

# Fifth Sunday of Easter



Messiah Lutheran Church  
May 2, 2021

(440) 331-2405  
[MessiahChurchFairview.org](http://MessiahChurchFairview.org)

# To our Guests: Welcome!

## Worship Patterns in Pandemic Days

God be praised for every person here this morning and for all who are with us in spirit as they watch and pray at home. God strengthen us all through his word and promise in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The continued threat of coronavirus infection requires us to change our habits during the time we spend together. Please follow these rules to keep each other safe:

### **On entering—**

- Masks are required. Please be sure to wear one.
- Sit only in pews marked with a bow.
- Keep the spacing rod between you and your family and the person or family at the other end.
- Greet each other from a distance.

### **During the service—**

- Refrain from singing unless otherwise instructed. Instead, listen to the singers in the balcony and follow the words in the bulletin.
- When we share the Peace, do not hug or shake hands. Instead wave or bow to the people around you.
- Offering plates will not be passed. If you missed the basket on your way in, place it there when you leave.

### **During communion—**

- Keep a safe distance from the person in front of you as you approach.
- Hold out your cupped hands for the host. The pastor will not place this in your mouth or extended fingers.
- For the wine, take a plastic cup from the top of the music stand, and hold it steady as the pastor fills it. Deposit the cup in the receptacle as you return to your place.

### **As you leave—**

- Unless you need the elevator, exit through front doors only.
- Feel free to gather on the front lawn for conversation, keeping safe distances.

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021; 8:30 & 10 am

*The congregation is invited to participate at the places marked with **bold** type*

Prelude

“O Blessed Spring,” Anne Krentz Organ

## Entrance

*Stand as you are able as the cross is carried in from the church entrance*

Gathering Hymn “Chief of Sinners Though I Be,” #609 *stanzas 1-3, 5*

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

**C Amen.**

P 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.

**C Amen.**

*Silence is kept for self-examination.*

A Most merciful God, 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.

P Is this also your confession? If so, say amen.

**C Amen.**

P 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 of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

# Greeting

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

C And also with you.

## This Is the Feast

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 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.



*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,



al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.



*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## The Word of God

### First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her

entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### Psalms 22:25-31

*(10:00) Cantor sings verses in regular print; All sing verses in bold print*



<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 o- | ver 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 be- | fore the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

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

## Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

## **C Thanks be to God.**

*Stand as you are able*

## Gospel Acclamation

"O Blessed Spring," #447 *stanzas 1, 5*

*At the announcement of the Gospel:*

**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.**

*You may be seated.*

Sermon

Pastor Bridger

Hymn of the Day “We Know That Christ Is Raised,” #449 *stanzas 1-3*

*Stand as you are able*

Nicene Creed

A We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

**C Amen.**

A 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.

**C Amen.**

A 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.

**C Amen.**

## Prayer of the Church

*After each portion of the prayers:*

Lord, in your mercy. . .

**C Hear our prayer.**

## Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

*Greet those around you with these or similar words, after which you may be seated in prayerful silence as the altar is prepared. Stand again as you are able at the pastor's invitation*

Presentation of the Offering      “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”  
Kevin Hildebrand

A Let us pray. Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## The Lord’s Supper

### Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

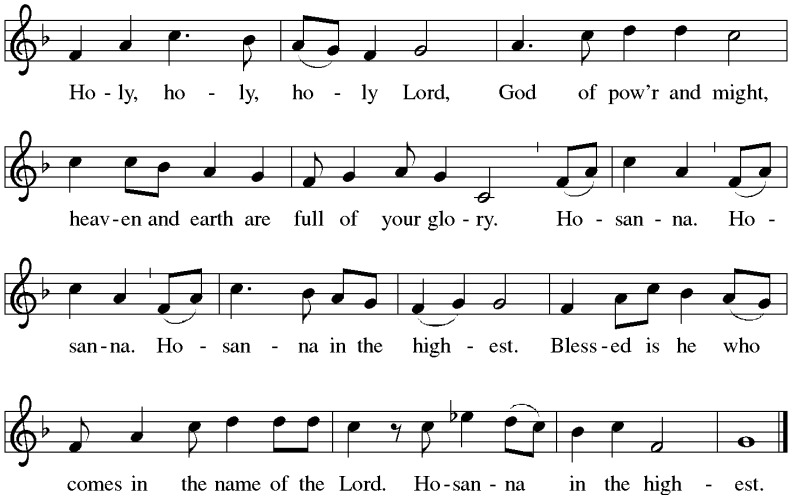
P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. 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.

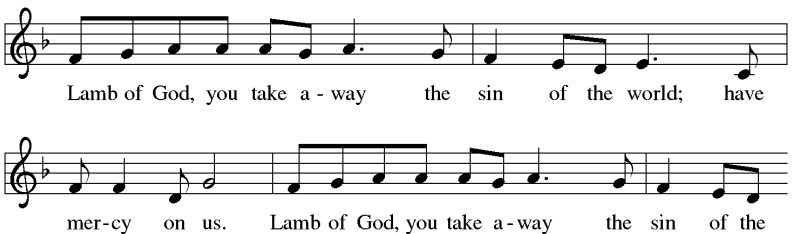
P Holy God, almighty and immortal, we thank and praise you for your unaccountable love...who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*You may be seated*

**Communion**



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.

“Thou Art the Vine,” Andrew Carter (8:30)

*Thou art the vine, we are the branches and are thine;  
Thou art the vine, and we a part in your design; Alleluia!*

*Thou art the root, and we the tendrils and the shoot;  
Thou art the root, and we the tenders of the fruit; Alleluia!*

*God give us grace within this place  
To grow anew in all things true; Alleluia.  
Our voices raise in endless praise; Alleluia.*

*Thou art the vine, thou art the living bread and wine;  
Thou art the vine, to sing your praise our hearts combine; Alleluia.*

*Thou art the life of ev'ry tree;  
Come, Holy Lord, and spring in me; Alleluia.  
May nature's voice with us rejoice: Alleluia.*

*Thou art the vine, we are the branches and are thine;  
Thou art the vine, and we a part in your design; Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*When all have communed, stand as you are able*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

**C Amen.**

**A** Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life.; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

# Sending

## Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

## Sending Hymn

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing,” *stanzas 1-3, 5*

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound To dis - tant  
3 Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, Un - touched, un -  
4 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, Where col - or,

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, He comes to claim the  
moved by hu - man pains, But dai - ly, in the  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, He suf - fers still, yet

prais - es ring. In death his love shall nev - er die.  
here and now And con - quer ev - 'ry place and time.  
midst of life, Our Sav - ior with the Fa - ther reigns.  
loves the more, And lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.

5 Christ is alive! Ascended Lord—  
He rules the world his Father made,  
Till, in the end, his love adored  
Shall be to all on earth displayed.

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing,” Jonathan Reuss

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## Serving Today

*Preaching Minister* – Pastor Bridger

*Presiding Minister* – Pastor Burce

*Assisting Ministers* – Carl & Linda Herhuth (8:30); Mike Thiel (10)

*Acolytes* – Kaitlyn Carlin (8:30); Tyler Vance (10)

*Singers* – David Graves, Claire Connelly (8:30)

*Organist* – Connie Triplett

*Deacons* – Ray Durban (8:30); Ed Belohlavek (10)

*Welcome Team* – Joyce Budaker

*Sound Technician* – Jared Waugaman

*Altar Guild* – Martha Trapp

## **This Week's Commemorations**

*May 1*—SS. PHILIP and JAMES THE LESS, two of the twelve apostles.

*May 2*—ST. ATHANASIUS, d. 373, a great bishop and theologian who led the resistance to a wildly popular heresy of his day.

*May 4*—MONICA, d. 387, the Christian mother who shaped the faith of her son, Augustine, one of the all-time great thinkers and teachers of the Church.

### **May 9**

#### **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

*We encourage you to read the lessons as part of your preparation for divine services.*

## Messiah Lutheran Church

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Connect with Messiah – text 'MESSIAHFP' to 84576 to sign-up

## Messiah Lutheran School

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+ + +

*Servants and Missionaries* – All MLC members

*Senior Pastor*– Jerome Burce

*Associate Pastor* – Seth Bridger

*Minister of Youth* – Adonai Henderson

*Pastoral Assistant* – Ruth Mortensen

*Music Director* – Connie Triplett

*Messiah School Principal* – Helen Casselberry

*Administrator & Pierstorf Memorial Fund Director* – Darlene Waugh



**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Drawing in to Christ. Building up in Christ. Sending out for Christ.*

*To the glory of God, through the strength of the Spirit.*