

ORDER OF WORSHIP

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 28, 2024

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8100 SHADY GROVE RD.
MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23111

SAINTPAUL-LCMS.COM

804.427.7500

LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

Sunday Schedule

Adult Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.

Traditional Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Rodney E. Bitely, Pastor
Mr. Bill Moats, Choir Director
Mr. Roger Sethmann, Organist
Mrs. Debbie Harris, Church Secretary

A Word About Communion

We Lutherans believe in the Real Presence, namely that Christ's body and blood are actually present with the bread and wine in a very special way (1 Cor. 10:16). Because we want to honor Christ and to grow closer to Him through this precious gift of forgiveness we practice close communion. Our faith in Christ brings us closer to Him and to each other. This sacrament is His way of keeping us close, that is, in union or communion with Him and fellow Christians. In order to build closeness, please read below before communing.

- ✦ I confess my sins to God and rely on Jesus Christ to save me from them.
- ✦ I believe that Christ is really present in this Sacrament and that with the bread and wine I actually receive His true body and blood.
- ✦ I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend my sinful life and live a life that is pleasing to God.



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!

Key:

- △ – Stand
- ▣ – Pastor
- ▣ – Assistant/Reader
- ▣ – Congregation

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Stand

578 Thy Strong Word

sts. 1, 3, 5-6



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
 5 Give us lips to sing Thy glo - ry, Tongues Thy
 Δ 6 God the Fa - ther, light - cre - a - tor, To Thee



speaking it was done. For cre - at - ed
 Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
 mer - cy to pro - claim, Throats that shout the
 laud and hon - or be. To Thee, Light of



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
 hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy ho - ly name.
 Light be - got - ten, Praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! May the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, light - re - veal - er, Glo - ry,



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 light which Thou dost send Fill our songs with
 glo - ry be to Thee. Mor - tals, an - gels,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ias, Al - le - lu - ias with - out end!
 now and ev - er Praise the ho - ly Trin - i - ty!

Invocation

Mt. 28:19b; [Mt. 18:20]

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Opening Sentences

Psalm 66:1-4, 8-9; 40:5

P Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

C sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

P Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds!

C All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”

P Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

C who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

P You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!

C I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

Confession and Absolution

[Heb. 10:22], Ps. 124:8, Ps. 32:5

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 145:1–2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16

- P** A little while, and you will see me no longer;
C **and again a little while, and you will see me.**
- P** I will extol you, my God and King,
C **and bless your name forever and ever.**
- P** Every day I will bless you
C **and praise your name forever and ever.**
- P** The LORD is gracious and merciful,
C **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**
- P** All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
C **and all your saints shall bless you!**
- P** My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
C **and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.**
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
C **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** A little while, and you will see me no longer;
C **and again a little while, and you will see me.**

Kyrie

Mark 10:47

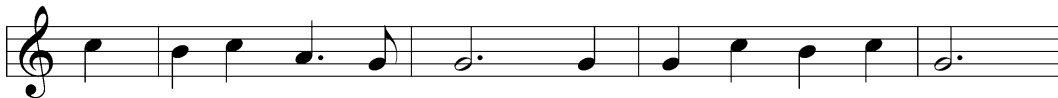
- P** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
- P** O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
- P** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**

807 When Morning Gilds the Skies

sts. 1-3, 5



1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, My heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, This is my song of songs:
 3 No love-lier an - ti - phon In all high heav'n is known
 5 Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,



“May Je - sus Christ be praised!” When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
 “May Je - sus Christ be praised!” God’s ho - ly house of prayer
 Than “Je - sus Christ be praised!” There to the e - ter - nal Word
 Sing, “Je - sus Christ be praised!” God’s whole cre - a - tion o’er,



This rings my cur - few call: “May Je - sus Christ be praised!”
 Hath none that can com - pare With “Je - sus Christ be praised!”
 The e - ter - nal psalm is heard: “May Je - sus Christ be praised!”
 Both now and ev - er - more Shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Text: Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1828, Würzburg; tr. Robert S. Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.
 Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838-96
 Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Easter 5

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.

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.

Sit

Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official

A The First Reading is from Acts, chapter 8.

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. 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 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 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.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

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

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

1 John 4:1–21

An exhortation to lives of Christian love.

A The Epistle is from 1 John, chapter 4.

Beloved, 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. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and 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. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We 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.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 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. 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. 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. We love because he first loved us. 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. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choral Anthem

Stand

Gradual

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

- P** Christ has risen from the dead.
- C** **[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.**
- P** He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;
- C** **he has put all things under his feet.**

Holy Gospel

John 15:1–8

Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.

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

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every 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. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. 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. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By 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 be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

Children's Message

All children, preschool age through elementary school, are invited to come forward for a special message.

633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

sts. 1, 3, 5, 7



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
 5 Might - y Vic - tim from the sky, Hell's fierce
 7 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy! This a -



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phant go
 pow'rs be - neath You lie; You have con - quered in the fight,
 lone can sin de - stroy; From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 You have brought us life and light. Al - le - lu - ia!
 New - born souls in You to be. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.
 Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivancice
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon - John 15:1-8, "Connected to the Vine"

*"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."
 John 15:5*

Stand

Prayer of the Church

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For this nation, *especially...*, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, for our military and police, *especially...*, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, *especially...*, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be offered*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Voluntary

Stand

488 He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

He is a - ris - en! Glo - rious Word! Now rec - on - ciled

is God, my Lord; The gates of heav'n are o - pen.

My Je - sus did tri - um - phant die, And Sa - tan's ar -

rows bro - ken lie, De - stroyed hell's fierc - est weap - on.

O hear what cheer! Christ vic - to - rious, Ris - ing glo - rious,

Life is giv - ing. He was dead but now is liv - ing!

Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.
Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608
Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Sacrament

Preface & Proper Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the

resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy



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



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

The Words of Our Lord *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

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.”

Pax Domini

Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



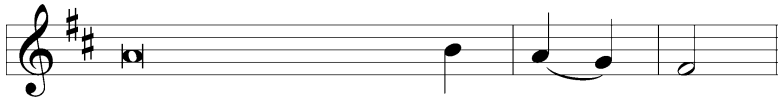
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.



is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray... We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

P Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

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

- P** Go in peace.
C Serve the Lord!

837 Lift High the Cross

sts. ref-4, 6

Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till



all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.



- 1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
- 2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
- 3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
- 4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
- 6 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
 Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
 As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.
 Praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956, alt.
 Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947
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Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Service, 2024-04-14, Easter 3- DS3.docx

Alleluia!
Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!
Alleluia!



A Congregation Sharing Christ's Salvation
By Grace...
Through Faith...
Revealed in Scripture...
Alone.