



**Fifth Sunday of Easter
Rachel's Day**

May 2, 2021
9:30am Livestream

St. Luke Lutheran Church
4595 SW California St.
Portland, OR 97219
(503) 246-2325

Gathering

Prelude: "Petit Prelude" by Joseph Jongen Tom Skyler, organ

Welcome (Announcements) Pastor Beth Brashear

Rite of Holy Baptism

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to a new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Presentation

Chelsey Alberts and the Tuttle Family: **We present Katherine Eve Tuttle for baptism.**

As you bring your Katherine to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

- To live with her among God's faithful people,
- To bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
- To place in her hands the holy scriptures,
- To nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your daughters grow in the Christian faith and life?

Family: **We do.**

Chelsey, as sponsor for Katherine do you promise to nurture her in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

We do.

People of God, do you promise to support Katherine and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

We do.

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? **We renounce them.**
- Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? **We renounce them.**
- Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? **We renounce them.**

And now we also invite those who are gathered online to join us in professing our shared faith: Do you believe in God the Father? **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in 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.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for how in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Baptism of Katherine Eve Tuttle

Katherine Eve Tuttle, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

[Laying on of Hands] Let us pray. Sustain Katherine with the gift of your Holy Spirit; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Katherine Eve, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.** *[Oil is used to make the sign of the cross]*

[A candle is lit representing Katherine's new life that comes from Christ Jesus.]

Chelsey Alberts: **Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

Apostolic Greeting

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.**

Explanation of Rachel's Day

Rachel's Day began with women of Bethel Lutheran Church in the west side of Chicago created a memorial garden for the families of children who had died due to gun violence. At their Triennial Convention in 1996, Women of the ELCA passed a resolution to set aside "the first Sunday in May each year as Rachel's Day, based on Jeremiah 31:15–17 wherein Rachel grieved for her children, to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of evil and fear that plague our nation."

Rachel's Day Litany

Melody Drangstveit & Chris Ulmer, Leaders

A voice: I weep for our children who are no more.

A voice: I weep for our parents who grieve.

A voice: I weep for our families forced to grieve.

A voice: I weep for our cities and towns torn by gun violence and terror.

A voice: I weep.

All: We refuse to be consoled.

A voice: I cry out for justice for our children. **All: We refuse to be defeated.**
A voice: I cry out for tranquility for our parents. **All: We refuse to be defeated.**
A voice: I cry out for peace in our cities and towns. **All: We refuse to be defeated.**
A voice: I pray for hope! **All: We pray for hope!**
A voice: I act for peace! **All: We act for peace!**
A voice: I work for justice! **All: We work for justice!**

The Word

Gathering Hymn:

"Praise the Lord! O Heavens"

Red book No. **823**

Praise the Lord! O heav'ns adore him; praise him, angels, in the height; sun and moon, rejoice before him; praise him, gleaming stars and light. Praise the Lord, for he has spoken; worlds his mighty voice obeyed; laws which never shall be broken for their guidance he has made.

Praise the Lord, for he is gracious; never shall his promise fail. God has made his saints victorious; sin and death shall not prevail. Praise the God of our salvation; hosts on high, his pow'r proclaim; heav'n and earth, and all creation, laud and magnify his name!

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Madison Reed, reader

²⁶ Then 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.) ²⁷ 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 ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² 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.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

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

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

Nadege Adibonou, reader

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

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

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation:

“He is Lord” by Stuart Townend

Modern Worship Team

Gospel: John 15:1-8

Pastor Beth Brashear

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My 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 Beth Brashear

Anthem:

"A Place Called Home" music *Finlandia* by Jean Sibelius, lyrics by Michael Joncas

Modern Worship Team: Kendall Cunningham-Parmeter, Tom Lynham, Jim and Deb Steele,
Lee Welch, Molly Wheeler

Prayers of the Church

Prayer Leader: Marilyn Hudson

Music: Dan Hibbett

Prayer Chorus:

"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!"

Red Book No. **377**

"Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Give God the glory! Alleluia!"

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sending:

Ministry Opportunities:

Connect:

Coffee Time today at 10:30 – a continuation of Rachel's Day: join Women of St. Luke and panel of experts Kendall Cunningham-Parmeter, Karen Stabeno, and Dr. Sue Skinner as we learn more about how the pandemic has impacted domestic violence – and how we can help children and their families to be healthy.

Women of St. Luke Gather Magazine Bible Studies:

- Every Women's Evening – Sunday, May 2 at 6:30pm

<https://pdx.zoom.us/j/8376302680>

- All Circles' Study – Monday, May 3 at 9:30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4386280314?pwd=TWkzWkFMalhFc3JiUmpVcFQzYkJhdz09>

Meeting ID: 438 628 0314

Passcode: Sarah

In-person worship resumes next Sunday, May 9! This time next week, we will venture into hybrid worship: both gathering in-person and livestreaming the gathering.

Serve: Beginning next Sunday, we will have opportunities to serve in worship: an usher, a sanitation attendant, a reader, or our Communion ministries. Check out the Messenger or the Weekly Update for details.

Benediction

Sending Song: "Alleluia! Praise the Risen Lord" by Lloyd Larson Virtual Rejoice Choir
(congregation sing with the choir on the following text:)

**The day of resurrection! Earth tell it out abroad; the passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to live eternal, from earth unto the sky, our Christ has brought us over
with hymns, hymns of victory!**

Postlude: "All Creatures of Our God and King" (Geistliche Kirchengesänge) arr. Sherrill Kelsey
Molly Wheeler, piano

Flowers at the altar are gifted in Memory of Luz Velarde, mother of Debora Babb

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Ideas for Observing Rachel's Day

Rachel's Day began in one Lutheran congregation in the Chicago Metropolitan Synodical Women's Organization when concerned women at Bethel Lutheran Church stood up for children at risk for violence. In a neighborhood where violence and insecurity were all too well known, these women chose to act boldly for children and offer hope. The effort then spread to the synodical women's organization and ultimately to the churchwide women's organization where the first Sunday in May was established as Rachel's Day by delegates to the Women Lutheran of the ELCA Triennial Convention.

What can I do?

- Pray. Pray. Pray for children — all children — and the adults who care for them.
- Be positive with all children in your life.
- Wear the blue ribbon of hope on Rachel's Day. Blue is the color used in Advent. The color represents hope.
- Make a donation of tangible items — such as sports equipment, books, bedding, clothing, and so forth — to a local shelter, youth center, hospital or other agency that supports children at risk.
- Post the phone numbers of crisis center hot lines or other phone services for children in your workplace common areas and restrooms.
- Attend the Coffee Time Forum today at 10:30am.