



ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Proclaiming the Love of God for All People
ELW HOLY COMMUNION SETTING TEN

Sunday, April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The hymn numbers for today's service: #377 #448 #479 #481 #881

PRELUDE

*(*Please stand as you are able)*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter, and our joy. **Amen.**

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

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

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

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. **Amen.**

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

***GATHERING HYMN Alleluia! Jesus is Risen! (ELW 377)**

*GREETING

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

* KYRIE (ELW p.203)



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!

*GLORIA (ELW P.204)



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children are invited to go to Children's Church

FIRST READING: ACTS 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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.

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

PSALM 22:25-31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the Lord,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, 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.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the Lord,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21 *We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p.205)**



***GOSPEL John 15:1-8** The holy gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing. [Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *This is the Spirit's Entry Now (ELW 448)*

***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.

***THE PRAYERS**

A: 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

*For each petition: God of grace, **we ask you to hear us.***

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

BLESSING OF 2024 GRADUATES

***PEACE**

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

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS-CHOIR ANTHEM *The Call* by Z. Randall Stroope

***PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS** *We Come to the Hungry Feast (ELW 479 v.1)*

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A. Risen One, **you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up our hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p.207)**

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 AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

LAMB OF GOD (ELW p.208)

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Come to the Table* (ELW 481)

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING HYMN *Let All Things Now Living* (ELW 881)**

***DISMISSAL** Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

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Serving in Worship

Today, April 28th

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lesley M. Radius
Preacher: Vicar Trent Ormsbee-Hale
Assisting Minister: Steve Weis
Music Director: Adam Frame
Organist/Pianist: John Wolf
Lector: Stella Hlad
Chancel Care: Faye Youngblood
Ushers: Nick Washuta & Sylvia Wester
Videographer: Jacob Martella
Counters: Chuck Brunnert & Marcia Boggs

Next Sunday, May 5th

Pastor Lesley M. Radius
Pastor Lesley M. Radius
Charles Schmidt
Adam Frame
John Wolf
Bruce Anderson
Ruth Vinciguerra
TBD
Jeff Manthei
Charlie Schmidt & Lisa Reed

We welcome all 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 pastor@stmatthews-elca.org or call 817-292-1338. This service includes communion; if you are worshipping online, please have bread or crackers and wine or juice available to participate in the Eucharist.

THIS WEEK WITH ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday, April 28th

9:15 am St. Matthew's Adult Sunday School
9:30 am Eucharistic Worship led by St. Christopher
11:00 am Eucharistic Worship led by St. Matthew's
12:00 pm Senior Sunday Celebration
4:00 pm Wedgwood Art Series Actor Garrett Howell

Tuesday, April 30th

7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday May 1st

7:00 pm Chancel Choir practice

Thursday May 2nd

1:00 pm Called to Craft Crafters Group

Sunday, May 5th

9:15 am St. Matthew's Adult Sunday School
9:30 am Eucharistic Worship led by St. Christopher
11:00 am Eucharistic Worship led by St. Matthew's

Senior Sunday Today Please join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship today as we celebrate our 2024 High School graduates Zachary Moroneso and Nick Tadi. Come enjoy cake and refreshments as we bless these young men on their future endeavors.

Wedgwood Art Series Today Wedgwood Art Series presents "An Afternoon of Musical Theater Songs" with Local Actor Garrett Hollowell @4:00 pm today April 28th. Please join us for an entertaining ride! This is a free of charge event. Bring a friend!

Nursery Care and Activity Bags at St. Matthew's, children of all ages are welcome in worship. If parents prefer, nursery care is provided for infants through age 4 during the 11:00 am service. Activity bags and children's bulletins are available in the narthex for children ages 5 and older to take into worship until they go to Children's Church. Please return the bags after worship.

<p><u>We Pray For:</u></p> <p>Craig Bridges T. J. Bridges Annasophia Reese Kathy Challengren George Wiederaenders Jeanne Rose Patti Brunner</p>	<p><u>We Pray For:</u></p> <p>Christy Hill Daughter of Win & Sandy Heinrich Thara Bonebreak Aunt of Anne Moroneso Annie Breakspear Daughter-in-law of Pauline Christensen Hayden June Friend of Ferrol Miller & The Gustafsons</p>
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UPCOMING EVENTS

(More details to follow, but please reserve these dates in your calendars now!)

Every Tuesday 7 pm—Sounds of Exaltation Handbell Choir rehearsal.

Every Wednesday 7 pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal

Every Thursday 1 pm—Called to Craft Crafters Group

May 7th- Fellowship Breakfast Dixie House Café Hulen 8:30 am

May 13th- Women's Bible Study 10:00 am

May 19th- Wedgwood Arts Presents FWSO Oboist Tamer Edlebi, 4:00 pm

May 19th- Art Show with local artist Ellen Wagner 4:00 pm

June 2nd- Wedgwood Arts Presents Larissa & Igor "Dancing on the Keys" 7:00 pm

June 9th- Wedgwood Arts Presents Ballet Folklorico Dance Concert 4:00 pm

July 9th-11th-Bill Anderson Memorial Summer Cooking Camp

July 16th-18th-Bill Anderson Memorial Summer Music Camp

July 23rd-25th- Bill Anderson Memorial Summer Theater Camp

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Proclaiming the Love of God for All People

ST. MATTHEW'S MISSION STATEMENT

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

We are Reconciling in Christ, welcoming to all!

Rev. Lesley M. Radius | pastor@stmatthews-elca.org 5709 Wedgwood Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76133
817-292-1338 | office@stmatthews-elca.org | www.stmatthews-elca.org

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
Cher - u - bim sing; O grave, be o - pen!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now



1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.
that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

We Come to the Hungry Feast



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Come to the Table



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Let All Things Now Living



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days,
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light,
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"