

Fifth Sunday in Easter

April 28th, 2024

9:30 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship



Atonement Lutheran Church

Invite • Prepare • Go into the World

1900 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY 14618

GATHERING

PRELUDE

A Vineyard Grows

-K. Lee Scott

***WELCOME**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of God the Father †, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Brothers and sisters,

God not only asks us to repent, but also assures us of forgiveness. Therefore, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Loving God,

We do not always keep your commandments. We fail to love you; we fail to love our neighbor. We have held grudges toward our enemies, and been self-serving in our relationships. Forgive us and lead us to genuine repentance. Wash us in the water of life that we may live again, through the mercy and grace of Jesus, our resurrected Savior. Amen.

God forgives, restores, and strengthens us through Christ. Know that you are pardoned and be at peace. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

All People That On Earth Do Dwell

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***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

And also with you.

** Please Stand As You Are Able*

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING *Acts 8:26-40*

A reading from the book of Acts.

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING *1 John 4:7-21*

A reading from first John

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

As the Grains of Wheat

465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

***HOLY GOSPEL**

John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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.”

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

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *O Blessed Spring*

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***NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our faith, and the faith of the Church, with the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS

Let us unite our hearts in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need:
God of resurrection, **Hear our prayer.**

As your Son promised to grant us whatever we ask in his name, grant that our ministry may testify to what we pray, showing forth your glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY MUSIC *This Little Light of Mine* -J. Helgen

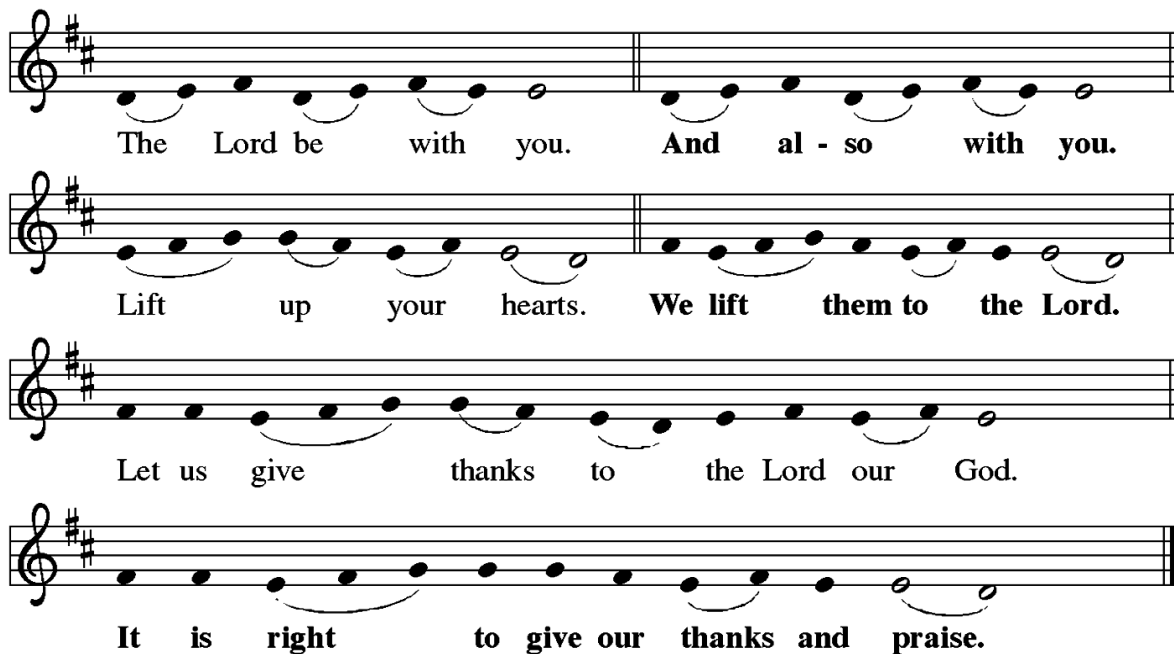
*Offering gifts are gratefully received
in the plates located near the sanctuary doors as you exit.*

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Almighty God,
Receive the gifts we bring- ourselves and the fruit of our labor- in gratitude for
your goodness to us and all the world; through the Risen One, Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

MEAL

*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.

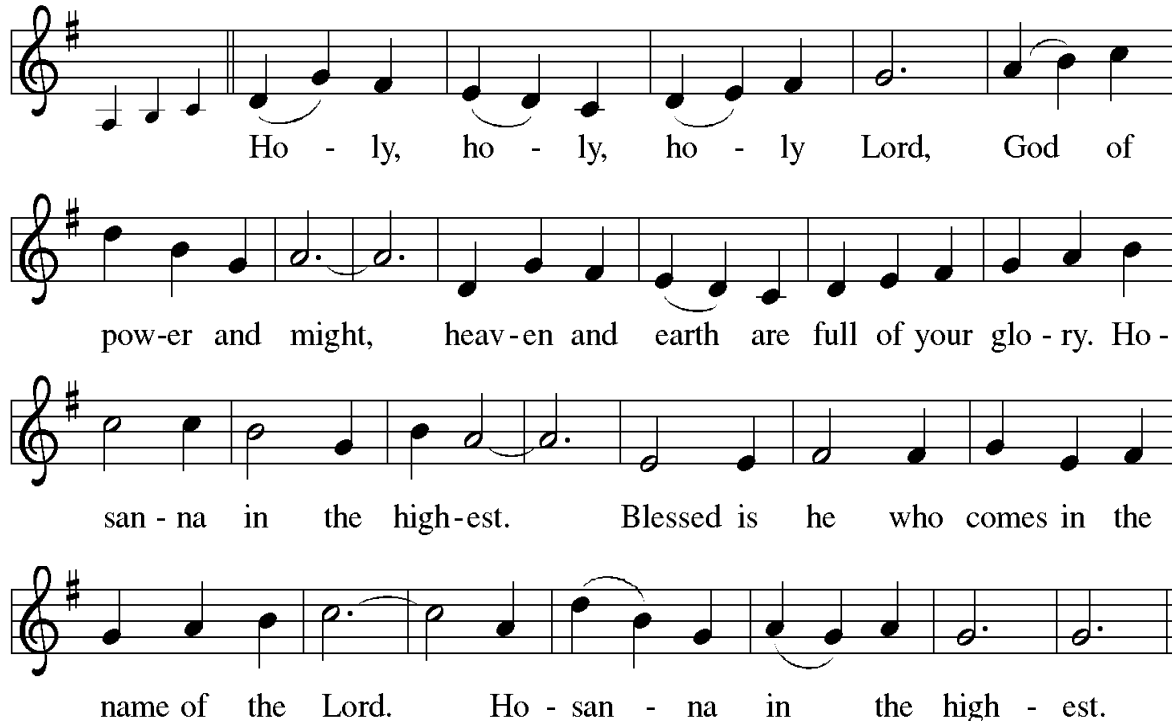
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PROPER PREFACE

.... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

.... We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

*LORD'S PRAYER

With all the saints in everlasting light, we pray;

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.

DISTRIBUTION

All are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, Christ's body and blood truly present in the bread and the wine.

~Come forward by the center aisle.

~Children are invited to come forward for a blessing.

~White grape juice and gluten-free wafers are also available.

~Dispose of the cup in the basket provided.

~Please tell an usher if you need communion elements brought to your pew.

SENDING

Gracious God,

In you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love through service, mercy, and compassion, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

May Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life, be with you.

May the Spirit empower you to serve in Christ's name.

May God † who raised Jesus from the dead, bless you and keep you forevermore. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

Now the Green Blade Rises

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***DISMISSAL**

Go forth in the name of the Risen Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

All People That On Earth Do Dwell

*The congregation is invited to remain for the postlude;
and following it, to respond with "Amen!"*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister	Kathy Wilkinson
Livestream Recorder	Dave Irish
Usher	Karan Thompson
Counters	Bryan Howe, Jim Krapf
Altar Care	Judy Lazenby, Jean Seager
Fellowship Host	The McGill Family

AN EASY WAY TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING

Scan this QR code with your smartphone's camera, -> tap on the link that pops up, and you will be taken directly to Atonement's giving website.



If your phone doesn't automatically scan the code, you may need to download a QR code reader app. Many are available for free in the Google Play or Apple App store. Please contact Lindee Krapf if you have any questions.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE/FELLOWSHIP HOUR

****TODAY* following worship***

Join us in Reissig Hall for beverages, snacks, and conversation.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Memorial Service will be held for Barb and Dick Fekete, parents of Karan Thompson, on **Saturday, May 4th at 1:00 p.m.** in the Chapel on the campus of St. Ann's Community (900 Cherry Ridge Blvd., Webster, NY). A reception will follow. All are invited to attend.

COME AND GROW WITH US!

Want to be a part of the garden at Atonement but don't have the time to make the trip? Would you like to help contribute to the produce that is given to the Pittsford Food Pantry but aren't sure of how? Telling yourself "I don't really have a green thumb?" *We've got you covered!*

Grow Bags, found in the Narthex, are cloth bags filled with soil that contain a plant or two, depending on the choice. When you sign up to participate (see the list near the bag) you'll receive a bag and the soil and a plant when it's time to plant. Simply take it home, water it, and follow the instructions. If you have any questions please see Lin or John Macholz.

More information coming about where to drop off the produce you have grown to be donated to the Pittsford Food Pantry.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORDANCIA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Presenting a concert of orchestral music, '*Frost and Forest*' **Sunday, April 28th** at **2:30 p.m.** at Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word, Rochester featuring the violinists/winners of the Nico Toscano Young Musicians Competition. Tickets are \$20/\$15 for Seniors & Students. **Sherry McCarthy will be performing with the Chamber Orchestra.*

SING-OUT TO BENEFIT CHILDREN'S CHARITY

Atonement member Sarah Darder will be performing with *Sing-Out*, a group of kids from all around Rochester that performs a Musical Revue to benefit children's charities. This year, proceeds will benefit *Dreams from Drake*.

Sing-Out 2024 "Go Big or Go Home!" will be held at the East Rochester High School Auditorium on **Friday, May 3rd** and **Saturday, May 4th** at **7:30 p.m.** \$12 for Adults/\$10 for Seniors & Students. Tickets are available at the door or online by scanning the QR code here >>.



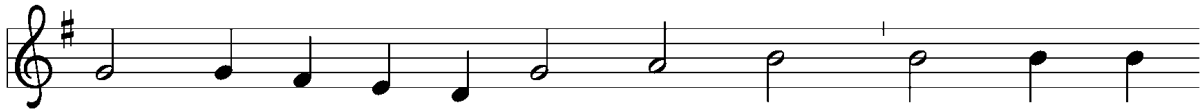
GREEN TIP

Choose daytime flights to lower the impact of aviation on climate change. According to a study conducted by the University of Leeds, night flights are twice as bad for the environment as day flights because airplanes' condensation trails (contrails) trap heat the same way clouds do. During the day, they reflect sunlight back into space and help keep the planet cool.



I am
the
vine
you
are the
branches

All People That on Earth Do Dwell



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our
3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
4 For why? The Lord our God is good: his mer - cy
5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
aid he did us make. We are his folk, he
joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times
heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the



praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - jice.
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.
an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

O Blessed Spring



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.

Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Atonement Lutheran Church

The Rev. Gail Swanson, Pastor

Email: pastorgails@aol.com

Office: (585) 442-1018

Cell: (614) 477-7863

David McCarthy, Director of Music Ministry

Becky R. Wiesmore, Administrative Assistant

Welcome to worship,

and a special welcome to those who are visiting with us today.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our congregation

or learning more about our ministries,

please speak to our Pastor.



MISSION STATEMENT

Atonement Lutheran Church is a gathering of God's people in Christ called to:

Invite all people into the presence of the living God,

Prepare for ministry in daily life and

Go into the world as disciples

Our Church Nursery is available
for parents to use with their children.

Thank you for joining us in worship today!

"You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you."

-John 15:3-4



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Follow us on Facebook: **fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch/**
Contact us via Email: **office@atonementrochester.org**
Call us via phone at: **(585) 442-1018**
Office hours: **9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tues~Wed~Thurs**