



**Come to Believe † Come to Belong**  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
April 28, 2024

**PRELUDE**

Rob Aaron

*“Come to believe, Come to belong, Come to receive, the promise of God”*

P) Alleluia! Christ is risen!    C) **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence for self-reflection)*

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

“Alleluia! Jesus is Risen”



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent;  
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
Cher - u - bim sing: “O grave, be o - pen!”  
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



*Refrain*  
Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

## 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.**

# KYRIE (Lord, Have Mercy)

Leader  
In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have  
For the reign of God, and for  
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the  
Lord. For your  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

*Refrain*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

*Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of

God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray together: **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.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM

*“In Christ Alone”*

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

### FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent,  
so he opens not 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> And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup> And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup> And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 22:25-31

<sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
**my vows I will perform before those who fear him.**

<sup>26</sup> The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;  
**those who seek him shall praise the LORD!**  
**May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the LORD,  
**and all the families of the nations**  
**shall worship before you.**

<sup>28</sup> For kingship belongs to the LORD,  
**and he rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup> All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;  
**before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,**  
**even the one who could not keep himself alive.**

<sup>30</sup> Posterity shall serve him;  
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

<sup>31</sup> **they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,**  
**that he has done it.**

## SECOND READING

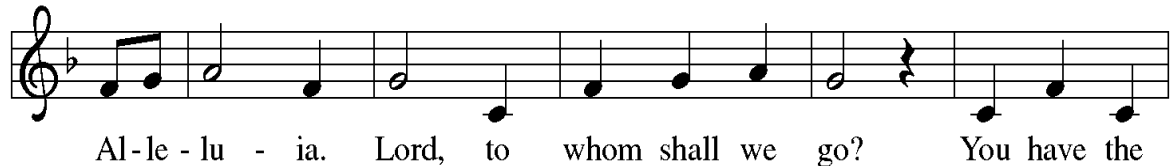
1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that 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 have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides 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 testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup> By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also 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 been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



**GOSPEL**

John 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord!**

<sup>8</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. 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. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ!**

**SERMON**

Pastor Gary Heltsley

**SERMON NOTES**

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## HYMN OF THE DAY

### *“Be Thou My Vision”*



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,  
thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
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. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P) Let us pray to our risen Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people.

*A brief silence*

Lord Jesus, thank you for grafting us to yourself, the Living Vine. Give us courage: your Father's pruning shears frighten us at times! Give us faith: he prunes us to bear much fruit in you! Give us love: it is the sweetest fruit of your blessed vine.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

You are the vine, and we are the branches. Keep this congregation united in you. Make our ministries bear fruit in the lives of those around us. Give us joy in knowing and serving you.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Prune the hearts of our earthly rulers. Cut away the greed, pride, and lust for power that leads to hatred and violence. Build up all that enriches the lives of the poor and humble. Let the desire to do your Father's will abide in all our hearts and minds.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

You have overcome the world. Be the joy and strength of all those who defend us against violence, sickness, and injustice. Protect and guide them. Prosper all they do that works for peace and health. Bring them home safely and soon.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Grant healing to all who are suffering in mind, body, and spirit, especially those we name out loud or silently in our hearts (*allow time for silent and spoken prayers*). Fill them with your life. Keep them steadfast in faith. Bless and strengthen all who care for them.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Lord Jesus, death shall never have the last word over your beloved people. Thank you for speaking words of forgiveness and life to all who have died trusting in you. Abide with us. Lead us to that place where we shall dwell with you and with all the redeemed, and shall feast at your heavenly table forever.  
Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

P) Grant to us everything that is in accordance with your will, dear Jesus, and accomplish your salvation among us; for you are risen from the dead and dwell in majesty with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



## SHARING OF THE PEACE

### OFFERING

**OFFERTORY** *Doxology*  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**  
**praise him, all creatures here below;**  
**praise him above, ye heav'nly host;**  
**praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A-men**

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together...

**Loving God, we give you thanks for the generous gifts you have first given us.**  
**May that which we offer to you, come joyfully from our hearts and be pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

### DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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 Him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right... 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, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Sung*)

*Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our  
 debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is  
 the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** – We believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine/juice, which are his body and blood. All are welcome at the Lord's Table (*the red liquid is wine; the white liquid is grape juice*).

"Lamb of God"

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, Lamb of God.

"I Surrender All"

- 1 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, all to him I free - ly give;
- 2 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, hum - bly at his feet I bow;
- 3 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, Lord, I give my - self to thee;

I will ev - er love and trust him, in his pres - ence dai - ly live.  
world - ly plea - sures all for - sak - en, take me, Jes - sus, take me now.  
fill me with thy love and pow - er, let thy bless - ings fall on me.

*Refrain*

I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all,

all to thee, my bless - ed Sav - ior, I sur - ren - der all.

*"Come, Let Us Eat"*



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,  
2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,  
3 In . . . his pres - ence now we meet and rest,  
4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.  
in . . . his pres - ence now we meet and rest.  
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,  
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,  
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,  
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.  
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.  
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.  
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

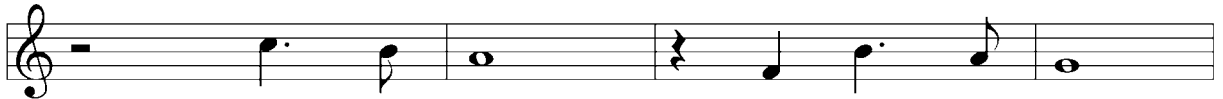
*"Emmanuel" (x2)*



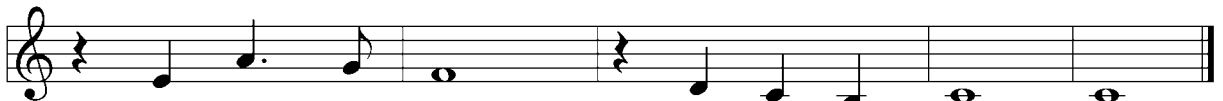
Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,



his name is called Em - man - u - el;



God with us, re - vealed in us;



his name is called Em - man - u - el.

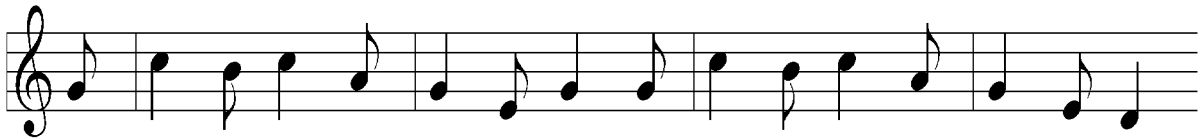
*"Sweet Hour of Prayer"*



1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care,  
2 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, thy wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear  
3 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, may I thy con - so - la - tion share,



and bids me at my Fa-ther's throne make all my wants and wish-es known.  
to him whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless;  
till from Mount Pis - gah's loft - y height I view my home and take my flight.



In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief my soul has of - ten found re - lief.  
and since he bids me seek his face, be - lieve his word and trust his grace,  
With joy I'll has - ten to the place where God my Sav - ior shows his face,



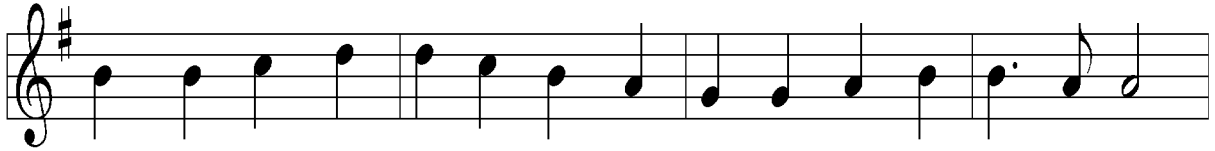
and oft es-caped the tempt-er's snare by thy re - turn, sweet hour of prayer.  
I'll cast on him my ev - 'ry care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.  
and glad - ly take my sta - tion there, thy prom - ise gained, sweet hour of prayer.

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING and PRAYER**

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

Let us pray together...**We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you, and in fervent love toward one another, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG***“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”*

- 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!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**



Rob Aaron – piano ~ Nancy Martin – choir director  
Pr. Gary Heltsley – presiding

### **TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**Greeters:** Dave & Mary Severeid

**Ushers:** Howard & Jan Thomke

**Reader:** Sandi Fleury

**Barista:** Barb Evans

**Sacristans:** Patty Rogers & Janet Wright

**Communion Assistants:** Dixie Carver & Virginia Eastman

**Altar Flowers:** Jerry Joaquin

**Close Up:** Robert Johnson

**Last Week's Attendance:** 79    **Last Week's Offering:** \$1,895.00

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome to North Bay Lutheran Community Church!** We hope you are blessed today as we worship the Lord together. If you are a visitor, please feel free to fill out an attendance card located in the slot in front of you and drop it in the offering plate. We also invite you to stay for fellowship following our service. We are glad that you're here!

**Fellowship Time Today** – *Breakfast Sunday. May 5<sup>th</sup>: May Birthday Celebrations* (cake provided by NBLCC).

**Neighborhood Bible Study** will meet on **Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>** at 12:45pm. For more information, please contact Sue Nichols at 360-277-3414.

**Dementia Support Group** will meet on **Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>** at 10:00 am. For more information, please contact Patty at 360-271-0055 (C) or 360-275-3939 (H), or email at palmcanal@hotmail.com.

**Women of North Bay.** May is the month when we traditionally honor motherhood. We all have women in our lives, moms, grandmas, or others who have loved and nurtured us and shared their wisdom with us. Join us on **Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 10:00 am to celebrate the blessings of these “moms” in our lives. Please bring a photo to share of your mom or mom figure. We will continue to collect non-food items for the food bank. As always, invite a friend to join the fun. RSVP's to Cathy Moen are very helpful:  
(360) 275-6757 or [cathy-mm@wavecable.com](mailto:cathy-mm@wavecable.com).

**Men's Bible Study** will meet on **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00 am as we continue our study of the Gospel of Luke.

**Church Directory** – Today is the last day to submit any additions, changes, or corrections for the re-print of the NBLCC telephone/address directory. Please let the office know if you would like to be added to the directory or if you have any changes that need to be made. Blue directory forms are available on the table outside the office, or you can submit your changes on the yellow communication cards that are located in the pews.

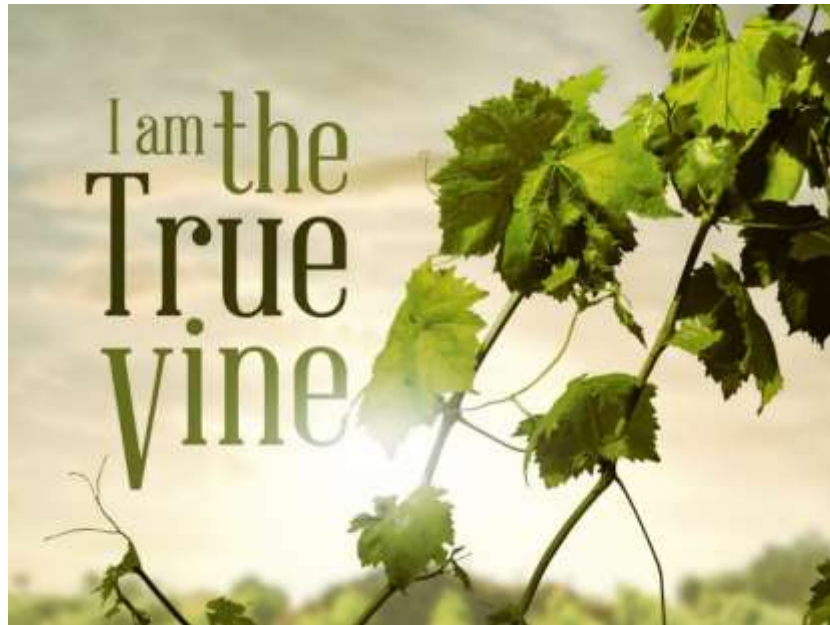
**Office Hours** this week are 9:00 am to 1:00 pm – Monday through Friday.

**Pastor Gary** will be in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30 am until noon.

**Prayers** – Please call the church line with your prayer requests, or if you need pastoral care (360) 275-3390.

**READINGS FOR MAY 5, 2024**

Acts 10:44-48 ~ Psalm 98 ~ 1 John 5:1-6 ~ John 15:9-17



**NORTH BAY LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
PO Box 1643 - 221 E Lakeland Dr. - Allyn, WA 98524  
Phone: (360) 275-3390  
Email: [office@northbaylutheran.org](mailto:office@northbaylutheran.org)  
Web site: [www.NorthBayLutheran.org](http://www.NorthBayLutheran.org)