

# TODAY'S BULLETIN

## **As We Gather: He Cares**

One of the small but interesting features of many cathedral and monastery churches in Europe and other places is presence of misericords. A misericord is a small wooden shelf attached to the underside of a folding seat in a church, often in the choir area. Misericords physically supported people at worship during long periods of standing during extended prayer and other services when sitting was not permitted. The term "misericord" means "pity of the heart." That word is part of the church phrase Misericordia Domini, a Latin term for describing the acts of mercy of God to His people. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, constantly and consistently shows acts of mercy to us as His people. His care comes straight from the heart!

**Serving in Our Church Service Today:** Ed Geiger

**Serving Next Sunday:** Stephanie Coppola, Elder

**Today's Reader:** Ed Geiger

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK:** Our verse is taken from John 10:11

**(Jesus said) "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."**

**THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS:** Join us this coming Thursday for our noontime Bible Class as we will begin a new Bible study focus. As always, please bring your lunch. See you there!

## **READINGS FOR EASTER 5:**

- Acts 8:26–40 (Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)
- 1 John 4:1–11 (An exhortation to lives of Christian love)
- John 15:1–8 (Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.)

## **HYMNS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:**

- "Come, Thou Almighty King" - Hymn 905
- "Spread the Reign of God the Lord" - Hymn 830
- "Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing" - Hymn 691



## **Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church**

New Milford, NJ  
LCMS — New Jersey District

Saturday  
**April 20, 2024**  
Easter 4

**Saint Matthew's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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**OFFICERS**

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Thomas Williams  
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Stephanie Coppola  
**Elder**



**ASCENSION DAY CHURCH SERVICE:** Circuits One and Two of the New Jersey District, LCMS invite you to come worship our risen and ascended Lord Jesus at an indoor Ascension Day Service.

The service will take place on Thursday, May 9 at 7 PM in the sanctuary of Zion Lutheran Church in Westwood (155 Second Ave., Westwood NJ 07675).

An Ascension Day choir will sing in the service (led by Joan Holsten). If you or the members of your church choir would like to participate, please contact Rev. Robert Holsten at 551 206-8872.

An Ascension Day Choir Rehearsal will take place in Zion Lutheran Church in Westwood on Saturday, May 4 from 10 AM to Noon. The Ascension Day Choir will also rehearse before the Ascension Day Service on 5/9 at 6:15 at Zion, Westwood.

Rev. Peter DeMik, pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ridgewood will serve as Preacher at our Ascension Day Service.

**FOOD PANTRY UPDATE:**

A food pantry needs update is available on the table in the back of the church. Take one along with you today!

**NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVICES**

- **Saint Matthew's** Saturday, April 27 @ 5:00 pm
- **Saint Matthew's** Sunday, April 28 @ 9:30 am
- **Holy Trinity** Sunday, April 28 @ 11:30 am

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# Fourth Saturday of Easter

Blended Church Service - Divine Services 3, 4, and Creative Worship

## Welcome & Church Announcements

## Moment of Prayer

### Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

C: **O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not put You first at all times. We have not followed in the ways You have set forth for us. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation and have not shared its bounty on all occasions. We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honorable. We have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. We have not honored those in authority and have not without reservation encouraged them. We have not completely put the best construction on all things and on all people. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins, and finally by Your grace, bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### Salutation and the Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Risen and ascended Lord, You are the Good Shepherd. You lay down Your life for the sheep; they are Yours. Empower Your church to reach every sheep that belongs to You and to give witness until You have brought all Your sheep into one fold; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## **First Reading**

Acts 4:1–12

(Peter and John are brought before the Jerusalem Council.)

L: The First Reading for the 4th Sunday of Easter is taken from Acts, Chapter 4:

And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Epistle Reading**

1 John 3:16–24

(Followers of Christ are called to love in deed and in truth.)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from 1st John, Chapters 3:

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever

keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel Reading**

John 10:11–18

(Jesus prays for and about His disciples.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th Chapter:

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

(Jesus said) “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **The Nicene Creed**

**A: 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 His 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 worshiped 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.

## Today's Sermon

## Prayer of the Church

### Service of the Sacrament

#### Preface

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 Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, heavenly Father, for in Jesus Christ You have shown Your saving power and Your great compassion. In amazing love, He sacrificed Himself and shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins. His unending love leads Him to intercede for us as, aided by the Holy Spirit, He brings our cares to Your throne of grace. Grant that we may live in humility, honoring our Savior in all that we do and rejoicing that we are granted a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us that we may rejoice in the gifts before us and praise You with thankful hearts.

C: **Amen.**

#### The Words of Our Lord

P: 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  $\mp$  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  $\mp$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

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

**P:** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**A:** 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.

### **Pax Domini**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** Amen.

### **Distribution**

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

**P:** Gracious and eternal God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus. Grant that the bread of life and blood of Christ that has been shared and received in this blessed Meal be for us that life-giving food that sustains us on our earthly journeys as we serve You all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**C:** Amen.

### **Benedicamus and Benediction**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

### **Moment of Prayer**