

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Crossroads (ELCA)**

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**Sunday, April 29, 2018**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Holy Communion**

*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 that we read of 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.*



LET YOUR GUARD DOWN,  
LET GOD IN,  
BE AMONG FRIENDS

## WELCOME . . .

We are privileged to have you as our guest in the Lord's house this morning. We pray that the time you share with us will be meaningful for you and that God will bless you through it. If you have a question that is not answered here, please don't hesitate to ask someone around you.

**Registry:** Please take time to complete the registry/attendance sheet found in the pew in the black folder at the center aisle. It is important to us that we know who is worshipping with us today. Thank you.

**Worship:** This booklet is our order of worship for today. Hymns are found in the "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" hymnals located in the racks on the back of the pew in front of you. Everything else is printed in this booklet.

Our worship includes **Holy Communion**. As Christians in the Lutheran heritage, we believe that our Lord Jesus is physically present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine we receive. However, if you believe that Jesus' body and blood were given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins, you are welcome to commune with us, regardless of your faith background. A white grape juice is available at the center of the tray for those who do not wish to receive wine.

If you desire to receive communion but are unable to

come forward to the communion rail, inform the usher of such and communion will be brought to you.

**. . . WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!**

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Ministers:	The people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church-Crossroads
Pastor:	Pastor Creighton
Greeters:	David and Wanda Siebert
Accompanist:	Andrea Westerfeld
Acolytes:	Brayden Siebert Jordan Thornsberry
Assisting Minister:	Gary Westerfeld
Reader:	Kathy Westerfeld
Communion Assistant:	Debbie Mack
Sound System:	Brandon Borgman
Offering Counters:	Les Kessens and Gene Krieger
Altar Committee:	Gary Westerfeld

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## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Just as God's work of creation never ends,  
so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day.  
Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.  
We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life:  
for water to bathe in, water to drink,  
for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder,  
for water that gives life to our planet.

**We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.**

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place:  
for water from our tap, for rain and snow,  
for our local watershed, all creeks, streams or tributaries  
that nourish us and this land.

**We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.**

We give you thanks for your salvation through water:  
for delivering Noah and his family through the  
floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the  
sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah  
through the time of drought, for guiding your people  
across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the  
Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

**We give you thanks for your salvation through water.**

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized,  
and for all who gather here;  
for godparents and baptismal sponsors,  
for children and grandchildren,  
for our brothers and sisters in Christ  
whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

**We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.**

We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters, for our new birth into a life of freedom and service, for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

**We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN:**

*Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing*      **ELW 389**

**GREETING**

*The presiding minister and assembly greet one another.*

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

**KYRIE**

ELW p. 138

*A Kyrie may be sung in dialogue between an assisting minister and the assembly.*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**♪Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**♪Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**♪Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**♪Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**♪Amen.**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

ELW p. 140

*A canticle of praise may be sung by all.*

**♪This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor,  
blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his  
reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

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.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **FIRST 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, the Ethiopian is baptized by Philip.*

A reading from the eighth chapter of Acts.

<sup>26</sup>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.) <sup>27</sup>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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his

chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>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.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>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?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>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.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31**

*The psalm is read responsively by verse.*

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

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May  
your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the  
LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, 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.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet  
unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## **SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21**

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say  
we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow  
Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be  
matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

A reading from the fourth chapter of 1 John.

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

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>The 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.**

## **CHOIR ANTHEM: *You Are Welcome Here***

*The assembly stands to acclaim the gospel.*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW p. 142

**♪Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **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 would bear fruit, for apart from him, they could do nothing.*

The holy gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If 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**

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Thine the Amen*      ELW 826**

## **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 OF INTERCESSION**

*The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer.*

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

For ministries that nurture faith formation. For missionaries and Bible study leaders. For those who are seeking, questioning, or curious. For seminarians,

campus ministers, and the newly baptized, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the beauty and health of the earth. For vineyards and orchards, groves and plains. For rain forests and arctic tundra. For volcanoes and mountains, hills and valleys. For oceans deep and rivers wide, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For spears to be beat into pruning hooks. For harsh words to be reformed into loving speech. For bombs and sniper attacks to cease. For justice and peace in every land, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For homeless youth and rejected children. For isolated grandparents and lonely nursing home residents. For the shamed, the slighted, and the disregarded members of our communities. For all the sick, especially those listed in the bulletin and prayer book, and those we name aloud or in our hearts at this time, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For all who live with post-traumatic stress disorder and postpartum depression. For all who struggle with eating disorders and anorexia. For all who suffer in silence and all who suffer alone, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for Catherine of Siena and all the mystics and theologians who live eternally with you. For those we mourn and those we would rather forget. For the kingdom on earth to be as it is in heaven, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray and all for whom we have forgotten or neglected to pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.*



# OFFERING SONG:

## *As the Grains of Wheat*

ELW 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.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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## OFFERING PRAYER

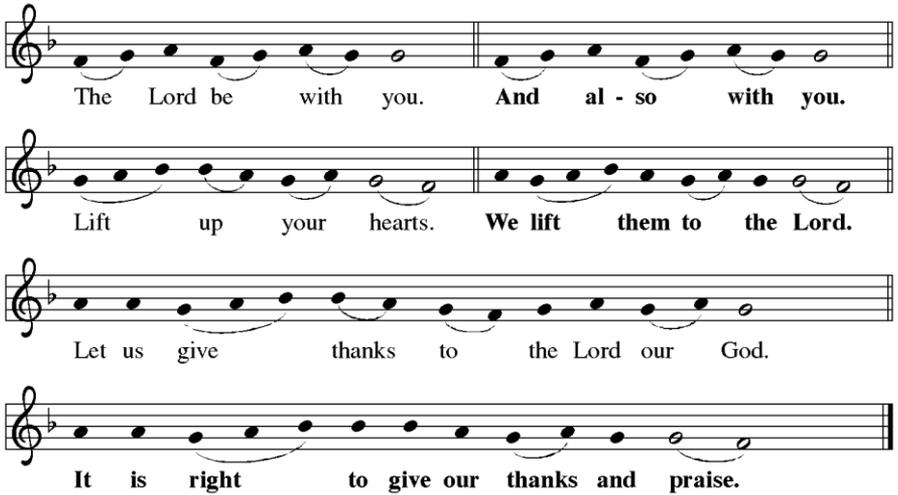
*After the table is set, the assisting minister leads a prayer.*

**Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,  
as you were made known to the disciples. Receive  
these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may  
be your risen body in the world. Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

ELW p. 144

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*



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.

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...  
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 144

**♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*The presiding minister continues.*

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God,  
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
So that everyone who believes in him may not perish but  
have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to  
fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things  
for our salvation.

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.

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

## **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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly in invitation.*

*The assembly is seated.*

*All are welcome at Christ's table! If you are a visitor and receive communion at your home church, you are invited to do so here. Everyone is invited to receive communion or a blessing.*

## **COMMUNION SONG**

ELW p. 146

**♪Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.**

## COMMUNION

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and each person may respond Amen.*

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

*After Holy Communion has been distributed, the assembly stands and the presiding minister may say:*

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

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION:

**ELW 207**

### Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let  
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927  
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## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

*The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer after communion.*

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessings.*

May the strength of God pilot us.

May the power of God preserve us.

May the wisdom of God instruct us.

May the hand of God protect us.

May the way of God direct us.

May the shield of God defend us.

May the host of God guard us against all evil and the temptations of the world.

May Christ be with you, Christ before you,  
Christ in you, Christ over you.

May Almighty God, Father + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG:**

*God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

**ELW 536**

## DISMISSAL

*The assisting minister may address the assembly.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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### **We remember in Prayer:**

Carol Bergman	Don Duval	Mikayla Siebert
Todd Siebert	Macy Young	Sarajane Wilson
Art and Karen Salvitti	Marlin and Julia Siebert	

Family and Friends of Robert Kuntz (Ginny Low's uncle)  
Tucker (infant brother of Michelle Wehr's student)

Bekah Netherton (daughter of Debbie Mack's friend)

Lois Bastien Brown (Tim Salvitti's grandmother-in-law)

Ruth Booster (wife of former pastor)

Melody Briner (Marilyn Gausman's daughter)

Marie Dierckman (Ginny Low's mother)

Louise Eads (Michelle Wehr's grandmother)

Bonnie Haughn (Sabrina Salvitti Haughn's mother-in-law)

Leonard (husband of Lisa Gausman's friend)

George Lerose (Art Salvitti's brother-in-law)

Tessa Mayer (wife of Wanda Siebert's principal)

Ronnie Nicholson (Darrell's brother)

Barry Norman (Lisa Gausman's former principal)

Carol Rayve and Ron Price (Karen Salvitti's mother and friend)

Ted Rayve (Karen Salvitti's brother)



**Wednesday –**

2<sup>nd</sup> year confirmation class 6:30 -8:00 PM  
Choir practice 7:30 PM

**Thursday –**

Batesville Area Ministerial meeting 1:30 PM

**Sunday -**

Sunday School 9:00 AM  
Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

*Worship Assistants for May 6<sup>th</sup>:*

Greeters: Andy and Amy Jo Siebert  
Accompanist: Andrea Westerfeld  
Acolytes: Cole Rippetoe and Lexi Allison  
Assisting Minister: Kathy Westerfeld  
Reader: Alvin Harmeyer  
Communion Asst.: Darrell Nicholson  
Sound System: Adam Mack  
Offering Counters: Dennis Westerfeld, Gary Westerfeld

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