

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2, 2021

8:30 and 11:00 AM



Beloved, let us love one another,
for love is from God,
and whoever loves
has been born of God
and knows God.

1 John 4:7

OUR MISSION

As a Lutheran community of faith, we continue our history of proclaiming Christ crucified through Word and Sacrament in joyful service to God and our neighbor.

WELCOME TO ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

We welcome all who worship with us today. We gather as the Body of Christ to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise to God. Ushers are available to answer any of your questions. The church is equipped with a hearing impaired system. If you need a listening device, it may be obtained from an usher. In the minutes prior to the beginning of each service, the doors to the nave are closed, and quiet is encouraged. Music is offered which prepares worshippers to receive God's gifts from His Hand – the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

Celebrating Holy Communion: We believe, teach, and confess Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. All baptized Christians, who share this belief, are invited to receive Jesus as He comes in the Holy Communion to forgive the sins of the penitent. Children and others who are not yet receiving the sacrament, or who choose not to commune with us, are invited to come forward for a blessing, crossing their arms over their chest.

During this Covid-19 season, specific instructions for communion will be given by the Pastor. Please receive the host in your flattened palm. If you cannot receive alcohol, please inform the Pastor before the host is dipped in the chalice. If you need gluten free host, please ask before the host is dipped in the chalice.

The Altar Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God and given by Barbara Teigland-Duff in loving memory of her husband, Richard K. Duff, on his 80th birthday, and in honor of Matthew and Kattie Duff's 3rd anniversary.

Sunday School is sponsored by Janet and Denis Hall in praise and thanksgiving.

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA! We welcome you in Jesus' name on this 5th Sunday of Easter, traditionally known as Cantate (Sing), as our musicians lead our worship with especially joyful song and praise of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ, His Father, and the Holy Spirit. In the preaching text from 1 John 4, the elderly beloved disciple gives us the clear answer to all questions about how to discern true prophecy from false as preachers and theologians proclaim who the Lord Jesus Christ is and what it means to follow Him in lives of love. This reading is not only the key to understanding St. John's first letter. It is the essential litmus test for the entirety of Christian faith and life.

I will strive to **Pray daily**
Worship weekly
Read the Bible
Serve at and beyond St. Matthew's
Be in Relationship to encourage spiritual growth in others
Give of my time, talents and resources



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(* Please stand as you are able.)

Silence for Meditation

PRELUDE

Jubilate Handbells

Douglas Wagner

WELCOME

* THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: 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.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: 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. Most merciful God,

Congregation: 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.

Pastor: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

* OPENING HYMN

The Day of Resurrection!



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,



the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.
all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!
and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
Music: ELLACOMBE. German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

*** THE GREETING**

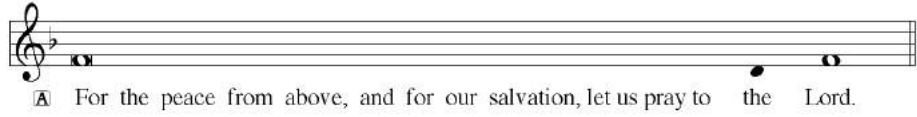
Pastor: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

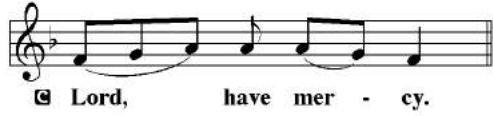
*** KYRIE**



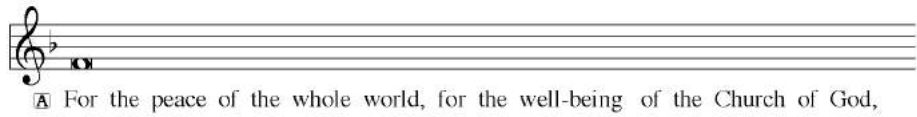
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



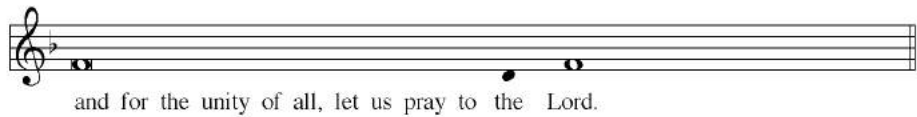
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



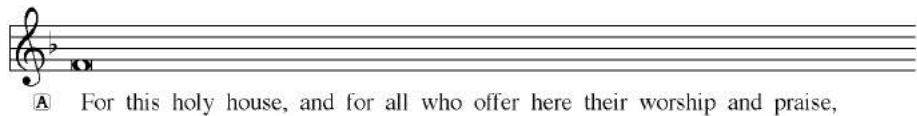
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



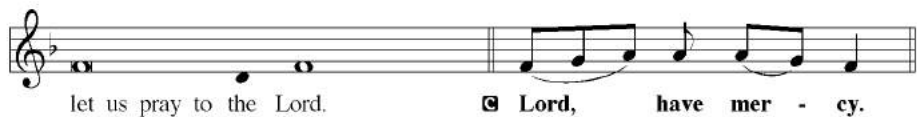
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



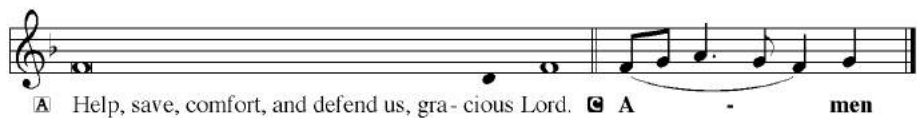
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

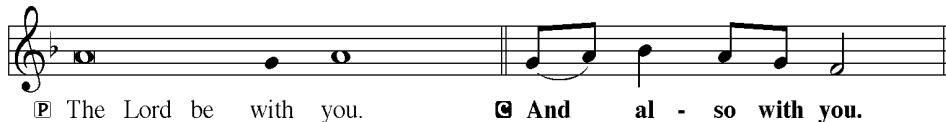


A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

* THE HYMN OF PRAISE (I = Men; II = Women)

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was
 slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. II Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
 strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and
 join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and
 might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. II For the Lamb who was
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

* THE SALUTATION



* THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: O God, you shape the minds of the faithful into one will. May all your people love what you propose and desire what you promise. Then regardless of the stormy tossing of this life, our hearts will come to anchor 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.

Congregation: Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶Now 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. 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.

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

PSALM 150

Praise the LORD!

Praise God / in his sanctuary;*

praise him in his / mighty heavens!

Praise him for his / mighty deeds;*

praise him according to his ex- / cellent greatness!

Praise him with / trumpet sound;*

praise him with / lute and harp!

Praise him with tambour- / ine and dance;*

praise him with / strings and pipe!

Praise him with / sounding cymbals;*

praise him with loud / clashing cymbals!

Let everything / that has breath*

praise the LORD / Praise the LORD!

Glory to the Father, and / to the Son,* and to the / Holy Spirit;

as it was in the begin- / ning, is now,* and will be forev- / er. Amen.

SECOND LESSON: 1 John 4:1-11

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. 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.

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

THE VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*** THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Pastor: The HOLY GOSPEL according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every 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. 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*** THE GOSPEL RESPONSE**

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

“The Word of God: Our Answer”

Pr. Zumwalt

*** THE HYMN OF THE DAY**

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter Tell - ing the
 3 Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es; Life in the
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent: Death put a -
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -

sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -
 sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; Break - ing our bread, Giv - ing us
 Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the
 sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: “O grave, be
 ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch -

ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 o - pen!” Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 an - gels, 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!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926-2009
 Tune: David N. Johnson, 1922-87; setting: Henry V. Gerike, b. 1948

*** THE NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*** THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Assisting Minister: Lord, in your mercy.

Congregation: Hear our prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation: And also with you.

THE OFFERING (8:30)

Sing to the Lord a Jubilant Song
Adult Choir

Jon Paige

(11:00)

Jesus Loves Me and Amazing Grace
Children's Handbells

Traditional

*** THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Assisting Minister: Father in heaven,

Congregation: inspire us to bring faithful offerings and to love and serve you in all your creatures. Free us from the idolatry and futility of self that we may begin to profit through what you have begun to do. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right and salutary.... we praise your name 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. 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 in the high - est.

*** THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Pastor: You are indeed holy....the mystery of faith:

Congregation: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: We offer to you...the heavens and the earth.

Congregation: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: As we now gather...salvation and peace.

Congregation:

Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours, al -
 might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

Pastor: Joining with all those who, in every time and place, have turned to you, we pray as Christ himself taught us:

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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; 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 FRACTION**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Congregation: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

THE DISTRIBUTION (Please be seated; an usher will direct you to the altar rail.)

☒ 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 HYMNS

Eat This Bread

Refrain
Eat this bread, drink this cup, Come to Him and nev-er be hun - gry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, Trust in Him and you will not thirst.

Cantor or Choir
1 This is His bod - y giv - en for you; this is His blood that was shed for you.
2 As of-ten as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show His death un-til He comes a-gain.
3 Eat His flesh and drink His blood, and Christ will raise you up on the Last Day.
4 An - y - one who eats this bread will live for - ev - er.
5 If we be-lieve and eat this bread, we will have e - ter - nal life.

Text: Robert J. Batastini, b. 1942, and Taize Community,
Refrain and sts. 3-5; Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955, sts. 1-2
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-94

O Blessed Spring



1 O bless-ed spring, where Word and sign Em - brace us
 2 Through sum-mer heat of youth-ful years, Un - cer - tain
 3 When au-tumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their
 4 As win-ter comes, as win - ters must, We breathe our
 5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, Be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: Here Christ en - joins each one to
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, Sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
 heav - y har - vest hold, Then through us, warm, the Christ will
 last, re - turn to dust; Still held in Christ, our souls take
 this blest mys - ter - y: That Word and wa - ter thus re -



be A branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
 rain, The boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
 move With gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
 wing And trust the prom - ise of the spring.
 vive And join us to Your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Tune: English

Jesus Love Me!



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
 3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
 when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

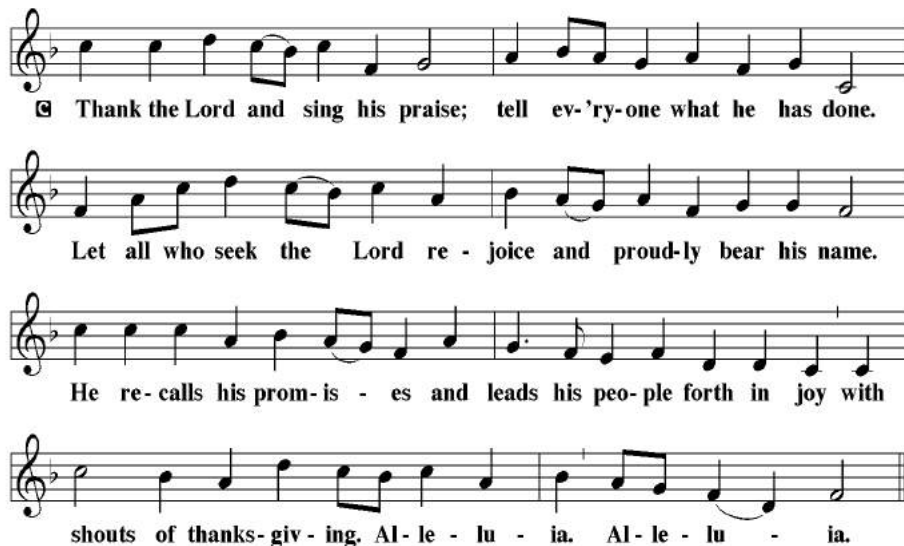
Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.
 Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

*** THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

Pastor: May this the body and this the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

Congregation: Amen.

*** THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**



☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.
He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*** THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Assisting Minister: Lord Jesus Christ, you invite us to eat and drink together so we may see that we all receive our life from you. Help us to recognize your power at work in each other that we may come to love those who share in your grace. We bless you now and evermore.

Congregation: Amen.

Congregation: I will strive to pray daily, worship weekly, read the Bible, serve at and beyond St. Matthew's, be in relationship to encourage spiritual growth in others, and give of my time, talents, and resources.

*** THE BENEDICTION**

*** THE CLOSING HYMN**

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

(next page)

THE DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"

setting Karl Osterland

LESSONS for NEXT WEEK:

Acts 10:34-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-17

When in Our Music God Is Glorified



1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied
2 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found
3 So has the Church, in lit - ur - gy and song,
4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night
5 Let ev - 'ry in - stru - ment be tuned for praise!



And ad - o - ra - tion leaves no room for pride,
A new di - men - sion in the world of sound
In faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong,
When ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the light?
Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise!



It is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried:
As wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found
Borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - 'ry tongue:
Then let us sing, for whom He won the fight:
And may God give us faith to sing al - ways:



Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
Tune: Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

The Word of God: Our Answer

Praying

“O God, through whom redemption comes to us and our adoption is accomplished: Look in mercy on your children, and bestow upon all who believe in Christ perfect freedom and an eternal inheritance; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.” (*The Daily Prayer of the Church*, 1336).

Listening

1 John 4:1 “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God....”

Didymus the Blind [4th century catechist and lay theologian in Alexandria, Egypt]: “Just as in ancient Israel there were some prophets who spoke the word of God and others who did not, so also, as soon as the apostles appeared, speaking in Christ and having the Holy Spirit whom the Lord had given to them, many false apostles were sent by the devil to counterfeit the teaching of the gospel. It is essential to have the gift of the Holy Spirit” (*Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: 1 John*, 208-209).

1 John 4:2 “... every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.”

St. Polycarp [Early 2nd century martyred Bishop of Smyrna, Turkey]: “Everyone who shall not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is antichrist. Whoever shall not confess the testimony of the cross is of the devil... So let us ... turn to the word which was delivered to us from the beginning” (209).

1 John 4:3 “and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.”

Didymus the Blind: “If a spirit dissolves the divine-human unity of Christ and thinks the pure Word of God is outside all flesh, and cannot really be a man, and states that everything done in his incarnation is a fantasy, then that spirit is not from God...” (210).

1 John 4:4 “Little children ... for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

St. Hilary [Early 5th century Bishop of Arles, France]: “God’s power to save is always much greater than the devil’s power to do harm” (211).

1 John 4:8 “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

St. Bede the Venerable [8th century British Benedictine monk and ecclesiastical historian]: “Let no one say that when he sins he sins against other people but not against God, for how can you not be sinning against God when you are sinning against love?” (213).

1 John 4:10 “In this is love ... that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

St. Bede the Venerable: “This is the greatest sign of God’s love for us: when we were not yet able to seek him because of our many sins, he sent his Son to us, so that he might grant forgiveness to all who believe in him and call us back into the fellowship of his fatherly glory” (213).

Reflecting

1. Do I understand that the incarnation of God’s Son Jesus is the Truth to which I must always cling?

Learning

DAILY PRAYERS (from Luther's Small Catechism)

AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY SHOULD TEACH HIS HOUSEHOLD TO PRAY MORNING AND EVENING

Asking a Blessing

The children and members of the household shall go to the table reverently, fold their hands, and say:

“The eyes of all look to You, [O Lord,] and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing” *Psalm 145:15-16.*

Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer and the following:

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Doing

1. Pray for every unbaptized child, youth, and adult that you know and for the child's parents, too.
2. Pray for your unchurched loved ones and friends. Invite one or more of them to worship in person or online with St. Matthew's each week (<https://stmatthewsch.org/>).
3. Discuss with your spouse, your family, or a friend how to set aside time for regular prayer. Keep this order for blessing at your table and pray before your meal in this way.
4. As a sign of gratitude for God's mercy in Jesus Christ and for the gift of the most significant women in your life, make a gift of \$10 (each) to purchase blankets for the global poor through Church World Service. The deadline for such gifts is today, May 2, 2021.
5. Set aside time daily, preferably first thing, but when you are able to focus, to hear the Word of God, to reflect upon that Word, and to ask the Holy Spirit to grant you grace to be shaped by and conformed to that Word. Daily Bible readings may be found at www.stmatthewsch.org. Daily lectionary readings are on p.182 in the front of the Lutheran Book of Worship (Week of 5 Easter).

For Husbands and Wives

Repeat daily: “I (name) take you (name) to be my wedded wife (husband), to have and to hold from this day forward; for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish until death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you my faith.”

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

The family of John Pierson, The family of Tony Hughes (friend of Steve Manor), Margaret French, Joanne Johnson, Marilyn Hayes, Butch Ruefle, Pr. Joel Kettner, Eileen Carzon, Ruth Smith, Joel Peterson, Megan McKinney, Maureen Richey

MEMBERS

Nancy Fauser	Dwight Crim	Doris Ullman
Denis Hall	Al Birnstein	Raewyn McCombs
Regina Ryder	Arthur Pease	Rose Weidman
Keith Farmer	Judy Daniels	Ruthann Getsinger
Donna Siegmund	Bill Baldwin	Walt Brehm
Alexandra Schwartz	Mike Thompson	Judy Benson
Kenn Slocum	Janet Hall	Fran Perry
Ken Manning	Helen Knoll	Lon Ostby
Harry Comeskey	Arthur Moore	Dusty Pilcher
Pat Mahl	Laura Gray	Barbara Teigland-Duff
Jan Magnus	Jack and Marie Loflin	Darlene Schucker
Denise Benoit	Trevor Hornick	Laura Matthess
Liz Newbery	Vivian Alexander	Micki Matthess
George Schwenzler	Carol Comeskey	John Raia
Charles Smith	Lani Beuerman	Jane Dove
Terry Miller	Pr. Marv Schedler	Patty Macino

FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS

Amie Knauer	Joyce LaSala	Stan Brunt, Sr.
Ava Smith	Tracy Boardl	Virginia Mough
Albert Rossetti	Jane Dumire	Joe Acito
Jerry Knoll	Lynn Howell	Al and Janet Glaeser
Journey Heyer	Melvin Proctor	Barbara Colton
Lisa Holgerson	Bishop Mayfield	Kris Ludacer
Viola Seip	Fred Geuder	David Searle
Richard Truax	Beth Jarrott	Cary Murphrey
Paul Rady	William Lawhorn	Sandra Marshburn
Betsy Miller	Jean Langrall	Doris Isaacs
Crosby James Asher	Frank Howell	

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

Bob Byrne	Margaret French	Jim Harshbarger
Elsie Cates	Ruthann Getsinger	Jane McDougald
Frank Fauser		

<u>Operating Fund: March 2021</u>		
	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Revenues:	39,930.39	112,350.75
Expenses:	<u>39,060.54</u>	<u>111,196.76</u>
Income/ (Loss)	869.85	1,153.99

<u>Offerings Received through April 25</u>	
Anticipated April receipts:	38,670.00
Received to date:	<u>35,589.69</u>
Amount still anticipated:	3,080.31

<u>Expenses</u>	
Budgeted April expenses:	38,392.00
Already paid this month:	<u>8,202.57</u>
Expected bills to be paid:	30,189.43

Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturday - Eucharist, 6 p.m. Sunday - Traditional Eucharist. 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
2nd and 4th Sundays - Contemporary Eucharist, 8:30 a.m. Monday - Evening Prayer and Bible Study, 6 p.m.
Wednesday - Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 p.m.

This Week at St. Matthew's

Sunday, May 2 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Cantate Sunday

8:30 Traditional Eucharist

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Traditional Eucharist

Monday, May 3

9:00 Counting Team - Finance Office

12:00 Conversations - Rm. 117

6:00 Evening Prayer

7:00 Midtown AA - McCombs

7:00 Harbour Towne Band rehearsal - Choir Room

Tuesday, May 4

10:00 Staff Meeting - Rm. 117

10:00 Prayer Group - Library

6:30 Joyful Noise - Nave

6:30 Stephen Ministry - Rm. 117

Wednesday, May 5

8:30 Men's Breakfast Group - McCombs

11:00 Finance Team

12:00 Healing Eucharist

6:00 Crossways - McCombs

6:00 Handbells - Nave

6:00 Middle School Youth

7:00 Confirmation

7:00 Adult Choir - Nave

Thursday, May 6 National Day of Prayer

10:00 Quilt Ministry - Rm. 117

10:00 Crossways - McCombs

12:00 Prayer Service

6:30 Church Council - Nave/Rm. 117

Friday, May 7

Saturday, May 8

6:00 Eucharist

Sunday, May 9 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Blanket Sunday/Mother's Day

8:30 Contemporary Eucharist

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Traditional Eucharist

12:30 Grief Support Group - Library

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blanket Sunday forms and payments are due today. You may donate blankets in memory or honor of loved ones. Church World Services sends emergency blankets worldwide to areas in need. Blankets are \$10 each.

Bring your sweet tooth today and stock up on goodies after services today at the CKM Bake Sale!

Graduate Recognition is June 6th. All High School and College graduate information for the bulletin and June newsletter needs to be sent to Donna Capozio no later than May 15th.

Our next scheduled week for WIHN meals is May 30-June 5. Please see the details and sign-up sheet in the Commons. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Lindsay at boss1946@att.net.

Reminder from Finance: As work is being completed on the organ, the Organ Project fund still needs about \$2,800 to pay for the project in full.

First quarter 2021 giving statements are available in the Commons to be picked up. Help us save on postage and be sure to pick yours up today.

Offering Counters and Couriers are needed for 2021. The signup sheet is posted on the board in the Commons. If you can, please sign up for a month, but whatever weeks you can help will be appreciated. Thank you!

If you didn't get a Church Directory and need one mailed to you, please contact Donna Capozio in the Church Office.

The Special Congregation Meeting to vote on ELCA disaffiliation and selection of a new Lutheran denomination has been postponed indefinitely. Council will announce a date when the meeting can be conducted in a safe manner. **Remember, in order to qualify to vote** at the Special Congregation Meeting (date TBD) you must be confirmed, have communed, and made a contribution of record in 2020 or 2021.



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The Rev. Dr. Samuel D. Zumwalt ♦ szumwalt@bellsouth.net

