

**ST. MATTHEW'S**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Proclaiming the Love of God for All People

**INTERSECTIONS...**  
**...where God's Story and our Story cross**  
**and sends us out to share God's love.**



**BELONGING**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 2, 2021**

**WORSHIP**  
**May 2, 2021 10:00 am**

We welcome you today and are thankful you have chosen to participate in this service as you are able. We pray you are blessed by what you experience. If you have any spiritual needs or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Lesley at 817-292-1338 or [pastor@stmatthews-elca.org](mailto:pastor@stmatthews-elca.org). This service includes communion; if you are worshiping online, you are asked to have bread or crackers and wine or juice available to participate in the Eucharist.

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

"Minuet"

G. F. Handel

*Please stand as you are able.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P. The seeds of grace, hope, joy, and love are planted deep within us, so these seeds will bear fruit in our lives. However, we resist staying connected to you, the Vine. We think we will flourish on our own. We come this day, confessing our sins, so once again we experience you abiding deep within us.

**C. God of Compassion, you have called us to be one body in Christ. Instead, we fragment ourselves into a million selfish pieces. Though your perfect love was given for us, we are afraid to give of ourselves to the world.**

**Abide in us, Vine Grower. Forgive us of our sins, so we may live boldly, love fearlessly, and proclaim unceasingly that you are the Savior of all.**

*Silence is kept.*

P. We are forgiven. We are clean again. Because God abides in us, we can live for others, allowing God's love to bear fruit in us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! **C. Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN 717 "Let Justice Flow Like Streams"**

ST. THOMAS

*Sung at the first meeting of St. Matthew's congregation at Brite Divinity School, Sept. 7, 1952*



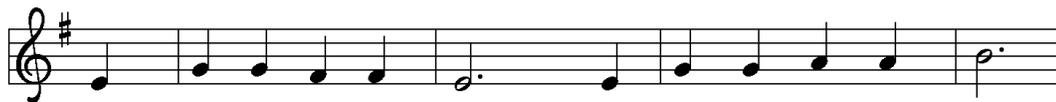
1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,  
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,  
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.  
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.  
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C. And also with you.**

### KYRIE

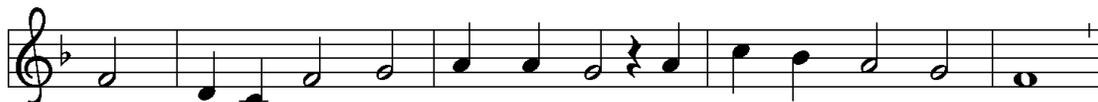


- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE



- 1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;
- 2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"
- 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;
- 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou - sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.  
"Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"  
and bless - ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.  
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Used at the first meeting of St. Matthew's congregation at Brite Divinity School, Sept. 7, 1952*

A. Let us pray: **C. O God, who makest us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of Thy Son our Lord; vouchsafe us this day such blessing through our worship of Thee, that the days to come may be spent in Thy service: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40**

A reading from Acts:

<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.

Word of God, Word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 22:25-31** *Read responsively, beginning with the Lector.*

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>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.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

**Refrain: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)**

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

A reading from First John:

<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.

Word of God, Word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-8**

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

The gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Lesley M. Radius

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY 477 "I Received the Living God"**

LIVING GOD

*Refrain*

I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

- 1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
- 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
- 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
- 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,

you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.  
 so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.  
 You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.  
 but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

## 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A. Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God. **C. Your mercy is great.**

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek to care deeply for all that you have made, so that life on earth may be bountiful. Hear us, O God. **C. Your mercy is great.**

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your unshakable presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God. **C. Your mercy is great.**

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all (*especially . . .*). Hear us, O God. **C. Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered out loud or in our hearts.*

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God. **C. Your mercy is great.**

P. In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C. Amen.**

## PEACE

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C. And also with you.**

Please be seated.

## OFFERTORY

### OFFERING PRAYER

A. Let us pray. **C. God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### HOLY COMMUNION

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.**

### PREFACE

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P. O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**C. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P. With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**C. Amen.**

### 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; 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 invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

### COMMUNION ANTHEM

Men of St. Matthew's Chancel Choir

The Call from *Five Mystical Songs* by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Text by George Herbert (1593-1633)

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life;  
Such a Way as gives us breath;  
Such a Truth, as ends all strife;  
Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength;  
Such a Light, as shows a feast;  
Such a Feast, as mends in length;  
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart;  
Such a Joy, as none can move;  
Such a Love, as none can part;  
Such a Heart as joys in love.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

### SENDING HYMN 389 "Christ Is Alive!"

TRURO

- 1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
- 2 Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching ev'ry place and time.
- 3 In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
And lives, where even hope has died.
- 4 Children of God, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
Revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
- 5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

## THE SENDING

A. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

A. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**C. We will! Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

"The Rejoicing"

G. F. Handel

+ + + + +

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## LEADING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

<b>Presiding Minister:</b>	Pastor Lesley M. Radius
<b>Assisting Minister:</b>	Charlie Schmidt
<b>Lector:</b>	Karen Stone
<b>Ushers:</b>	Chris Dunker, Karen Dunker, Finn Riddle
<b>Counters:</b>	Phil Beckman, Matt Shifflett, Daryl Hadfield
<b>Organist/Pianist:</b>	John Wolf
<b>Videographer:</b>	Jacob Martella

<p><b><u>We Pray For:</u></b></p> <p><b>Craig Bridges</b>  <b>T. J. Bridges</b>  <b>Annasophia Reese</b>  <b>Barbara Reid</b>  <b>Jane Oklat</b></p>	<p><b>Carolyn Barnard</b>  Sister-in-law of Marj Rudolph</p> <p><b>Scott and Johanna Haro</b>  Son &amp; daughter-in-law of Mike &amp; Lynne Haro</p> <p><b>Kay Henson</b>  Friend of Anita Bodak</p> <p><b>Brittany Travis</b>  Granddaughter of David Wester</p>
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**THIS WEEK WITH ST. MATTHEW'S**

**SUNDAY, May 2**

8:30 am Adult Sunday School on Zoom led by Mark Vinciguerra

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

**10:00 am Worship**, in person and live streamed via [www.stmatthews-elca.org](http://www.stmatthews-elca.org)

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Use of our facilities by St. Christopher Episcopal Church,  
including worship at 2:00 pm

**MONDAY, May 3**

12:00 pm Staff Meeting

**TUESDAY, May 4**

3:30 pm Ready, Set, Go! Center

**WEDNESDAY, May 5**

6:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, May 6**

10:00 am Women's Bible Study

**SUNDAY, May 9 Mother's Day**

8:30 am Adult Sunday School on Zoom led by Mark Vinciguerra

**10:00 am Worship**, in person and live streamed

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Use of our facilities by St. Christopher Episcopal Church,  
including worship at 2:00 pm

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Our worship service next Sunday will be in-person in our sanctuary;  
please wear a face mask, and social distancing will be practiced.***

***Worship will also be live-streamed via [www.stmatthews-elca.org](http://www.stmatthews-elca.org). Please join us!***

**OUR NURSERY IS AVAILABLE** for pre-school worshipers, located in the wing on the far side of the narthex. Our nursery attendants will welcome you and check you in.

**SAVE THE DATES:**

**There will be a Congregation Meeting on Sunday, May 16 at 11:30 am.** You may come in person, or join us on Zoom. The Zoom Meeting ID is 864 9135 1112, and the Passcode is 142121.

**Fort Worth Youth Orchestra Suzuki Strings Concert at St. Matthew's, Sunday, June 6, 6:00 pm.** This is a free concert for the community – tell your friends and family!

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with the Property Cleanup Day on April 24. The grounds look wonderful and cared-for.

**WORSHIP LEADERS** Please prayerfully consider being a worship leader as we return to in-person worship. Fill out the form included in this bulletin and return it to an usher. The Worship Commission looks forward to having you as part of our Sunday worship team.

**A NEW DIRECTORY** An updated Church Directory is almost complete, but the office needs your help. **Please review the draft directory in the narthex** and make any changes if needed. Please make a check by your name so we know you have reviewed your information.

**FLOWER HOSTS ARE NEEDED IN MAY** There are several dates available for hosting the chancel flowers for worship in May: **May 16 and 30**. Please sign up on the Flower Chart on the office window, or call the church office and designate if you wish to have flowers or give a \$40 gift to ELCA Good Gifts or Neighborhood Needs.

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

Lesley M. Radius, Pastor

Adam Frame, Director of Music Ministries

John Wolf, Organist/Pianist

Kathy Challgren, Director of the Sounds of Exaltation Handbell Choir

Kelly Riddle, Office Assistant and Ready, Set, Go! Center Site Coordinator

Mary Nedde, Administrative Assistant

Jocelyne Angeles, Nursery Attendant

#### **ST. MATTHEW'S MISSION STATEMENT**

***Living in Christ through faith. Living for neighbor through love.***

***We are Reconciling in Christ; welcoming to all!***

#### **St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**

5709 Wedgwood Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76133

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