

# Fifth Sunday of Easter



**Sunday, April 28, 2024**

Lutheran Church of the Living Christ  
2725 Concord Drive  
Florissant, MO 63033

## PRELUDE

Now the Green Blade Riseth

by Carl Schalk

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Details on announcements are at the end of this bulletin.)*

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM *(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins)*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**C: Amen. Look, here is water! Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

**C: The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.**

P: In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

**C: Look, here is water! Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen. Look, here is water! Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

## GATHERING HYMN

"Hallelujah Jesus Lives"

ELW #380

## GREETING

P: Beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## FIRST READING Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>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.) <sup>27</sup>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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open 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>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>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?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life      **C: Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM:**                      Now the Green Blade Riseth

### **Psalm 22:25-31**

L: From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**C: The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

L: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn <sup>l</sup> to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**C: For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

L: Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

**C: Their descendants shall<sup>l</sup> serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

L: They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

### **SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-21**

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives 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 do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <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 reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING** - *Please stand, as you are able, to welcome the gospel.*

P: The holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter (verses 1-8)

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Following the reading the assembly is seated.*

**SERMON** Pastor Matt

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

"We Know That Christ is Raised"

ELW#449

**PROFESSION OF FAITH** – *The Apostles' Creed*

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

**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.**

**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.**

*Please be seated.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all creation: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters, for the Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois Rivers, Fountain and Coldwater Creeks. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering, *especially...* God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

God, creator of generations, you have worked through families to bring faith, hope, and love since creation. Continue to nurture, guide, and inspire our family of faith, especially our brothers and sisters in the Sumner, G. Ott, Both families. Guide, protect, and build these families up in faith. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.  
**Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able*

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

*Share God's peace in whatever way you and/or neighbors are comfortable.  
Following the sharing of the peace the assembly is seated.*

## GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

### OFFERING PRAYER

#### COMMUNION LITURGY

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 our thanks and praise. Hosanna in the highest!**

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

### LORD'S PRAYER

P: Remember us 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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table. **C: Amen.**

### 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.

**DISTRIBUTION** *Time is given for the sharing of bread and wine. Additional verbal directions will be given.*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

“Where Charity and Love Prevail ”

ELW#359

**BLESSING**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩  
bless you now and always.

**C: Amen.**

**PRAYER**

L: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **C: Amen.**

**MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT**

**BENEDICTION**

P: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD's face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. (Num. 6:24)

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

“Let All Things Now Living”

ELW#881

**DISMISSAL**

L: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

Mozart's “Alleluia”

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. **May Lunch Bunch** will be dining at Red Lobster located at 12235 St. Charles Rock Road on May 9 at 11:30 am. Lunch bunch is a nice way to enjoy a meal and enjoy fellowship. For reservations contact Joyce Meyer at 314-374-4135 or email jameyer46@charter.net. Everyone is welcome!
2. **Girl Scouts and Living Christ** - This Thursday, April 25, 6:30-8:00 p.m. is the last quilt tying for the school year. We have four quilts to tie for Lutheran World Relief.
3. **Mother's Day Bake Sale, May 12, before and after church.** Treat your mom to a treat. A Sign Up sheet is on the bulletin board for donations of baked goods. Bring them before church on May 12. Funds raised will go toward paying church expenses. Please see Jeanne for more information

**APRIL 28, 2024**

**Preaching/Presiding:** Pr. Matt

**Assisting Minister:** Randy Henning

**Lector:** Laurie Brown

**Live Streaming:** Gary & Laurie Brown

**Musician:** David Eggers

**Ushers:** Gloria Broderick & Cathie Lehr

**Greeter:** Gloria Broderick

**Altar Guild:** Doris S, Bill K & Marilyn W

**MAY 5, 2024**

**Preaching/Presiding:** Pr. Matt

**Assisting Minister:** Randy Henning

**Lector:** Dave Endorf

**Live Streaming:** Rod Wallace

**Musician:** Greg Ott

**Ushers:** Jann & Glenn Mueller

**Greeter:** Levaughn & Sheila Smart

**Altar Guild:** Maureen Buchek & Marjorie Becker