



C H R I S T
L U T H E R A N
C H U R C H

Gathering in Worship, Growing in
God's Word, Serving in Jesus' name

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Fifth Sunday of Easter
Service of the Word
April 28, 2024

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We are glad that you are here to worship with us today! Please sign the pew booklets in the pews. If you are a visitor, please introduce yourself and sign our guest book in the narthex along with the pew booklet.

Service of the Word begins on page 210 in the red hymnal.

***Please stand as you are able.**

❖Please be seated.

Prelude: Vicky Harris

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Introduction

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

Welcome

***Gathering Song**

“O Day of Rest and Gladness”

ELW # 521

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

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 and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again from you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with the power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

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.**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!** Let us pray:

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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

❖ **First Reading: Acts 8:26-40**

²⁶Then 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.)
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.

Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!**

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

²⁸For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

²⁹To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

³⁰Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

³¹and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

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.

Here ends the readings. Thanks be to God.

✱ **Gospel Acclamation** "Alleluia, Lord to Whom..." **ELW pg. 216**
Hear now the Holy Gospel according to St. John – this is the 15th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

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.

*This is the Gospel of our Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

❖ **Sermon**

Rev. Erik Karlson

Hymn of the Day

“We Know That Christ Is Raised”

ELW # 449

✳ **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

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

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

STEWARDED GOD'S GIFTS

We offer to God what is God's own

❖ **Offering**

*[Please remember to send your much appreciated and needed weekly tithes and offerings.]
[Children are invited to come forward to place their offering in "Christ's Well".]*

✳ **Offering Hymn** “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

❖ Temple Talk – Abundant Table

Bobby Scheidt

Temple Talk – Habitat for Humanity

Denny Davis

Announcements

*Benediction

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

Sending Song

“Let All Things Now Living”

ELW # 881

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude: Vicky Harris



A special thank you to all who assisted with our worship service today:

Organist: Vicky Harris

Head Usher: Connie Duenow

Cantor: Michael Bennett

Ushers: Steve Olmstead, Dennis Roisum

Lector: Barb Jenneke

Audio/Visual: Mckenzie Ebert

Acolyte:

Greeters: Becky & Dawn Peterson

Altar Guild: Mary Stoltenburg, Jeanne Pagel, Gloria Lovett

Refreshments: Roxanne and Muriel Wavra
(In honor of Muriel's 85th birthday)

Kitchen Guild: Fran Huwe

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are courtesy of Bobby and LaRue Scheidt, who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Need to contact a staff member? Find their information below:

Pastor	Rev. Erik Karlson	pastor@christluth.com	(507)766-5870
Administrative Assistant	Megan Hoffman	office@christluth.com	(320)864-4549
Information and Media Technology Coordinator	Mckenzie Ebert	it@christluth.com	(320)864-3099

Please lift these people up in prayers this week: Loren Mueller, Dennis Hendrickson (father of Connie Duenow), Bob Iverson, Joy Macheel (daughter of Jon and Jodi Braband), Lloyd Duenow (father of Brad Duenow), Marilyn Ueland, Mary Entinger, Carol Carver, Wayne and Carolyn Hegna (brother of Kathy Marsh), Gloria Gustafson, LuAnn Harms, Bruce Miller, Laura Mackenthun (Daughter of Dennis and Linda Roisum), Karen Wendlandt, Bev Phifer, Karen Sylwester, Jay Braband (Brother of Jon Braband), Mark Becker (Brother of Jonathan Becker), Cathy Haaskenson, Jo'Cleta O'Donnell, Howard Giese, Jane Larter.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Sunday, April 28, Service of the Word @ 9 AM in the Sanctuary; Adult Education @ 10:30 AM in the Conference Room.

Monday, April 29, Televised Worship Service @ 3 PM on Channel 10.

Tuesday, April 30, Women's Bible Study @ 10 AM in the Conference Room; NA Women's Group @ 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday, May 1, Pastoral Text Study @ 11 AM in the Fireside Room; Bell Choir @ 5:15 PM in the Sanctuary; Confirmation @ 5:50 PM in the Fellowship Hall; Choir @ 6 PM in the Chapel.

Thursday, May 2, Men's Bible Study @ 9 AM in the Conference Room; Grand Meadows Worship Service @ 10:30 AM at Grand Meadows.

Friday, May 3, Office Closed

Saturday, May 4, Narcotics Anonymous @ 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, May 5, Worship Service with Communion @ 9 AM in the Sanctuary; Adult Education Forum @ 10:30 AM in the Conference Room.

CLC ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

Find out what's going on at Christ Lutheran



Veterans Wall

Becky Peterson has volunteered to update our Veterans Wall here at CLC. It has been some time since this wall has been updated and we know that we have some members that have recently joined the military, as well as some whose status may have changed.

Becky would like to hear from those currently serving as well as any Veterans whose name is not listed on our wall. In addition, we know that there are a few plaques that have misspellings, and we would like to correct those. If you see any error with your name or dates of service, please let Becky know. Becky can be reached

at 218-343-2785 or you can contact the church office and Megan will relay information to Becky. We are grateful to those in our congregation who are currently serving or have served. Thank you!

Head Ushers Needed!

We are looking for Head Ushers. Head Ushers help get the church ready each Sunday morning and help coordinate our other assistants. If you have questions about the position, feel free to contact Pastor Erik at pastor@christluth.com. If you would like to sign-up, please put your name on the Head Usher calendar in the Usher room under the Sunday you are willing to assist with. Thank you for all your help!

Thank You From the Family of Chris Eurich

Our family wants to thank all that were involved with LaVerne Eurich's funeral, held here at Christ Lutheran on Saturday, April 20th. Your love, support, and comfort during this time of loss has been so uplifting and we greatly appreciate all that you have done for us and our family. God bless you all!

The Chris Eurich Family

Sunday Acolytes

Students don't forget to keep signing up for Sunday Acolyte slots! Our Acolytes are a crucial part of our worship services and help keep everything flowing smoothly. Find the signup form on our Worship Assistants webpage (christluth.com/worship/worship-assistants) or our Confirmation webpage (christluth.com/confirmation).



Welcome to the Lord's Table!

On Sunday, April 21st, Christ Lutheran welcomed five youth to the Lord's Table during our worship service with over 200 family and friends in attendance. First Communion is such an important milestone in the lives of God's beloved children, and we guided them to the body and of blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given and shed for you. On Saturday the 20th, they made the bread that was celebrated the next day. Thank you to Mary Metag for assisting with this. The First Communicants included Hannah Bruch, Mason Metag, Broc Roberts, Avery Sauter, and Brooklyn Weber.

Join us for An Adult Education Series

A new Adult Education series has begun! Join us at 10:30 AM in the Conference Room. There will be six sessions on "Five Gifts of Discipleship – How Do We Live Our Baptism?".

Bulletin, Newsletter, and Worship Service Deadlines

In an effort to ensure that worship services plans can be finalized, and that the bulletins and newsletters can be edited and reviewed, in a timely manner, we are posting official

deadlines for submission. We thank everyone for helping us make these productions as wonderful as we can!

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesdays @ 10 AM

Bulletin Announcement Deadline: Wednesdays @ 12 PM

Worship Service Additions or Alterations: 7 days prior to the affected service.

April Food Shelf Focus: Canned Goods

For the month of April, we will also focus on canned goods such as veggies, fruits, and meats. Christ Lutheran collected and donated 161 pounds of cooking and baking supplies and other items in March. Each donation in the month of March was matched so our donations went further.

Thank you, Christ Lutheran, for your continued generosity!!!