

# **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

April 28, 8:30 & 11 am

# Messiah Lutheran Church

MessiahFairview.org

(440) 331-2405

**Welcome to worship!** We are delighted you are here and have chosen to worship today. We believe the Holy Spirit of God gathers us together as one. May you be strengthened through his word and the promise in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The mission statement of Messiah Church is: ***Drawing in to Christ, Building up in Christ, Sending out for Christ.*** Our aim is to love each other as Christ has loved us all. We continue to encourage sensible social distancing. If you wish to wear a mask, please do so. If you are feeling ill, please take precautions and consider worshipping via the livestream ministry of Messiah. Online services can be found at ***MessiahFairview.org; click "watch services" online.***

Holy Communion is shared at every worship service. The sacrament of holy communion is central to our worship life. If you are a first-time worshipper here, know that you are invited to receive and partake in the sharing of holy communion.

## 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.

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 8:30 & 11 am

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

Prelude

*Little Prelude and Fugue in F*

J. S. Bach

## Gathering

*Stand and turn to face the cross of Christ at the Entrance to the Sanctuary*

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

**C Amen.**

P Look, here is water!

**C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P 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!

**C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P 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.**

P Look, here is water!

**C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Gathering Hymn

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379

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.**

Canticle of Praise

*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.

*Sit*

## Word

### 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>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!"

**R**

## 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.

**P** The Word of the Lord.

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

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

*Cantor/Choir sings refrain. All repeat refrain.*



*Cantor/Choir I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit. (John 15: 5)*

*All repeat Refrain*

## Gospel

John 15: 1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to John.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. <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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## Sermon

Rev. Seth Bridger

*Silence for Reflection; Stand*

Hymn of the Day Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song ELW 403



## 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.

## Prayer of the Church

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**A** 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*

*You may be seated*

## The Lord's Supper

Music at the Offering

Joy Ringers (8:30)

(11:00)

*Thine Is the Glory*

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

Anna Laura Page

David Cherwien

*Stand as the Offerings are brought forward*

### Offertory:

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW 674



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:  
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,  
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

*If the Lord so moves you, you can make an offering by text to 855-913-1744 or by visiting our online giving portal at [tinyurl.com/giveMLC](http://tinyurl.com/giveMLC)*

A Risen One,

C 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

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.**

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

## Holy, Holy, Holy



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, mighty Lord, gracious Father. Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. (*the prayer continues*) For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.  
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,  
we await his coming in power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share in Christ's body and blood  
may live to the praise of your glory  
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Join our prayers with those of your servants  
of every time and every place,  
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high  
priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.  
Through him, with him, in him, almighty Father,  
now and forever.



**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.**

*Sit*

## Communion

*Concerning the sacrament — Holy Communion is Christ's gift to his Church, his true body and blood given with bread and wine for us to eat and drink. Here Christ confirms in us the benefits of his death and resurrection. He forgives our sins, refreshes our lives, and promises our salvation.*

*We welcome to the Lord's table all baptized and communing Christians who share this faith. In receiving, please follow the lead of the people around you. Gluten-free hosts are available for those who need them. Quietly ask the Pastor for the Gluten-free host.*

*If coming forward not to commune but to receive a blessing, approach the Pastor with your arms crossed. If you are physically unable to come forward, simply let an usher or deacon know you would like to receive communion at your seat.*

Choir (11:00)

*Set Free, Set Free By God's Grace*

Anon.

## Distribution Hymns

Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands  
Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus

ELW 370  
ELW 501

*Stand after all have communed*

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

**C Amen.**

### Post Communion Prayer

P 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.

**C Amen.**

## Sending

### Blessing

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

P The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope

✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

### Sending Hymn

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today! ELW 373

*Stanza 3 high voices; stanza 4 low voices.*

P Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

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

### Postlude

*Präludium in F Major*

*Georg Böhm*

# Serving Today

Preaching & Presiding Minister – Rev. Seth Bridger  
Deacons – Bob Trapp (8:30) Terrie Leske (11:00)  
Choir Director & Coordinator of Music Ministry – Deborah Zudell-Dickey  
Principal Organist – Michael Cherup  
Joy Ringers – Ruth King  
Altar Guild – Martha Trapp, Debbie Luekens

## Altar Flowers

Are given in Loving memory of Ema & Nikolais Krutowskis  
by Christa & Steve Turnbull

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## This Week's Commemorations

*April 29*—CATHERINE OF SIENA, d. 1380, a theologian, mystic, humanitarian, and counselor, at a remarkably young age, to popes and kings.

*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.

## In Our Prayers

- For Easter joy to spread throughout the world, including within our lives and the lives of people we love.
- In celebration of the birth of Noelle, newborn daughter of Nolan and Amy Zubin.
- For the Senior Pastor Call process, that the Holy Spirit guide the discernment of candidates and those serving on the Pastoral Call Committee: Sam Gmetro, John Hayduk, Jay Machado, Kathy Neumann, Allison Younger-Waugaman, and Karen Wolf.
- For those with health concerns: Andrew Boraggina after surgery, Chip Difiore, Sue Nerlinger, Maddie Polenz, Rev. Daniel Benuska healing from surgery, Ellie Hendrickson (Edna Martin's great-granddaughter), Emerson Buskirk, Kristy Younger, Rev. Gerry Miller (former Pastor with Messiah Lutheran) and his adult son Michael, Cliff Preuss, Terri Civittolo, Liz Dimmock, Nina Long, Evelyn and Churchill Ward, Marc Heidmann, Officer Nickolas, Baby Miles, Carla (friend of Rita-Ann Shaffer), and those quietly receiving medical treatments and those living with addictions.

## God's Word for Next Week

### 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 worship next week.*

## **Messiah Lutheran Church**

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

## **Messiah Lutheran School**

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Email – [school@messiahfp.org](mailto:school@messiahfp.org)

[www.messiahfairview.org](http://www.messiahfairview.org)

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Servants and Missionaries – All MLC members

Pastor – The Rev. Seth C. Bridger

Pastoral Assistant – Deaconess Ruth Mortensen

Choir Director & Coordinator of Music Ministry – Deborah Zudell-Dickey

Principal Organist – Michael Cherup

Minister of Youth – Adonai Henderson

Technology Manager – Jared Waugaman

Building Manager – Jason Reynolds

Messiah School Principal – Helen Casselberry

Administrator & Pierstorf College Fund Director – Darlene Waugh

Communications Coordinator – Sarah Heinsbergen

Bookkeeper & Pierstorf College Fund Business Manager – Lisa Daley

Administrative Assistant – Diane Ward



**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.*