

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SATURDAY, April 27, 2024 5:00 PM

SUNDAY, April 28, 2024 8:30 AM

REV. MATTHEW CLARK

Senior Pastor

REV. MATTHEW KOBS

Assistant Pastor

GABE MAICHEL

Director of Music

MEGAN ENDERLE

Administrative Assistant

PAMELA FOX

Office Manager

VICAR JOHN GURUNG

Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology

GAGAN GURUNG

Nepali Evangelist

KATHY THIES

Housekeeper

GEORGE LLUKA

Maintenance Technician

CLAUDIA SEIFERT

Parish Librarian



Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Word of Life Lutheran School

LOVED BY CHRIST

SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE

WEEKEND WORSHIP TIMES

5:00 pm Saturday Worship

8:30 am Sunday Worship

9:45 am Sunday School and Bible Class

11:00 am Sunday Worship (Contemporary Music)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 27 & 28, 2024

5:00 PM & 8:30 AM

AS WE GATHER

When Jesus uses the image of the vine and speaks of vineyards, He is choosing something very familiar to His hearers. Viticulture is well known around the world. More than eighteen million acres worldwide is used for growing grapes—from Panama to Tajikistan to Zimbabwe! Today, the cultivation of vineyards is still an important agricultural component in both Israel and the Jordan, lands where Jesus walked and taught. Life in the vineyard is vital! As branches grafted to the Vine that is Christ, we are vitalized by His power. As we worship, God's life-supporting power infuses us! It is time to continue growing!

PRELUDE

Organ

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

PRESENTATION ON WORD OF LIFE ENDOWMENT FUND

OPENING HYMN: GOD'S OWN CHILD, I GLADLY SAY IT

LSB 594

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (5:00 PM)

Carter James Grote

(The Order for Holy Baptism can be found on page 268 of the Lutheran Service Book)

(Please Stand)

INVOCATION *Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.

- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(or)

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *John 1:12; Philipians 1:6*

C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE AND SING

LSB 475 vs. 1 & 3



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice and sing! Now is the tri-umph
3 Praise we in songs of vic-to-ry That love, that life which



of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
can-not die, And sing with hearts up-lift-ed high:



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

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SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(Please Be Seated)

✝ WORD ✝

FIRST READING Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An 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. ²⁷And 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 ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And 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?" ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And 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. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 John 4:1-11

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In 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. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



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



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

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

HOLY GOSPEL *John 15:1-8*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶If 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. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED (8:30 AM)

- C** **I believe in God,**
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ,
His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

(Please Be Seated)

I am Jesus' little lamb. Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my need and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same,
Even calls me by my name.

HYMN OF THE DAY: WE KNOW THAT CHRIST IS RAISED

LSB 603

SERMON

SHARING OF CONFIRMATION VERSE FAITH STATEMENTS

Marianne Blank 1 Peter 1:8-9

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Olivia Cosentino Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Noah Maxfield Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Emma Nickolotsky Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

(Please Stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Please see the News & Notes for a listing of those we are praying for by name)

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Heavenly Father, You have grafted us onto the vine of Your Son. Prune us and cut off from us all sin and dead works, that we may always draw life from Your Son and produce the fruits of faith and good works. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful God, You hear and answer Your children in their hour of need. [*Give aid to _____.*] Grant that they would bear their crosses with faith, ever looking to You, and so fix their hearts where true joy is found. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

(Special Petitions)

P Holy Father, You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Hear and answer our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, and Your saints shall bless You; for You live and reign with the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

(Please Be Seated)

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

Please place offerings in the wooden box located in the church narthex/lobby. Giving is also available online at ascensionstl.com. Your tithes and offerings shape the lives of people through the Gospel of Jesus Christ for now and eternity. Thank you for your generosity!

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7

OFFERTORY GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

LSB 806

The musical score is written in a single system with ten staves. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, Give thanks to the Ho-ly One, Give thanks be-cause He's giv-en Je-sus Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, Give thanks to the Ho-ly One, Give thanks be-cause He's giv-en Je-sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say 'I am strong,' Let the poor say 'I am rich,' Be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say 'I am strong,' Let the poor say 'I am rich,' Be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks, give thanks."

Text and tune: Henry Smith, 1952, Text and tune: © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003477

(Please Stand)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

We believe Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink. If you are a communicant member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation, please feel free to commune with us. If not, please speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper.

How should we each examine ourselves before coming to Holy Communion?

1. Be aware of our sins and be sorry for them
2. Believe in our Savior, Jesus Christ, and in His words in the Sacrament
3. Intend, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as God's forgiven people walking in newness of life

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise**

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have shown mercy to all in Christ our Redeemer, the Vine divine. Receive our thanks that as branches of the Vine, we are created to bear fruit. Unite our praises with those of all the faithful who are connected to Christ and join them with the unending praise of the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.

SANCTUS *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.

PAX DOMINI *John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen

AGNUS DEI *John 1:29*

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

(Please Be Seated)

✠ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS ✠

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

LSB 790

THINE THE AMEN, THINE THE PRAISE

LSB 680

FROM GOD CAN NOTHING MOVE ME

LSB 713

(Please Stand)

NUNC DIMITTIS *Luke 2:29-32*



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

BENEDICAMUS *Psalms 103:1*

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen

CLOSING HYMN: JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

LSB 457

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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