



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter
ELW Setting 1

Prelude All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above Helmut Walcha

Call and Response:

In the wilderness, water brings life.

Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

Through the Word of God, the good news gives life.

Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.

We come to praise the vine that gives all goodness.

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

Entrance Hymn That Easter Day Was Bright With Joy ELW #384

Kyrie p. 98

This is the Feast

(Congregation sings the refrain, Liturgist sings the verses)

Refrain

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

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

1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches, wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. *refrain*
2. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. *Amen. refrain*
3. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. *refrain*

Prayer of the Day

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw

him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

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

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

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

The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation:

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Gospel: John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

Beloved God's Chosen

ELW #648 to tune of #870

Creed

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. *(Ephesians 1:13-14)*

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve.

We pray for our nation, for President Biden, for Governor Kelly, and for Mayor Anderson. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all, we especially pray for our members Rolland, Donna, Walli, Betty, Gloria and Gene. We pray for our friends Donna, Denise, Bill, Dawn, Dorothy, Stephani, Karla, Orin, Danielle, Krista, Betty, Meghan, Robert, and Matt let us pray that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace. We pray for those

serving in the military including: Alex, T.J., Ben, Vicki, Jeremy, Luke, Miranda and Daniel. We pray for seminarian Kaylie Ines. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit especially with Athanasius and Bishop of Alexandria. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you all: **And also with you!**

MEAL

Offertory

Christ Lay in Death's Strong Bands

Samuel Scheidt

Offering Prayer

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

p. 107

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Congregation sings

p. 108

Eucharistic Prayer

p. 108

Lord's Prayer

p. 112

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.

Distribution of Communion

Prayer after Communion

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

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

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Closing Hymn

You are the Seed

WOV#753

POSTLUDE

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Flor Peeters

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Worship Leaders today:

Steve Gustafson	Organist
Kirsten Bruce	Liturgist
Sharon Bruce	Lector

Worship Leaders next week:

Steve Gustafson	Organist
Kirsten Bruce	Liturgist
Sally Hefner	Lector

3/31/2021

Actual

Actual

Budget

Mar-21

Jan –

Jan –

Mar 21

Mar 21

Revenue

26,414.61

50,636.06

36,289.97

Expenses

11,083.23

37,767.40

40,121.19

Surplus (Deficit)

15,331.38

12,868.66

(3,831.22)

Reserve Balance

93,535.29

Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray

Members of Messiah:

Rolland Christenson, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis, Betty Peterson, and Gloria and Gene Holdsworth

Friends of Messiah

Donna Stejksal	Daniels' friend	Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
Denise	Pari Ford's mother	Orin Shogren	Har's brother
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother	Danielle	Robbie Peterson's
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's	VanDeVyvere	granddaughter
	Daughter	Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
Dorothy Carmichael	Friend of Messiah	Betty Finney	Sharon Hoffman's friend
Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's	Meghan	John & Margaret Presley's
	daughter	Presley	Daughter
Robert Ahlstedt	Earl Ahlstedt's	Matt Forrester	Pastor Amy's brother
	brother		

Serving the U.S.A.

Alex Klapp	Betty Russin's grandson	Vicki Charboneau	Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist	S Hoffman's nephew	Jeremy Guy	Hensley's son-in-law
T.J. Paulsen	Barb Malm's child		
Daniel & Miranda Norland	Randy/Gretchen's son & wife		

Serving the U.S.A. Overseas

Luke Hammontree Daniel's grandson

Seminary

Kaylie Ines

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Eugene Holdsworth	5/2	Olivia Ford	5/4
Rachel Loder	5/4	Kristen Prater	5/5

Wider Church by Jeanne Ahlers

Gender-based violence increases during conflict and humanitarian crises. The United Nations reports that 1 in 5 refugees or internally displaced women living in crisis situations have experienced sexual abuse. In conflict situations, gender-based violence is sometimes used as a weapon of war. The House of Representatives has passed H.R. 571, the *Keeping Woman and Girls Safe from the Start Act of 2021*. The Senate is currently considering a similar bill, S. 765, the *Keeping Women and Girls Safe from the Start Act of 2021*. Lutheran advocates have been among those urging their representatives to co-sponsor these bills.

By formalizing the *Safe from the Start* initiative, currently administered by the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Aid (USAID), the legislation will help strengthen staff training, and integrate interventions to mitigate risks for gender-based violence in all humanitarian sectors. In addition, the bills will enhance partnerships with local organizations to further protection and empowerment of women and girls, and institute congressional reporting requirements to ensure progress and accountability.

This situation should be considered important if we, as Lutherans, believe that all human beings are made in the image of God. The ELCA social message *Gender-based Violence* says, "Simply stated, gender-based violence in all its forms is a sinful rebellion against the triune God and a rejection of God's good work in the world." The message invites us to engage in efforts to end gender-based violence in our churches and communities, both here and abroad.

Please take a moment to urge your senator to co-sponsor S. 765, the *Keeping Women and Girls Safe from the Start Act of 2021*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will be collecting **Personal Care Kit items for Lutheran World Relief**. Anyone may donate to this worthwhile project, sponsored by Messiah Church Women. A tub will be available with lists of what is needed on the north Fellowship Hall table. We can also provide the items for you. Checks can be written to Messiah Church Women and dropped off in the office or sent to Chris Reinert. At present there is currently a great need for these kits, both in our country and abroad.

Now is the time to **begin cleaning out all those treasures** that you no longer have a use for or are just tired of looking at. Children's clothes are welcome; adult clothing not so much. You can bring items to the church anytime.

At Council we discussed the grants we have been writing on behalf of the congregation to assist our costs of our mission to serve the community through the use of our building. Having applied for a **Nutt grant** in the amount of ~\$19,000, we received news that we did *not* receive this funding. This amount would cover the cost of three HVAC units (2 in the fellowship hall and one in the Sprout House area) and three iWave ionizers which assist in abatement of airborne mold, bacteria, and viruses. Our HVAC systems are outdated and no longer can be serviced with freon. If you would like to assist in the purchase of these necessary items, your giving above and beyond your typical giving would be welcomed.

Reconciling in Christ is the name for the ELCA's ministries around intentional inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community in congregations. As Messiah begins to envision what is "next" for us in ministry, this might be a path we could converse about and seek to embrace. If you are interested in this conversation, please contact Pastor Amy. You can check out resources here: <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/resources/ric/>

KICK will be hosting a family series this summer. June 13th there will be a family tailgate from 5 to 7:30 pm at Swensson Park with Bible lessons and camp songs, hotdogs, burgers and more, and tailgate games. July 11th is pool night at Riverside Park from 5:30 to 9:30 pm with lessons and camp songs, Stuga subs and more. Private swim for the first 100. August 15th is a back to school bash with inflatables at Swensson Park from 5 to 7:30 pm. There will be Bible lessons, camp songs, pulled pork bbq and more. Tailgate games are needed, if you have a tailgate game we could borrow for the June 13th gathering please let Rachel Ann know (785) 212-0113.

MAY 2, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Perfect love casts out fear.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine
Monday	Acts 8:26-40	Phillip and the eunuch
Tuesday	1 John 4:7-21	God is love
Wednesday	Isaiah 41:8-10	The Lord's chosen servant
Thursday	1 Peter 5:6-11	Tending the flock of God
Friday	Deuteronomy 31:6-8	Joshua becomes Moses' successor
Saturday	Psalms 22:25-31	A vow of thanksgiving
Sunday	John 15:9-17	Love one another

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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. 1 John 4:18 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of love, free us from fear so that we may love others as you have loved us through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food. Help us to show care for others and remember that we love because you first loved us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. (1 John 4:19)

A Blessing to Give:

May God who loves you dearly, free you from your fears so that you may love others.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Where True Charity and Love Abide

WEEKLY MILESTONES CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about a time you were afraid.
- How is fear and feeling judged closely related?
- How does God's love for you free you from fear so that you can love others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 John 4:7-21.

It is so tempting to protect and defend one's own life by judging others. Christ's model of life and love is to defend the cause, the needs of others, not oneself or one's own group. The love of God in Christ is sacrificial, it gives itself for others. The God of love casts out fear so that we can truly see others and care for them, knowing that we have already been cared for and loved by God. This love is totally freeing, without fear, without anxiety. The God of the day of judgment has already judged us with love. This is love perfected and the love we are now free to bestow on others—all others. Love is our way to see and experience God in the world. Hating others and loving God does not go together. Where in your life and in the world do you see that this great love needs to be known and experienced?

Pray: **Loving God, help us to see with the eyes of faith and love that we may witness to your power and glory through our risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus' model for us is to care for others, especially the helpless. There are many who are in need of food, clothing, housing, and medical supplies. Can you think of ways you can help those in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In John 15:5, Jesus says, *"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."* It is by being joined to Jesus, the true vine, that we bear the fruit of Jesus. Draw a vine and branches. Add leaves and fruit to the end of each branch. In what ways do you show God's love and kindness to others? Write those ways on the fruit. Look at your drawing this week and pray that you will produce fruit and show God's love to others.

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org