

"Christ the True Vine", 15th century painting

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Divine Service 3

April 28, 2024

Scripture of the Day

Acts 8:26–40 1 John 4:1–21 John 15:1–8

A Prayer before Worship

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

Prelude: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER ("Dearest Jesus, We Are Here"), J. S. Bach, BWV 731

Please stand and face the Processional Cross.



Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1625–73, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

The Rite of Holy Baptism (8:30) Claire Rose Lieb

LSB 268

The Rite of Holy Baptism (11:00) Luke Erik Slown

LSB 268

♣ Service of the Word ♣

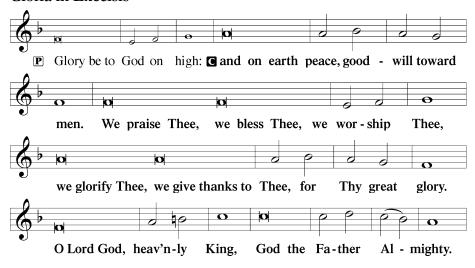


Mark 10:47



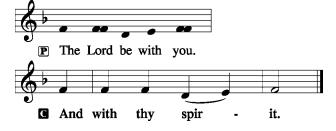
Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29





Salutation and Collect of the Day



2 Timothy 4:22



P O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit



The First Reading Acts 8:26–40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth.

33In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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



The Epistle Reading 1 John 4:1–21

¹Beloved, 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. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides 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 testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also 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 been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

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

Stand

Alleluia



The Holy Gospel John 15:1–8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.



¹[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. 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. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.





"I am the vine; you are the branches... apart from me you can do nothing." --John 15:5

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,	Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 44:6
the Father Almighty,	Matthew 6:9; Exodus 6:3
maker of heaven and earth	Genesis 1:1; John 1:1
and of all things visible and invisible.	Colossians 1:16
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,	Romans 10:9
the only-begotten Son of God,	John 3:16; Matthew 16:16
begotten of His Father before all worlds,	John 1:2
God of God, Light of Light	John 17:22; John 8:12; John 1:1
very God of very God,	Colossians 2:9
begotten, not made,	John 1:2
being of one substance with the Father,	John 10:30
by whom all things were made;	Hebrews 1:2; John 1:3
Who for us men and for our salvation	Matthew 20:28; Galatians 4:4-5
came down from heaven	John 3:13, John 6:38
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary	Luke 1:34-35
and was made man;	John 1:14
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.	Mark 15:25; John 19:16-18
He suffered and was buried.	John 19:1-3; Luke 23:53
And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures	1 Corinthians 15:4; Luke 24:6
and ascended into heaven	Acts 1:9
and sits at the right hand of the Father.	Acts 7:55
And He will come again with glory	Matthew 26:64
to judge both the living and the dead,	Acts 10:42; Matthew 3:12
Whose kingdom will have no end.	2 Peter 1:11
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,	John 14:26; Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:38
the Lord and giver of life,	Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:3
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,	John 15:26
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and	glorified, Mt. 3:16-17; Lk. 2:14
Who spoke by the prophets.	Ezekiel 11:5; 2 Peter 1:20-21
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,	1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,	Ephesians 4:5, Acts 2:38
And I look for the resurrection of the dead 1 Corinthian	ns 15:35-49; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
and the life $+$ of the world to come.	Isaiah 65:17-19; Revelation 21:1-4
Amen.	Psalm 106:48

Please remain standing for the Hymn of the Day.

Hymn of the Day: I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives

Stanzas 1 and 2 sung by Choir only



Text: attr. Johann Joachim Möller, 1660–1733; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1625–73

Text and tune: Public domain

Sit

Sermon Rev. Seth Clemmer

Stand

Prayer of the Church

- **P** Lord, in your mercy.
- C Hear our prayer.

Thank you for continuing to support the Lord's Work here at Bethany. Offering plates are available at the back of the sanctuary, or consider giving through the Vanco Mobile app or online at www.bethanylcs.org.

Psalm 51:10-12

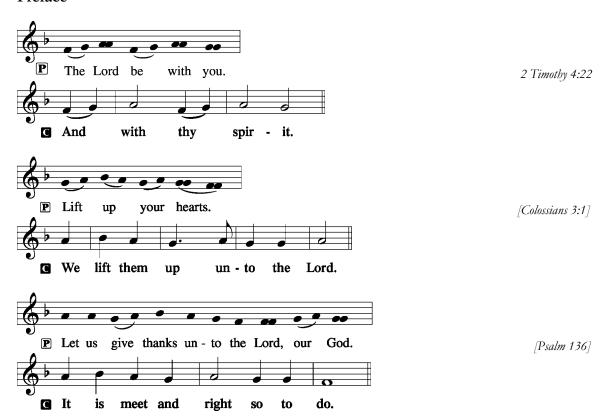


+ Service of the Sacrament +

About Receiving the Lord's Supper at Bethany

As we receive the Lord's Holy Supper according to His institution, we receive the salvation, forgiveness, and life eternal won for us on the cross. Also, we believe that when a person communes at an altar, one confesses unity with the teachings of that church. Therefore, if you are not in fellowship with the teaching of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we ask that you refrain from communion until you have had opportunity to speak with one of the pastors about Christ's bodily presence and the forgiveness of sins given in this meal. However, all are welcome to receive a blessing, for the forgiveness of Jesus is still yours. Please indicate this as your intention by crossing your arms over your chest when the pastor comes by.

Preface



P It is truly meet, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



G Ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

C 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.



The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "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 Holood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

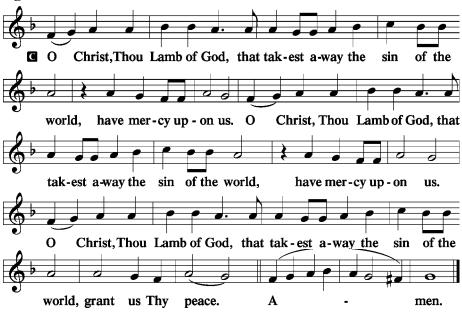
Pax Domini John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



Agnus Dei John 1:29



Sit

A Prayer for Right Reception of the Lord's Supper

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Anthem during Distribution: "A Vineyard Grows", K. Scott

Amid the world's bleak wilderness a vineyard grows with promise green, The planting of the Lord himself, the planting of the Lord.

His love selected this terrain, his vine with love he planted here To bear the choicest fruit for him, the choicest fruit for him.

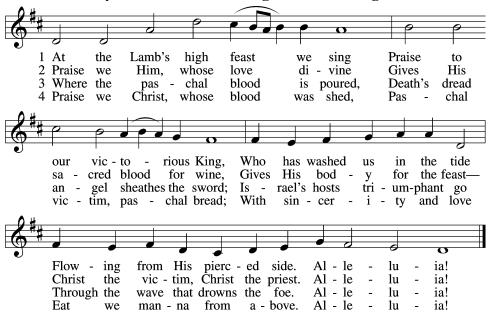
We are his branches, chosen, dear, and though we feel the dresser's knife, We are the objects of his care, the objects of his care.

From him we draw the juice of life, for him supply his winery With fruit from which true joys derive, from which true joys derive.

Vine, keep what I was meant to be: your branch, with your rich life in me.



Distribution Hymn: At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



- Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie; You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall; You have opened paradise, and Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy; From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!
- △8 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live, Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia! Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt. Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivancice Text and tune: Public domain

Stand



Thanksgiving after Receiving the Sacrament

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Dismissal

- The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.
- C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis









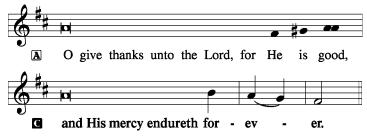






Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1



Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Salutation and Benedicamus



P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22





[Psalm 103:1]

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26





The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and 4 give you peace.





Closing Hymn: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia

Stanza 2 sung by Choir only



Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1809–81, alt. Tune: Robert Williams, c. 1781–1821 Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude: LLANFAIR ("Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia"), K. Rizzotto



A Prayer after Worship

Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Those Serving You Today

8:30

Preacher and Celebrant: Rev. Seth Clemmer

Assisting Pastors: Rev. Stephen Schumacher, Rev. Emmett Bartens

Organist: Tom Mueller **Musical Ensemble:** Proclaim

Live Stream Techs: James Blasius, Rick Krock

Acolytes: Lucas Wilson, Alice Gavin

Sacristans: Dwight Bowman, Marty Franken, Tim Gavin, JR Wilson

Ushers: Frank Arford, Jeremy Meek, Jay Schafer, Rich Tatara

Communion Care: Pat Bowman

11:00

Preacher and Celebrant: Rev. Seth Clemmer

Assisting Pastors: Rev. Stephen Schumacher, Rev. Emmett Bartens

Organist: Tom Mueller

Musical Ensemble: Proclaim

Acolytes: Henry Fox, Sophia Klein

Sacristans: Rich Ford, Ted Quilitz, Mike Walsh, Will Yocius

Ushers: Bill Cade, Andy Crouse, Jonathan Knussman, Troy Roberts

Communion Care: Pam Kolzow

The flowers adorning our Lord's altar today are placed to the glory of our Triune God by Blake and Landon Barnickel in honor of their father Alvin's 62nd birthday, and by Jay and Kierste Schafer in honor of Jay's birthday.





What is the "baptismal font"?

In church, the baptismal font is a place where we see the Holy Spirit do His stuff!

As St. Paul says in Titus: "He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:5–7). This all happens at the baptismal font.

Why do we use a baptismal font?

Baptism is important in the lives of God's people. In Baptism you were given the forgiveness of sins, rescued from death and the devil, and given salvation. All of this comes to you through God's Word with the water in Baptism. The font reminds us of the wonderful gift of God's forgiveness. It also reminds us that our old sinful self has been drowned, and a new person arises to live in faith!



Parents: Before or after the service, allow your child to walk up to the baptismal font to get a better look. Remind them to be reverent in God's holy places. During the service, when the sign of the cross is made on the congregation, remind your child that the sign of the cross was made on them at their Baptism. It was there that they were marked as one redeemed by Christ.



Prayers

For comfort, health, and recovery:

- Eric Burnell, for optimal test outcomes
- Aiden Goldbeck, infant heart and neurological issues
- Sarah Lieb, hernia
- Lydia Florez, coworker to Diane Campbell, broken hip and wrist
- Elizabeth Hildahl, mother to Amy Schumacher, vertigo
- Anne Holtz, aunt to Linda Landry, cancer
- Rochelle Shapland, friend to Maria LaMartina, cancer

Mothers with child:

Jaimie Bartens, Rachael Skudlarek, Hannah Baker (daughter to Dennis and Ina Johnson), Ashling Kraft (daughter-in-law to Mike and Janet Kraft), Brittany Linnemeyer (daughter-in-law to Donna Linnemeyer), Kelli Lynch (niece to Sue Sreniawski), Sierra Meyer (niece to Grant Baganz), Kirsten Renn (daughter to Sherry Gendel), Brooke Schmidt (niece to Becky McBroom), Erika Vignos (daughter to Richard and Janet Galloway)

Those who serve in the Armed Forces and their families:

Quinn Parlier, Jacob Wilson, Andrew Bear (nephew to Beth Hawley), Matthew and Michael Hinze (sons to Don Hinze), Peter Johnson (son to Dennis and Ina Johnson), Savanna Lugay (daughter to Joe and Bethany Lugay), Conor L. McGavern (nephew to Becky McBroom), Aaron Mock (nephew to Debbie Kokaska), Kyle G. Schmidt (nephew to Becky McBroom), Scott Slown (husband to Jennifer Slown), Nicholas Camm-Williams (friend to Nada Salvino)

Those who are shut in or in need of ongoing care: Roger and Charlene Fiene, Marilyn Groth, Bruce Janken, Solomon Robert, Nancy Skibinski, Chuck and Monika Werner, David and Ann Zielke

A Note on the Prayers of the Church: On the 1st weekend of the month, we pray for those celebrating a wedding anniversary. On the 2nd, we pray for those we know in the Armed Forces (by name). On 3rd, we pray for those in long-term or ongoing care and our shut-ins (by name). On the 4th, we pray for mothers with child. If you have someone you would like to have remembered in the prayers, please leave the name with the church office or send an email to: office@bethanylcs.org. Names on the prayer list will be updated each week and removed after approximately four weeks, unless the office is otherwise notified. We will renew prayers when requested.

This Week at Bethany

- April 30, 1:00pm Bible Reading Group
- April 30, 3:40pm Schola Cantorum Rehearsal
- April 30, 7:00pm Board of Finance
- May 1, 9:00am Ladies' LifeLight
- May 1, 11:00am Midweek Divine Service
- May 1, 7:00pm Theology on Tap
- May 1, 7:30pm Praises Ring! Rehearsal
- May 2, 9:00am Bethany Guild
- May 2, 7:00pm 20something
- May 2, 7:00pm Evening LifeLight
- May 2, 7:00pm Proclaim Rehearsal
- May 3, 12:00pm Knitters and Crafts Group
- May 4, 8:00am Men's Bible Breakfast

Looking Further Ahead

- May 5, 8:30am and 11:00am Divine Service
- May 5, 10:00am Special Voters Assembly
- May 5, 10:00am Bible Study, Sunday School, and Confirmation Class
- May 7, 7:00pm Day School Policy Board
- May 7, 7:00pm Proclaim Rehearsal
- May 9, 7:00pm Ascension Day Divine Service
- May 9, 7:45pm Board of Elders
- May 9, 8:00pm Bethany Brass Rehearsal

For information on activities and updates at Bethany, please subscribe to the "Week at a Glance" by emailing office@bethanylcs.org. If you prefer, some paper copies are available at the Welcome Center.



www.bethanylcs.org
630-355-2198
Pastor Seth Clemmer
Pastor Stephen Schumacher
Pastor Emmett Bartens
email: office@bethanylcs.org