

Abide  
in my love

JOHN 15:9



## ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

“AmaZed by God, Energized by Jesus,  
a Grateful Zoar Gathers, Grows and Gives”

### Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 4, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 5, 2024 @ 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

#### WELCOME GUESTS!

*Welcome to Zoar Lutheran Church! We are delighted and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Zoar is a church called to proclaim the Risen Christ through Word and Sacrament. We pray that you have a meaningful worship experience, and we look forward to seeing you again. You are invited to become a part of the ministry that is Zoar. Please sign the welcome pad so we may acknowledge your visit.*

(Congregation please rise as you are able when indicated by the “\*”)

## **Introduction**

This Sunday’s image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John’s gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

## **Prelude**

### **Welcome and Prayer**

#### **\*Gathering Hymn**

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

ELW #836



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: Look, here is water!

**People: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Leader: 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!

**People: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Leader: 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.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: Look, here is water!

**People: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

## Apostolic Greeting

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

**People: And also with you.**



*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and

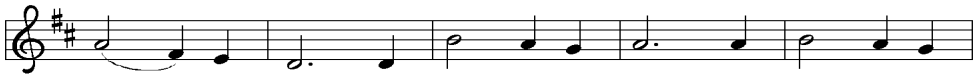


strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

### **Prayer of the Day**

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 may be seated.*

**Children's Message (11:00 am)** *Following the children's message, all 3 year old - 4<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to go downstairs for JAM time.*

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### **First Reading: Acts 10:44-48**

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>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, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Leader: Word of God, Word of Life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 98**

<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, re- | joice, and sing. R**

<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 peo- | ples with equity. **R**

### **Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6**

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

<sup>6</sup>This 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.

Leader: Word of God, Word of Life

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**Gospel: John 15:9-17**

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I 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. <sup>16</sup>You 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. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

Leader: The Gospel of Our Lord

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Congregation may be seated.*

**Sermon**

Pastor Melanie Forrey





1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine  
 2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn  
 3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,  
 4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,



and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
 and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
 shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear  
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
 true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,  
 no soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place



and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
 and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

## CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

### Presentation

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

I present Samuel, Jace, Chase, Kalleigh, and Aiden who *desire* to make public affirmation of *their* baptism..

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for *these sisters and brothers*, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.

You have called *them* to yourself, enlightened *them* with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished *them* in the community of faith.

Uphold your *servants* in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

## **Profession of Faith**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

## **Affirmation**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Confirmands: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support *these sisters and brothers* and continue praying for *them* in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.



**Laying on of Hands – families come forward when their child’s name is called and return to their seats after their child is blessed.**

*Confirmands turn to face the congregation.*

**Samuel Danford**

**Ephesians 6:11** Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.

**Jace Drummond**

**1 Timothy 4:12** Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.

**Chase Lenin**

**2 Corinthians 12:9** My grace is all you need, for my power is the greatest when you are weak.

**Kalleigh Rossbach**

**Psalms 139:16** You saw me before I was born, every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

**Aiden Scasny**

**Matthew 4:19** Come, follow me, Jesus said, and I will make you fish for people.

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

**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.**

**Confirmation Creed (written by 2024 confirmation class)**

**I believe in God, our protector and trusted heavenly parent, who created everyone and everything.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, the forgiver of all sins, the anointed one.**

**Who was born and raised a human while still fully divine.**

**Who suffered and died for us.**

**Who conquered death and returned to heaven as God.**

**Who will come again to make us whole.**

**I believe in the holy spirit, the dove that gathers us together, connects us with all people, bestows limitless mercy, makes us whole beyond death, to infinity and beyond. Amen.**

**Prayers of the Church**

**Leader:** God of Grace.

**People:** Hear our Prayer.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Leader:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** And also with you.

*Please greet one another with words of peace.*

Congregation may be seated.

## Announcements

## Offering

*Tithes and offerings are collected at this time.*

*Please sign and pass the pew pads during the offering and indicate whether you are receiving communion today. Please fill out the pew pads with your name along with all who are present with you today. For those who are visiting, please include your children's names and ages.*

## \*Offertory Prayer

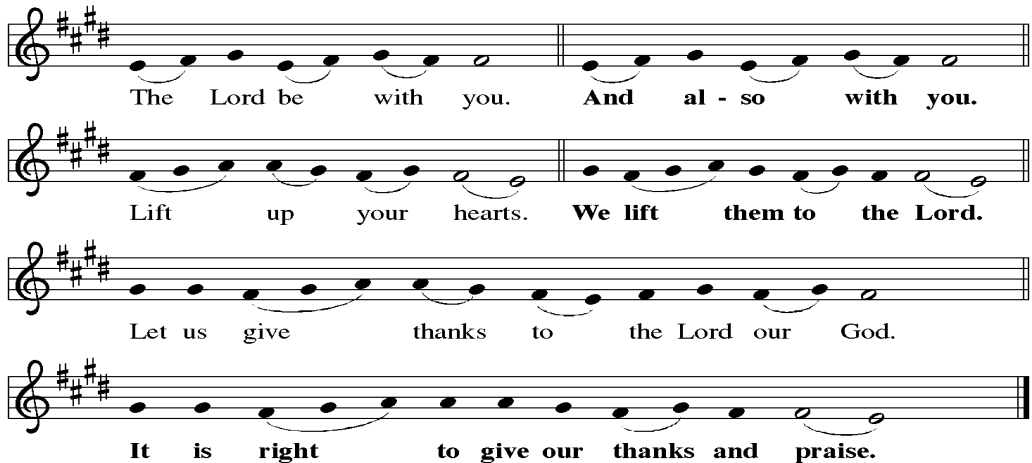
Risen One,

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



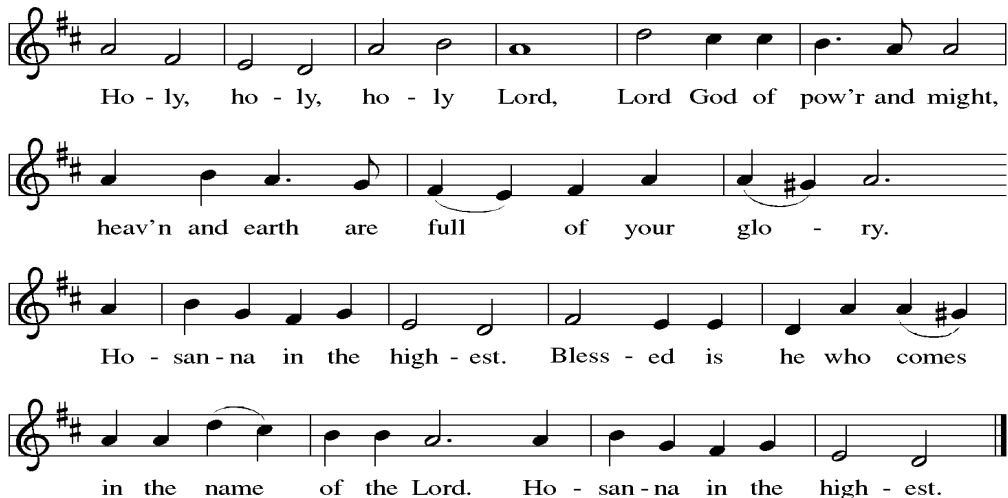
The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

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.**

Leader: It is our duty and delight.... we praise your name and join their unending hymn.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal...

...Together as the body of Christ,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,  
the first-born of your new creation.

We remember his life lived for others,  
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.

We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,  
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,  
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,  
whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love.

Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.

Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,  
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy and benevolent God,  
receive our praise and petitions,  
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,  
and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,  
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:  
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

**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.**

*Congregation may be seated.*

### **Sharing of Communion**

*Please follow the guidance of the ushers, who will direct worshippers beginning with the back rows. All who believe in the true presence of Christ in the bread and wine are welcome to share communion. In addition to red wine there is also a non-alcohol white grape juice available. Non-communicating children may come forward to receive a blessing.*

### **Invitation to Communion**

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

### **Music During Communion**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Thy Holy Wings*

ELW #613

### **\*Post Communion Blessing**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Leader: Shepherd 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.

People: Amen.

## Blessing

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **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.

People: **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

*We Know that Christ Is Raised*

ELW #449



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

## Dismissal

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

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## Postlude

# Join us in celebration on May 19!

## Breakfast in the FLC 8:30 AM



Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a hot breakfast & start the day in fellowship!

## One Service Sunday 10:00 AM

Worship with us!

During service we will be taking time to celebrate 2024 High School and Collegiate Graduates!



## COME GET Z'LIMED! approx. 11:15 AM

Come participate in a fun event that will help you learn more about Zoar's stained glass while you try to dodge the z'lime! (Don't worry parents, we will have clean up supplies on hand! Keep an eye on the Z-blast for event details!)

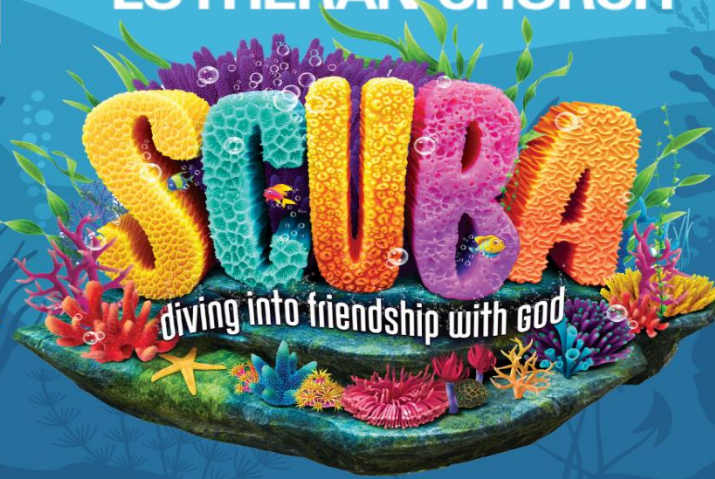


# ZOAR

LUTHERAN CHURCH

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 9TH-13TH



ALLERGY FRIENDLY FAMILY  
MEALS SERVED 5:00-5:45PM  
EACH NIGHT!

Pre-K and Me Programing  
from 5:45pm-7:00pm!  
Grown ups will stay with  
their pre-K kiddo for Bible  
stories, games, and crafts!

FREE T-SHIRT FOR EVERY  
REGISTERED PARTICIPANT  
AND VOLUNTEER!

Kindergarten thru 5th Grade Programming from 5:45pm-8:15pm!  
Join us for music, crafts, friendship, Bible stories, STEM, games, and more!

Youth in grades 6-12 and adults are needed to fill a variety of roles!  
Adults 18+ must pass background check before working with youth.

# WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEA YOU! REGISTER TODAY!





|                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Ministers                     | The People of Zoar |
| Senior Pastor                 | Paul Reichert      |
| Associate Pastor              | Melanie Forrey     |
| Director of Church Operations | Tracy Jahns        |
| Director of Music             | Jacob Henry        |
| Youth Director                | Corryn Short       |
| Communications                | Nicole Downey      |
| Secretary                     | Jodi Calkins       |
| Custodian                     | Paul Cannon        |

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