



Fifth Sunday of Easter
Creation Care Sunday
May 2, 2021 | 8 a.m. (Courtyard) and 10:30 a.m. (Livestreamed)

Setting 3, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*


LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Worship | Grow | Go

***Welcome to worship!** As we worship this morning we celebrate the good gift of God's Creation. This year, Earth Day (April 22) coincides with the joy of Easter and reminds us that we are caretakers of the new life God provides in the world around us.*

Congregational singing is not advised as of yet. Please listen to AVE during the liturgy and hymns as we worship together. You are welcome to hum along. It is anticipated that this restriction will end once a larger percentage of people are vaccinated in the community.

Prelude

"Berceuse" —Louis Vierne
Daniel Romero, organ

Welcome

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!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with your mercy.

The love of Christ brings healing, hope, and new life. May we be strengthened with these gifts on our journey, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. ✠ **Amen.**

Gathering Song

ELW 835: All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth - ful, strong; drive far the shad - ows, join the
 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
 grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
 Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
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Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The joy and peace of God be with you all.

And also with you.

Canticle of Praise

Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



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

Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



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

Refrain

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

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

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.

First Reading

Acts 8:26–40

A reading from 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.

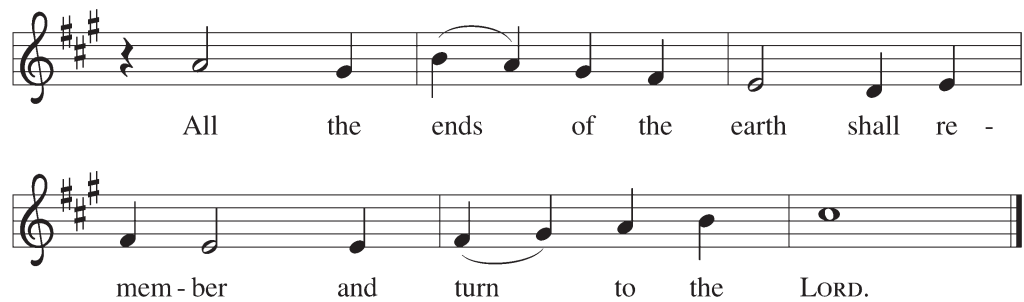
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 22:25–31

The refrain will be sung first by the cantor, then by the assembly, and again by the assembly after the verses as indicated.

Refrain:



Psalm 22:27

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.
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²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶The 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.

²⁸For dominion belongs | to the LORD,

who rules o- | ver the nations. *Refrain*

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 be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,

whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people | yet unborn,

saying to them, “The | LORD has acted!” *Refrain*

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



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

Pastor Ann Hultquist

Hymn of the Day

Gather 699: We Have Been Told

Refrain

We have been told, we've seen his face, and
 heard his voice a - live in our hearts;
 "Live in my love with all your heart,
 as the Fa - ther has loved me, so I have loved
 you."

1.- 3. To verses 4.

Verse 1

1. "I am the vine, you are the branch-es, and
 all who live in me will bear great fruit." D.C.

Verses 2, 3

2. "You are my friends, if you keep my com - mands,
 3. "No great-er love is there than this: to
 no long - er slaves, I call you friends."
 lay down one's life, for a friend." D.C.

Text: David Haas, b.1957
 Tune: David Haas, b.1957; vocal arr. by David Haas, b.1957, Marty Haugen, b.1950
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Creed

Pastor: People of God, we are shaped by God's creative,
redeeming, and sustaining power:

We believe God creates:

Assembly: God spoke.

**Light and darkness; heaven and earth;
land, sea and plants; sun, moon and stars;
fish and birds and animals came to be.**

God spoke and made us.

**God gave us responsibility to care for creation,
and all that God created is good.**

Pastor: We believe God redeems:

**Assembly: God spoke in the living Word, Jesus Christ.
Christ died to reclaim us from our brokenness
and to lavish grace on all humanity.
Jesus rose from death,
giving us new hope for life lived in harmony
with God, creation, and one another.**

Pastor: We believe God re-creates:

**Assembly: The Holy Spirit calls us, gathers us and enlivens our faith.
The Spirit cultivates in us love for creation,
moves us to care for one another,
and for the world God made with tenderness and love. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Peace

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

Offering

"Thou Art the Vine" —Andrew Carter
AVE

Thou art the vine,
we are the branches and are thine; thou art the vine,
and we are part in your design: Alleluia!

Thou art the root,
and we the tendrils and the shoot; thou art the root,
and we the tenders of the fruit: Alleluia!

God give us grace within this place to grow anew in all things true: Alleluia.
Our voices raise in endless praise: Alleluia.

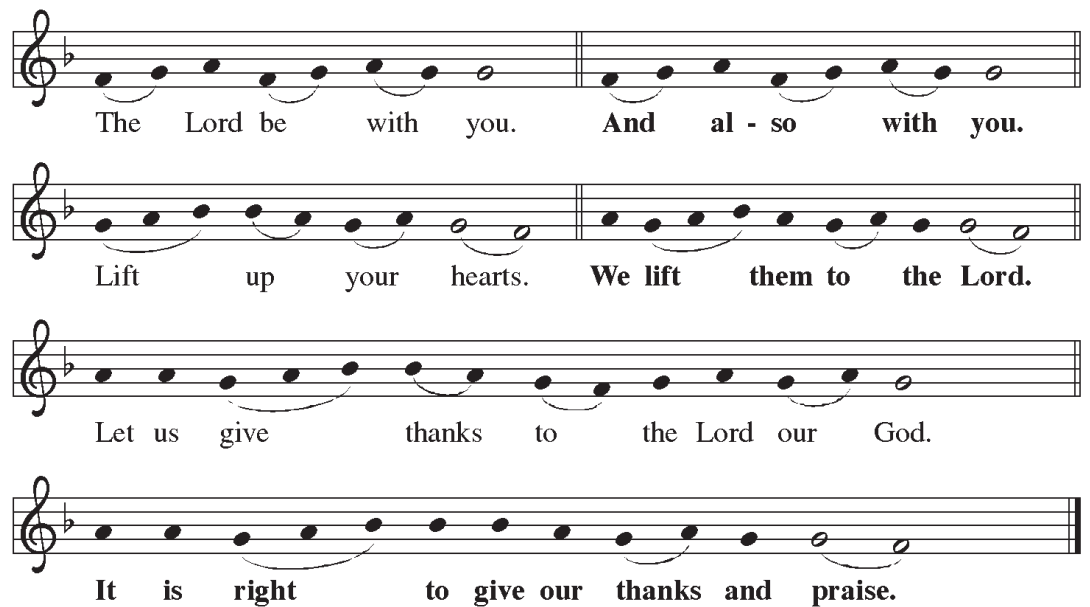
Thou art the vine,
thou art the living bread and wine; thou art the vine,
to sing your praise our hearts combine: Alleluia!

Thou art the life, of every tree; come, Holy Lord, and spring in me: Alleluia.
May nature's voice with us rejoice: Alleluia.

Offertory Prayer

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving



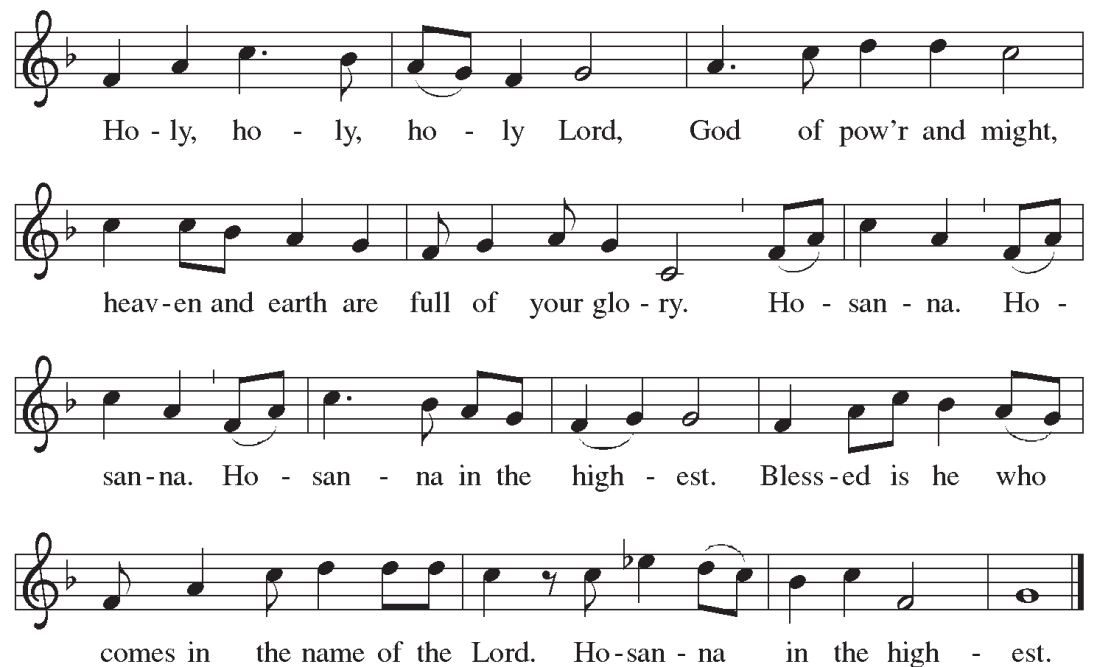
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

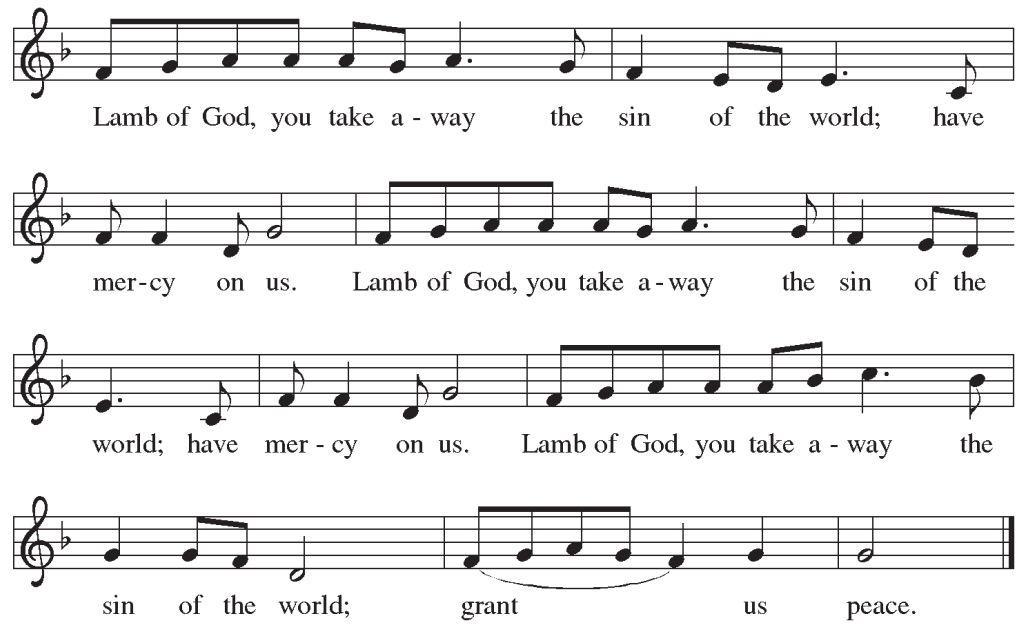
Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.
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.
O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the Body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth burning with justice, peace, and love.
We praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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.**

Holy Communion

We are connected by the Holy Spirit to God and to each other across time and place through our baptisms. In this same Spirit, we share bread and wine with confidence in Christ's real presence with us in the sacrament of Holy Communion. If you are worshiping with us on livestream, you may use bread or crackers and wine or juice from your home. We invite you to share this bread of life and cup of blessing as we all are one in Christ. We will receive Communion together after the singing of the Lamb of God.



Prayer after Communion

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song

ELW 879: For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

“For the Beauty of the Earth” –Craig Phillips
Daniel Romero, organ

Welcome!

- To download a copy of today's sermon, visit Augustana's website, www.augustanadenver.org, and click on [Online Worship/Devotions](#).
- Secure online gifts may be made through the [Giving page at Augustana's website, www.augustanadenver.org](#). You can also text message your offering to 303-653-9592.

Mission Statement

Celebrating God's grace, we welcome everyone to worship Jesus, grow in faith, and go serve in the world.

Worship Ministries

Altar Guild (May): Venus Conklin, Sonja Engebretson

Check-in: Jayme Howard

Reader/Prayers: Mark Caldwell

Communion Preparation: Venus Conklin

Staff

Senior Pastor: Ann Hultquist

Pastor: Caitlin Trussell

Director of Youth and Family Ministry:

Shanna VanderWel

Nursery Director: Amy Hamik

Faith Community Nurse: Sue Ann Glusenkamp

Minister of Music and Organist: Daniel Romero

AVE: Emily Murdock, Leslie Remmert Soich,

Blake Nawa'a, Keith Williamson

Choristers and Cantabile Director: Angela Howard

Finance Administrator: Lisa Mikolajczak

Publications Administrator: Lyn Goodrum

Administrator of Volunteer Ministry and Building Use:

Julie MacDougall

Livestream Technician: Emily Friesen

Building and Grounds Manager: Asmir Hodzic

Custodian: Andrija Malbasa

Wedding Coordinators: Ellen Kastens, Amy Tamminga,

Erin Saboe Willoughby

Augustana Early Learning Center Director:

Wendie Edwards

President of the Congregation: Michael Zumwalt

Sunday Worship—In-Person or Livestreamed

Join Augustana on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/augustanadenver/) or YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8QQ4ybjC4GuBH_mdVVRcdA) for worship livestreamed every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Visit Augustana's website (www.augustanadenver.org) for downloadable worship resources and past worship videos.

Please visit www.augustanadenver.org/worship/ for news and registration for **in-person worship** starting in May!

Faith Formation for Children and Youth

Faith Formation for grades PreK–12 will meet under the tent in Augustana's Courtyard, 9:15–10 a.m. on Sundays through May 16, 2021, except for grades 5 and 6 which will continue to meet via Zoom.

Online Coffee Hour

Join us for coffee and conversation via Zoom, Sundays, 10–10:30 a.m. [Sign up here](#) to access the Zoom link through our weekly email, the Augustana ePistle.

Listen to Dial-a-Care!

Listen to a 3-minute devotion recorded daily by Augustana staff and members (303-996-2733).



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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