout to the Lord”* **ELW# 821**

GOSPEL READING John 15:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the fifteenth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

MESSAGE Pastor Janel Kuester

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”* **ELW# 618**

THANKSGIVING

We respond in gratitude for God’s never-failing love and mercy.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

GATHERING OF OFFERING

*You can give electronically by either visiting
www.christcottonwood.org and setting up a one time or
recurring gift or by snapping on the
QR Code to the right.*



Thank you for your generosity.

Please rise in body or spirit.

WORDS OF THANKSGIVING

L: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things,

All: through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love.

L: Today we give thanks and praise to God for all those who give of themselves in faithful service through the ministry of Christ Lutheran.

All: For it is God who has shone in our hearts to spread the light of the knowledge of the glory of God. [2 Corinthians 4:6]

L: We give thanks for all who share their gifts in worship.

All: Blessed are those who come into the sanctuary with shouts of joy and who walk in the light of your countenance. [Psalm 89:13]

L: We praise you, O Lord, for those who serve among our youth and children.

All: In the Lord you are light. Live and serve as children of the light. [Ephesians 5:8]

L: We offer prayers of gratitude for those who faithfully serve in the background on leadership and committees, serving and caring for others, tending to building and resources.

All: Let your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. [Matthew 5:16]

L: Today, we thank and praise you for all of the faithful people of Christ Lutheran who give of themselves in ministry here so that we might abide with the vinegrower and the vine stretching and reaching out into the world.

All: Amen.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The congregation responds to the prayer petitions with, "hear our prayer."

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please share a sign of God's peace with one another.

Please be seated.

SENDING

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

SENDING BLESSING

P: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ☩ give you peace.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"How Great Thou Art"

ELW# 856

SENDING WORDS

L: Go in peace. Share the Good News. Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Liturgy pieces from Sundays and Seasons © Augsburg Fortress.
Scripture readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.

— Thank You For Serving This Sunday, April 28, 2024 —

Ushers: Pete Lavin, Larry Isaackson, Christy Johnson, Lyle Johnson, Brian Velde, Heather Velde, Kendra Velde, Morgan Velde

Musician: Marian Kalass

Acolyte: Tucker Anderson

Assisting Minister: Linda VanUden-Wilson

PA: Sidnee Olson and Jon Myrvik

Video: Greg Isaackson and Erik Lundberg

Altar Care: Joyce Warnke and Anne Isaackson

Counters: Chris Stevens and Greg Golberg

Clothed With Love: Brenda Hoehne

This Week's Calendar

Today, Sunday, April 28: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Fellowship Time before and after Worship

9:00 am Preschool Sunday School

9:30 am Worship with Dubbeldee Baptism

5:00 pm Teachers End of Year Gathering at the Parsonage

Wednesday, May 1:

6:00 pm Confirmation Practice and Photos

Sunday, May 5: Sunday of Easter

Fellowship Time before and after Worship

9:00 am Preschool Sunday School

9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion and Affirmation of Baptism

Baptized in Christ

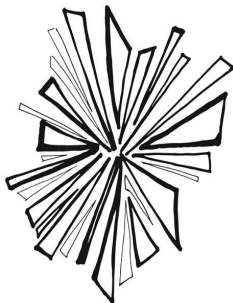


Baptized Today

Jaxson Rae Dubbledee, son of Dylan Dubbeldee and Allison Chheng

Brother to Jakobie and James

Godson to Yvonne Boehne and Taylor Dubbeldee



SW MN WELCA SYNOD CONVENTION

Saturday, May 4, 2024

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls

\$40.00 registration

Theme: Be the Light

Speaker: Aliyah Ewing, Terebinth Refuge

Worship, business, speakers, displays, fellowship

Contact Anne Isaackson for registration and information details

Registration deadline is April 21, but walk-ins are welcome

Affirmation of Baptism – May 5

Affirmation of Baptism Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, May 5. The following students are preparing for this Milestone Ministry day in their faith lives:

Lauren Boe

Grace Handeland

Laia Javens

Evelyn Keleher

Tovah Marczak

Mallory Pederson

Keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this special day in their lives





Baccalaureate Sunday – May 12

Baccalaureate for our graduating seniors will be on Sunday, May 12. On this day, they will receive their final Milestone Ministry gifts from the congregation. Please pray for the following students as they approach their graduation.

Kayleigh Albertson

Chase Hatfield

Whitney Lundberg

Sydney Pederson

Bridget Teske

Caitlyn Tusberg

There will be a time of refreshments following the worship service.

Prayer Requests

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:6-7 to, “*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*” Your prayers are a gift to those requesting them, and encouragement for one another as we experience challenges, sorrows, or thanksgivings of any kind.

Health Concerns, as well as Others In Our Hearts and On Our Minds: Erma Huso, Teri Kemmer, Linda Magnuson, Gary Morken, Brad Marks, Ione Olson, Linda Olson, Steve Pederson, Joyce Warnke

All those dealing with illness, addictions, depression, cancer, hunger, homelessness, unemployment, and any challenges in their lives. Areas at war: Ukraine and Israel.

Independent Living/Assisted Living/Care Center Residents/Homebound:

Darleen Cole, Jody Mohr, Donna Neuharth, Bobby Olson, Sonny and Ione Olson, Laurie Pickthorn, Steve Pederson, Margaret Rewerts, Jim Runholt, June Schwartz

Families of our Congregation:

Jeff and Lisa Varpness
Brian, Heather, Morgan, and Kendra Velde
Diane Wagner and Kevin Keefe

Grieving Families: The family of Alice Mackenzie (Kit’s mother)

Workers in Other Countries, Missionaries, and Local Congregation Missions:

Mfolozi Circuit and ELCSA, Robin’s Nest Children’s Home in Jamaica, Kikatiti Secondary School in Tanzania, and World Mission Prayer League (WMPL)

Seminarian: Katherine (Kit) Mackenzie

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