

TODAY'S BULLETIN

As We Gather: Easter People Proclaim!

When Jesus uses the image of the vine and speaks of vineyards, He is choosing something very familiar to His hearers. Viticulture is well known around the world. More than eighteen million acres worldwide is used for growing grapes—from Panama to Tajikistan to Zimbabwe! Today, the cultivation of vineyards is still an important agricultural component in both Israel and the Jordan, lands where Jesus walked and taught. Life in the vineyard is vital! As branches grafted to the Vine that is Christ, we are vitalized by His power. As we worship, God's life-supporting power infuses us! It is time to continue growing!

Serving in Our Sunday Church Service: Stephanie Coppola, Elder

Serving Next Sunday: It's Fellowship Sunday!

Saturday's Reader: Pastor Iovine

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BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK: Our verse is taken from John 15:7

(Jesus said) "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

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 10:34–48
- 1 John 5:1–8
- John 15:9–17

HYMNS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

- "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" - Hymn 556
- "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" - Hymn 700
- "Christ the Lord Is Rosen Today: Alleluia" - Hymn 463 (Congregational Selection)



Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

New Milford, NJ
LCMS — New Jersey District

Saturday
April 27, 2024
Easter 5

**Saint Matthew's
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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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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Fifth 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 Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

C: **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

P: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C: **Amen.**

P: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant Christ and by His authority, I therefore 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. 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.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Acts 8:26–40

(Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)

L: The First Reading for the 5th Sunday of Easter is taken from Acts, Chapter 8:

Now an 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. And 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 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And 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?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And 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. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 John 4:1–11

(An exhortation to lives of Christian love)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from 1st John, Chapters 4:

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 is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We 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.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In 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. In 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel Reading

John 15:1–8

(Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th Chapter:

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

(Jesus said) “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide 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. I 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. If 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. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

A: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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, Lord our God, for You have shown mercy to all in Christ our Redeemer, the Vine divine. Receive our thanks that as branches of the Vine, we are created to bear fruit.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You graciously invite us to be the people who proclaim the salvation that is in Christ alone. Gathered at Your Table, may we receive His blessed body and blood, fully trusting in the promises that are fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Unite us to Christ our Savior that we may live and respond to the opportunities for service and witness brought to us by the Holy Spirit and bring us at last to Your eternal kingdom.

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 ☩ 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, 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: Heavenly Father, we bless You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same, help us to rejoice in Your mercies that we may grow daily and reach out with Your love in every situation. Finally, in Your mercy, grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

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