

# 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 2, 2024



**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH – ST. CATHARINES, ON**

140 Russell Avenue

St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1

Church: 905-685-8294

[www.christlutheransc.ca](http://www.christlutheransc.ca)

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**Office Hours:** Thursday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon  
**Bulletin Announcements:** Please send to [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca).  
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

**Pastor:** Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) [sr.pastor@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:sr.pastor@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Parish Assistant:** Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) [parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Business Manager:** Karen McCumber [business.manager@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:business.manager@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Secretary:** [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC](https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC)  
**Bulletin by email:** [chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca)

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING\\_TKT19c\\_OIBbMqGwLw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKT19c_OIBbMqGwLw)

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Seminarian Vijay Samuel, Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary Student Fieldworker  
Rev. Noel Richard, Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary Colloquy Student Fieldworker

**COVER ART** is the SOUL members decoration for Autism Awareness, which is symbolized by puzzle pieces. As expression of their faith, this is an Autism Cross. In Christ we all fit together and there is a place for everyone.

### DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS

Monday: Luke 24:13-35      Wed.: Luke 24:36-53      Friday: Acts 1  
Tuesday: 1 Samuel 15      Thurs: 1 Samuel 16      Saturday: 1 Samuel 17:1-33

**Musician** – Mayumi Munoz

**Reader** – Tom Kuhl

### Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church! We're glad you've joined us for worship!

Please be aware that our Worship Services are **recorded and posted on YouTube and Facebook**.

There is, although very slight, a possibility that your image might be posted. If you have any concerns, please either speak to the Elder on duty or alternatively seat yourself more towards the back of the sanctuary or along either of the outside aisles. May our gracious and loving Lord bless you as you worship Him. We pray we all remain safe and healthy.

### ALSO HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Monday: 10:00 AM Luther Manor Pastor Time  
1:00 -4:00 PM Sewing team  
7:30 PM – Choir  
8:00 PM Parish Ed Zoom meeting  
Tuesday: 9:30-11 AM – Precious Moments  
7:30 PM Worship Committee meeting  
Thursday: 10:00-11:30 AM SOUL  
7:00 PM Promise Band Practice  
Saturday: 4:00 PM Family Day Event  
Sunday: 9:00-9:50 AM Sunday School. Coffee Hour + 10 AM 6<sup>th</sup> Easter Communion

### PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIPPING

Risen Lord, you are the true vine and we are the branches. By your Spirit, produce the fruit of love, joy, peace, and patience in us for others to taste and enjoy. Keep us from hanging on to love for ourselves. Prune all selfishness from us and fill us with your love. Constantly intercede for us before our heavenly Father and open our eyes that we may see him through you. We ask all this in your holy name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



**YOU ARE INVITED!! EVERY SUNDAY!!**

Hope to see you downstairs *for*

**COFFEE, TEA & TREATS !**

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

(during Sunday School & CHAT)

Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats, please contact: Judy Mason

### **MAY 2024 WORSHIP SCHEDULE**



May 5 - 6<sup>th</sup> Easter Holy Communion

May 12 - Jesus' Ascension & Mother's Day Scripture & Song Service

[Promise Band]

May 19 - Pentecost Day Creative Holy Communion

May 26 - Trinity Sunday Service of the Word For Prayer

### **PARISH EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Today we learn of Jesus' famous parable of the Good Samaritan, who risks his own life to help a Jewish man whose peril was ignored by people who knew should help. The question, "who is my neighbour?" challenges us also to "go and do likewise". We also ask, "who is this Good Samaritan?" Jesus rescues us, dead in our sin, and even enemies of God. Bible Verse: "We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19.

**FAMILY DAY EVENT - MAY 4 @ 4 PM!** Singing, a scripture devotional, a pasta dinner (there will be a sign up for desserts or salads) and our organized game this time will be 'Crokinole'. If you have a board that we can borrow please let Louise know. (905-329-8579).

**SEWING TEAMS:** Mondays, 1-4 PM. in the church basement devoted to making necessary items for the Haiti mission and various other missions. Lots of seamstress duties are needed, but sewing is the #1 priority, everyone welcome. Please speak with Wendy Hyatt for further information.

**ASCENSION DAY NIAGARA REGION SERVICE** Thursday, May 9 @ 7 PM -- St John Lutheran Snyder, ON. Meal follow. All who attend are invited to bring a favourite food item to share.

**MOTHER'S DAY SALE:** Concordia Lutheran church, Fonthill, May 11, 9 AM – 4 PM. Boston Ferns, Hanging flower baskets, 6 inch potted flowers, "white elephant table", assorted vendors, baked cookie boxes, coffee/tea/pop – free with food donations. Tables are still available to sell goods: \$25 for 6ft table, no hydro.



**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!** Celebrate Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary **May 17-18 at our offices at Messiah Lutheran Church, 700 Glen Forrest Blvd., Waterloo.** See poster my mail slots for details or contact LBTC at 519-742-3361 or pastor.r.mohr@lbtc.ca All events are free of charge or free-will offering, but reservations are needed for the meals by May 3.. Come **WORSHIP** with us, **FEAST** with us, and **CELEBRATE** all that our Lord has done and is doing to bring His Word to many people in the languages of their hearts.



**LWML-C/MARY MARTHA EVENTS**

**Tuesday, May 21 – 7 PM** —Speaker / TBA.

**Tuesday, June 18:** Summer Potluck – 5:30 PM. More details to follow.

Please feel free to join us for any or all of the LWML-C/Mary Martha events!

**NATIONAL-LWMLC Convention:** The **12th Regular Convention of Lutheran Women's Missionary League–Canada** will be held July 11-14, 2024, at the Four Points by Sheraton in London, Ontario: Theme – **Ps. 149:1 'Sing to the Lord a new song'**. You are welcome to join in person or online via live stream. For more information see flyer in narthex.

- Special Keynote Speaker, Deb Burma. Christian author and LWML seminar leader. Special Interest Speakers will share cross-cultural ministry with voice & song.
- The mites monetary offerings gathered the last 3 years provided local support for a Bethlehem Walk in BC to International support of deaconesses in Nicaragua and Cambodia. Rev. Mark Smith will bring information. Voting on Mission Grants for the next triennium. *Anyone interested in attending, see Lorraine Kaijia.. See LWML web site: lutheranwomen.ca*

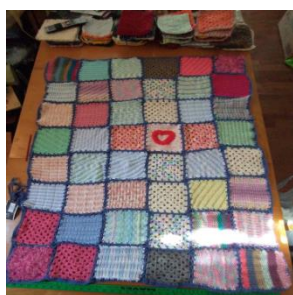
**SAVE THE DATE! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL @ CLC JULY 22-26<sup>TH</sup> 9 AM – 12 PM. Extended care to 3:30 PM, grades 1-6. Scuba themed this year!**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter April 14<sup>th</sup>: 99**

**SOUL: 38, 15 PSWs**

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS**

			<u>2024-04-21</u>	<u>16</u>	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>+ / (-)</u>
<b>Current:</b>	<u>303,899.00</u>	<u>5,844.21</u>	<u>1,509.30</u>	<u>61,129.73</u>	<u>(32,377.65)</u>
<b>LCC Missions</b>	<u>17,500.00</u>	<u>336.54</u>	<u>630.00</u>	<u>6,635.00</u>	<u>1,250.38</u>
<b>Property Improvement:</b>			<u>45.00</u>	<u>2,237.00</u>	



**Granny Squares still needed:** This is an ongoing project we will gratefully accept more completed 6 inch knitted or crocheted Granny Squares in any pattern or colour. We would also appreciate any yarn that you may have, leftover yarn or full balls of yarn. In the narthex there is a white cube with yarn and hooks that you are welcome to take (or donate). There is another basket for completed squares. It has been about 6 months that we have been able to show Christ's love in our Caring Squares blankets. (23 blankets to date!) Thank you for donating yarn or completed squares as we continue with this project! Praise God! If you have any questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)

**PLEASE SAVE USED STAMPS:** LWML-C Convention donates them charities purchasing Bibles.

**STANDARD FIRST AID CERTIFICATE:** To ensure the continued and on-going safety and health of our congregation, the Social and Health Committee would like to determine who in the membership currently holds an up-to-date Standard First Aid – BLS CPR (HCP) Certificate. As well, if you have previously had a certificate that information would be helpful. Please speak to Judy Slingerland or contact her at [jslingerland@cogeco.ca](mailto:jslingerland@cogeco.ca) if this request applies to you.

**100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY FOR REV. DR. HOWARD KRAMER:** A former member of Christ Lutheran and President of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary from 1984-1990. He will turn 100 on June 3, 2024. He recently celebrated 75 years since his ordination as a pastor. He is currently living in assisted living in Columbia, MO after living in Oklahoma for 11 years. He lives near family, including one of his sons and his wife, a grandson and his wife, and two great-grandchildren. To mark this special occasion, his family suggests that **those who knew him send him a birthday card** and greeting. ***They ask that you mail the cards by May 15***, if possible, so that all the cards can be given to him during the celebration on May 26, Memorial Day Weekend. Please send your cards and greetings to: **Howard Kramer c/o Michael Kramer 1702 Hayworth Ct Columbia, MO USA 65203-6279** It will be a wonderful surprise for him to receive a large card shower on that day.

**PASTOR HOFFFS** is taking time off May 5 – 17. Rev. Dr. James Kellerman [new prof at CLTS] will be celebrating the Sacrament on May 5<sup>th</sup> and our Seminary fieldworker will preach the sermon. Seminary students Vijay & Noel will lead the entire service on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Holy Communion Sundays will be the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> for this month. Any and all pastoral emergencies are being arranged with Rev. David Hamp our Niagara Circuit Counsellor. Peace be with you all.

# CREATIVE COMMUNION FOR THE EASTER SEASON

THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024 + 10 AM worship

OPENING HYMN

***"The Lord Of Life"***

*[Awake My Soul & With The Sun tune]*

**The Lord of Life, a vine is He and grafted into Him we be;  
and thus we yield abundantly -- blest fruit for all to taste and see.**

**If we be joined to Him we know, His strength and pow'r will help us grow.  
His Spirit's grace through us will flow to prune and shape us as we go.**

**The vine is He, the branches we for now and to eternity.  
His word sown deep in us will be, both joy and hope sufficiently.**

*Words: Mary Kay Beall © 2005 Hope Publishing Company www. Hope publishing.com/find-hymns*

ORDER OF CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God is light;

**in him there in no darkness at all.**

If we claim to have fellowship with him,

**yet walk in the darkness,**

we lie and so do not live by the truth.

**But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,**

we have fellowship with one another,

**and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from sin.**

With one voice, let us confess our sins in the presence of our God and of one another:

Merciful Father, Eternal God

**in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts. Deliver us for the sake of your steadfast love. Our sins trouble us, O God. We are troubled by how they have hurt others. We are troubled by how they have hurt us. Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your resurrected Son. Amen.**

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for You and for His sake, forgives you all of your sins. To all who believe in Christ, He comes to live in them, so that all may have life in His name. So in the place of Christ and by His Holy Word, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

# 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  
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

*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

We pray: O Father, form the minds of Your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what You teach and desire what You promise, that, amid all the changes of this life, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE WORD

### **The First Reading:** *Acts of the Apostles 8: 26-40*

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 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. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 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? He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 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. 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.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### CHOIR ANTHEM

### ***"How Great His Love"***

How great His love, how great His mercy, to choose a path that leads to Calvary,  
To drink the cup of pain and sorrow; How great His love, how great His love for me.  
How great His love; How great the love of God The Father,  
to choose a plan that sends His only Son; To live with us, to walk among us:  
How great His love, how great His love for us. How great His love, how great His love ,  
That He should call us His children, That He should give..... Jesus;  
How great His love for us,  
How great His love, how great His love for us  
How great His love, how gen'rous His compassion,  
To meet our needs before we knew to ask; To call our names, to beckon us to follow;  
How great His love, how great His love for us. How great His love, how great His love ,  
That He should call us His children, That He should give..... Jesus;  
How great His love for us, How great His love,  
how great His love for us.....How great His love for us!

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## The Epistle: 1 John 4:1-11

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus does away with Jesus is not from God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming; and now it is already in the world. Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them; for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and whoever is not from God does not listen to us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## SUNG GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

[www.hymnary.org/hymn/SOF2001/page/17](http://www.hymnary.org/hymn/SOF2001/page/17)



Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
le - lu - jah! Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Music: Traditional Carribean, arr. by John L. Bell, © 1990, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent; verses and acc. by Marty Haugen, © 1993, GIA Publications, Inc.

## The Holy Gospel: St. John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter:

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus says:] 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

#### THE NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

#### CHILDREN'S LESSON



GOSPEL SONG *"Christ The Word Of God Incarnate"*

[Holy Manna]



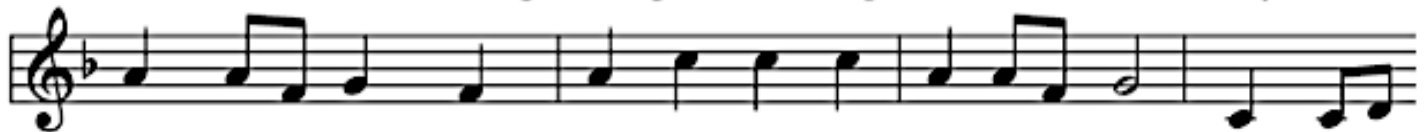
1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate, Lord and Son of  
 2 Christ, the liv - ing bread from heav - en, Food for bod - y,  
 3 Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant From the stump of  
 4 Christ, our good and faith - ful shep - herd, Watch - ing all Your



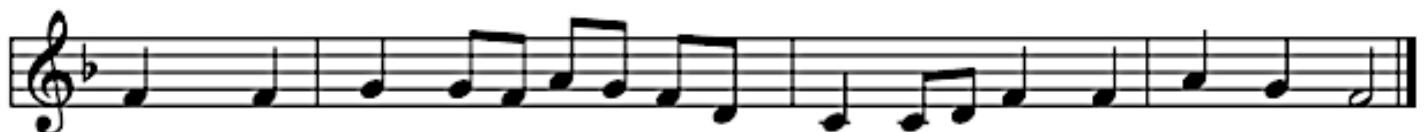
A - bra - ham; Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,  
 food for soul; Christ, the man - na dai - ly giv - en,  
 Jes - se's tree; Christ, true vine, You nur - ture branch - es  
 lambs and sheep; Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,



Per - fect God, the great I AM; Christ, the light, You  
 Nour - ish, strength - en, make us whole. Feed us with the  
 To bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly. Graft us in - to  
 Nev - er - fail - ing vig - il keep. When we stray, Good



shine un - van - quished, Light and life You bring to all; Light our  
 food of heav - en, Fore - taste of the feast to be; Quench our  
 You, O Sav - ior; Prune our hearts so we re - main Fruit - ful  
 Shep - herd, seek us, Find us, lift us, bear us home; Lamb of



path with Your own pres - ence, Grant us grace to heed Your call.  
 thirst with liv - ing wa - ter Spring - ing up e - ter - nal - ly.  
 branch - es in Your vine - yard Till e - ter - nal life we gain.  
 God, our shep - herd, keep us; Let us hear Your voice a - lone.

Text: Steven P. Mueller, 1964  
 Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1825, Cincinnati  
 Text: © 2001 Steven P. Mueller. Used by  
 permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110323639  
 Tune: Public domain

MESSAGE

THE OFFERINGS *are gathered.*

OFFERING SONG

*"Let The Vineyards Be Fruitful"*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

[https://images.slideplayer.com/29/9491194/slides/slide\\_49.jpg](https://images.slideplayer.com/29/9491194/slides/slide_49.jpg)

SHARING OF THE PEACE

**THE PRAYERS**

Heavenly Father, with joy the Church continues to celebrate the resurrection victory of Your beloved Son. Look in Your mercy on all who have been baptized into His death and resurrection, and grant them grace each day to die to sin and rise to newness of life with Him.

Praying for mercy; **Hear us, O God, Alleluia!**

Fountain of mercy, You call Your people to love and serve those in need. Pour out Your blessing on all the mercy ministries of Christ's Church, that many may come to know and praise Your unspeakable kindness and love.

Praying for mercy; **Hear us, O God, Alleluia!**

King of kings and Lord of lords, to You we commend our public servants in this land. Bless and prosper them in their callings. Hinder everything in our common life that is contrary to Your will, and establish and strengthen every good endeavor.

Praying for mercy; **Hear us, O God, Alleluia!**

Lord of kindness and compassion, Your Son throughout His ministry healed the sick and relieved the distressed. Remember in tenderness those who are in need of His healing and comfort today [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, give them grace to entrust themselves entirely to Your loving care.

Praying for mercy; **Hear us, O God, Alleluia!**

Guiding Fire & Sheltering Cloud, be the strong arm of safety for travellers, the comfort of the lonely and afflicted, those addicted, for mourners, and all who have need that you continually nourish, sustain and restore them;

Praying for mercy; **Hear us, O God, Alleluia!**

Heavenly Father, help all who now celebrate these joyful holy days here on earth to finally praise you forever, with all the angels and saints in heaven. We ask this through your risen Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT

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

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

It is truly good, right and joyful that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God: but chiefly are we bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for He is the very Paschal Lamb, Who was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. By His death He has destroyed death, and by His rising to life again He has restored to us everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and all the company of Heaven, we praise Your glorious name and join their un-ending hymn:

HOLY HOLY HOLY

*"Come You Faithful" melody*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord! God of pow'r im-mort-al,  
Who, triumphant, burst the bars -- of the grave's dark port-al.  
Come, you faithful, raise the strain, of triumphant gladness!  
Blest Hosannas now we sing -- Praising joy from sadness!**

*John of Damascus, 700 AD, alt. 2020*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come...**

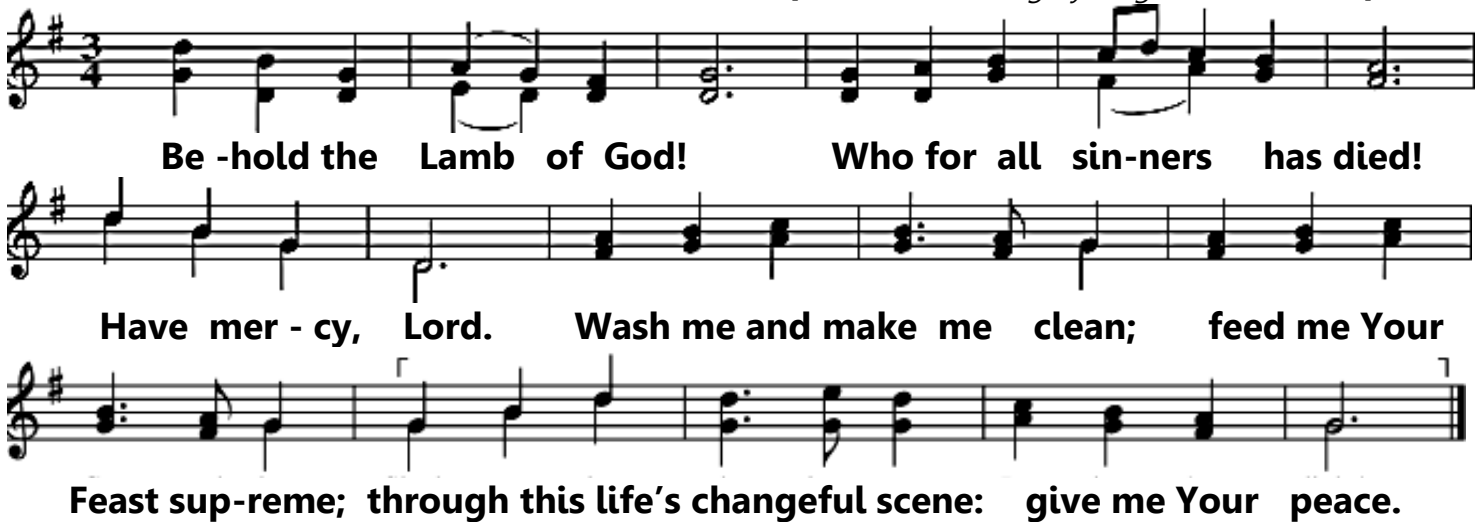
## WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "Take, eat; This is My + Body which is given for you, this do, in remembrance of Me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying "Drink of it all of you, this cup is the New Testament in My + Blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

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

## LAMB OF GOD

*["Come Thou Almighty King Tune: LSB # 905]*



Be - hold the Lamb of God! Who for all sin-ners has died!

Have mer - cy, Lord. Wash me and make me clean; feed me Your

Feast sup-reme; through this life's changeful scene: give me Your peace.

## HOLY COMMUNION AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

As a baptized Christian in the faith:

- 1) I believe in the Scriptural teaching that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of this Sacrament. Jesus Himself says: "Eat My Flesh and drink My Blood and I will raise you up on the Last Day." [John 6]
- 2) I believe that I am worthy to receive the Sacrament as a baptized believer, who admits and confesses sins, receives forgiveness and desires to live a new life in Jesus Christ;
- 3) I believe that by eating and drinking Jesus Christ in the Bread and Wine I receive forgiveness of sins, salvation, new life and unity with other brothers and sisters in the faith;
- 4) I believe what is taught by Martin Luther in the Small Catechism: "a person is fully prepared who believes in the words 'given and shed for you for the forgiveness of all sins'."
- 5) Non-members who believe this confession of faith we welcome to join us for Holy Communion
- 6) If you desire Holy Communion, church membership or further information about receiving the Sacrament, please speak with the Pastor or an elder before worship.

## HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

**For those who have need, please feel free to stand at the rail if kneeling is difficult. The common cup and trays of individual glasses are available. Gluten free wafers are also available. Light purple glasses of Communion wine mixed with water are in the centre of the trays**

COMMUNION HYMNS

***"Christ The Lord Is Ris'n Today!"***

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Christ The Lord Is Ris'n Today!". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The first system includes four lines of lyrics. The second system includes three lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature.

1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" saints on earth and an - gels say.  
2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.  
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.  
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King! Where, O death, is now your sting?

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high; sing, O heav'ns, and earth, re - ply.  
Lo, our sun's e - clipse is o'er; lo, he sets in blood no more.  
Death in vain for - bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.  
Once he died our souls to save; where your vic - to - ry, O grave?

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, abr., alt.  
Tune: Pierre de Corbeille, d. 1221; adapt. Richard Redhead, 1820–1901;  
setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
Text and music: public domain.

ORIENTIS PARTIBUS  
77 77

LR 264/21:1 Pe 118-21; Ac 2124:1 Co 1555; Php 3:21

<https://hymnary.org/page/fetch/CWH2021/433/low>

***"O Jesus Christ, You Are The Same" [O God Our Help In Ages Past tune]***

**O Jesus Christ, You are the same -- the true and living vine;  
Around Your all-supporting stem, our feeble arms entwine.**

**New-born by faith and kept alive, we flourish and bear fruit;  
New life we from Your branch derive, our vigour from Your root.**

**Grafted in You by grace alone, in growth we daily rise;  
And springing up from You, the Vine, our souls shall reach the skies.**

**Upon our leaves, when parched with heat, refreshing dew shall drop;  
The plant which Your right hand has set, shall ne'er be rooted up.**

**Each moment water'd by Your Word, and fed with Bread divine,  
Fruit to eternal life shall bear, the smallest branch entwines.**

*A.M. Toplady, 1756, public domain [Rock of Ages author] St. Anne melody [Our God Our Help In Ages Past]*

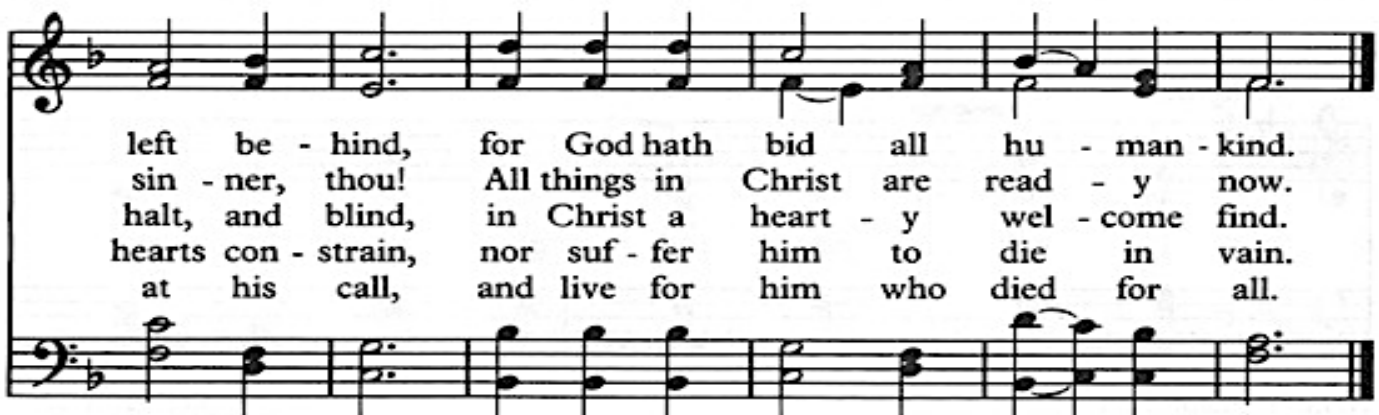
*"Come, Sinners, To The Gospel Feast"*



1. Come, sin - ners, to the gos - pel feast; let ev - ery  
2. Sent by my Lord, on you I call; the in - vi -  
3. Come, all ye souls by sin op - pressed, ye rest - less  
4. My mes - sage as from God re - ceive; ye all may  
5. This is the time, no more de - lay! This is the



soul be Je - sus' guest. Ye need not one be  
ta - tion is to all. Come, all the world! Come,  
wan - derers af - ter rest; ye poor, and maimed, and  
come to Christ and live. O let his love your  
Lord's ac - cept - ed day. Come thou, this mo - ment,



left be - hind, for God hath bid all hu - man - kind.  
sin - ner, thou! All things in Christ are read - y now.  
halt, and blind, in Christ a heart - y wel - come find.  
hearts con - strain, nor suf - fer him to die in vain.  
at his call, and live for him who died for all.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747 (Lk. 14:16-24)

MUSIC: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, ca. 1774; adapt. from *Metrical Psalter*, 1855

HURSLEY

LM

[www.hymnary.org/hymn/UMH](http://www.hymnary.org/hymn/UMH)

*"Let Us Break Bread Together"*

**Let us break bread together on our knees,**

**let us break bread together on our knees.**

**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,**

**O Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees,**

**let us drink wine together on our knees.**

**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,**

**O Lord, have mercy on me.**



**Let us praise God together on our knees,  
let us praise God together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

*Words: African-American spiritual (Acts 2:42) Music: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986 Tune: LET US BREAK BREAD, Meter: 10 10 with Refrain. Reprinted from www.hymnsite.com*

*"Once In Those Blest Baptismal Waters"*

1 Once in those blest bapt - is - mal wat - ers I put on Christ and  
made Him mine; now num - bered with God's sons and daugh - ters,  
I share His peace and love di - vine; O God, for Je - sus'  
sake I pray Your peace may bless me ev - ry - day.

**His Body and His Blood I've taken in His blest Supper, feast divine;  
Now I shall never be forsaken, for I am His and He is mine;  
O God, for Jesus' sake I pray, Your peace may bless me ev'ryday.**

**And now I live in God contented and die without a thought of fear.  
My soul has to God's plans consented, for through His Son my faith is clear.  
O God, for Jesus' sake I pray, Your peace may bless me ev'ryday.**

*Words: Emilie von Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, 1637-1706; trans. 1941 © Concordia Publishing House  
Music: Cornelius Dretzel, 1697-1775; trans. 1941 © Concordia Publishing House PUBLIC DOMAIN reprinted with limited  
worship use permission www.hymnary.orgLSB*

**SONG OF SIMEON** *"Come You Faithful" melody*

**Lord dis-miss us now in peace, we, Your joyful ser-vants.  
Our own eyes have seen Your Word and sal-va-tion fervent.  
Long prepared before the world was formed, glo-ry for all Is-rael,  
Light Which leads all nations forth, into Heaven, A--men.**

*Paraphrase of Luke 2:22-24 © 2024*

## BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour + and give you peace. **Amen.**

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

## CLOSING HYMN

### "O Blessed Spring"

O WALY WALY LM

Dsus D G C G Dsus D7

1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us  
2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain  
3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their  
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our  
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for

Em Am Dsus D G/B D7/A G/B G

1 in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to  
2 faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing  
3 heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will  
4 last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take  
5 this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -

Em Bm Am/C G

1 be a branch of this life giv - ing Tree.  
2 rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.  
3 move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.  
4 wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.  
5 vive and join us to your Tree of life.

*O Blessed Spring.* Text: Susan Palo Cherwien © 1993 admin. by Augsburg Fortress. Augsburg Fortress; choral arr. David Cherwien © 2011 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58b9cc9ab3db2b86c9ce1fcc/t/653aeadeec935059329d22f3/1698360037821/All+Saints+2023+Program.pdf>

REV. TODD HOEFFS

EASTER 5

John 15:1-8

Un-stunting Growth

April 28, 2024

If you get separated from a group in a crowd of people,  
you know the best thing to do is? Nothing.

Just stay right where you are and let others come find you.

If you start moving around you're more likely to just miss people looking for you.

Despite the impulses urging you to move out and look elsewhere for help,

Just stay there.

Help will come.

Similar can be said of our own life in God.

There's a constant pull inside of us to seek out safety

by doing good things to make up for bad things

or by trying to find something more certain, better,

or more permanent to gain our own version of peace.

But Jesus' direction to his disciples and you and me is that you are safe where you are.

Stay put. Remain in God's love.

Martin Luther himself once prayed: *"Use me as your instrument — but do not forsake me,*

*for if ever I should be on my own, I would easily ruin it all."*

Yes, on our own, we'd easily ruin what God works in us.

Abiding in Jesus may sound active, but its only active from our Lord's viewpoint.

The Greek word John chooses is basic, and originates in the Greek Military.

Mayno – is firm formation on a higher plane.

When a commander says "Stay in your position" until directed otherwise.

It is a steady stillness but a ready willingness to go where you are led.

Based in the relationship that the leader knows his people.

It's relational.

Almost parental.

Abide – living in Christ as He lives in you.

Those who abide in Jesus bear much fruit.

That's it. That's the answer. Abide in Jesus.

Stay in ready position.

Always be ready to give a witness for the joy of faith you have within.

[Pentecostal co-workers]

Living that joy in faith comes naturally from the Lord Who lives in you.

Our good work is not proof of this.

You and I don't earn strs in God's good book for things we've done.

Just as we don't get low marks for not doing all we could've done.

All who are part of the body of Christ

Who walk by faith

Who trust in the Lord

Who enjoy a life of worship gathering together in the Lord's name,

**ABIDE IN JESUS & BEAR MUCH FRUIT.**

Each day, regular conversations with God in prayer become a way of life.

As the old saying goes, *"I only pray when I'm in trouble, but I'm in trouble all the time."*

As quick as a "Lord, help me" is as great as lengthy petitions.

In Prayer you'll find yourself abiding in Jesus.

Prayer goes hand in hand with a worship life.

No matter how good our week has been, and how many times we pray or read a Bible verse,

It's easy slipping away from Jesus.

There is just too much going on in this world, and in our life, for it to be otherwise.

By the end of our week, we need to reset ourselves spiritually.

When the scattered gather together in here.

Then sent out back into our homes where the Living Bread of Jesus

Transforms the daily bread of our meals and families and friends.

Soon the abiding, the staying put in Jesus is as natural as breathing.

Breathing in the Spirit and His Word.

When this happens, the fruits we bear are just as good and natural and easy.

He does all the heavy lifting.

*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

*This is all about Jesus and He makes it all about us.*

*At the times when we are NONE of those gifts and at the times we are ALL ABOUT those.*

When we bear fruit and grow, we don't *will* our way to it.

We don't *work* our way to them.

They are not works, they are fruit.

Which is an important distinction.

Just like a tree, we don't bear more fruit by working harder,

but having our roots go deeper to the water and the nutrients.

Simply remaining in Jesus.

He has chosen you and me.

We are branches connected to Him the vine.

Branches that are healthy, that draw their nourishment from the trunk of the vine

Grow wonderful fruit.

Good works are visible reminders to the world that God loves all of us.

Outward examples of our gratitude and our faith in a God worthy of trust and worship.

Being in Jesus' love causes his love to express itself in our thoughts, words, and actions.

When he laid down his life for us, his friends, it grew amazing fruit.

Jesus wasn't simply saving us from a premature physical death; he was rescuing us from anything and everything harmful that gets in the way of our abiding. Laying down his life on the cross fully cancelled the heaviness of our sin.

There are no limits to Jesus' love;

there is nothing temporary in the blessings that God gives through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Apart from Jesus we can do nothing.

Everything is wrong until God makes it right.

On our own, we easily mess it all up.

In Jesus, its all good.

Good fruit.

Good work.

Good thoughts.

Growing. Progressing. Transforming.

Good fruits from the fruit of the vine we drink as a heavenly life-line to the throne of grace, where the Bread of Heaven feeds our emptiness.

Everything we do in this world God is calling us to do IN Jesus.

*And our Father is glorified by this.*

*You are a disciple, a follower, a believer, as you abide.*

*Remain in position.*

So that we will be known for our love, and our joy, and our peace, and our patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Until further directed – homeward.

Amen.

# The True Vine

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.." John 15:5 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 15:1-8

R P O W M P N S I O N F J X Z  
S E O G A Z Y M H A P B K G X  
N S M L D R W O E P P V T P W  
X C U A Y R M L X N X S A Y K  
B P P L I A C R T N M F R Z A  
X K R N N N A I H W O R D S J  
C S U N L E D A R G J N R K X  
J J N Q B A K E O L G E V Y T  
B E E P W I G J W O U F Y I C  
R B S W N I D Z N R O E U V E  
A U Z N N H T B T Y G R X N J  
N R F D P W H H J Z F N I F H  
C N S I J F M K E G B V Y B G  
H E Q E R H X G A R D E N E R  
U D F V A E W R Z U S S G G E

WORDS  
CLEAN  
FRUIT

GARDENER  
PRUNES  
BRANCH

REMAIN  
THROWN  
FIRE

BEAR  
VINE  
WITHERS

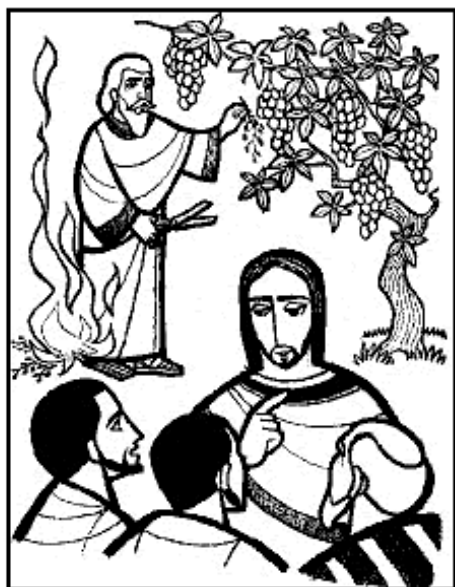
GLORY  
TRUE  
BURNED

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"I am the \_\_\_\_\_  
vine; you are the  
branches. If a man  
remains in me and  
I in him, he will bear  
much fruit; apart  
from me you can  
do nothing.

John 15:5 (NIV)

UTRIF 

--	--	--	--	--

 1

BNUR 

--	--	--	--

 3

BAER 

--	--	--	--

 2

FIER 

--	--	--	--

 4

1	2	3	4

Put the letters in the numbered squares in the same numbered square at the bottom of the puzzle to reveal the final answer.

## *Jumbled Word Clues*

1. A sweet food that grows on a tree or a bush.
2. To destroy by fire
3. To produce fruit; it could also be a large brown animal
4. The light and heat produced by a flame.