

# 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

**Sunday's Reader:** Pastor Iovine

**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 6:**

- 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

Sunday  
**April 28, 2024**  
Easter 5

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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 Sunday of Easter

Divine Service 3 from Lutheran Service Book - begins on page 184

### Church Announcements

### Moment of Prayer

### Opening Hymn

“Come, Thou Almighty King” - Hymn 905

**Come thou Almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing: Help us to praise  
Father all glorious, O'er all victorious,  
Come and reign over us Ancient of Days**

**Come Thou incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword Our prayer attend  
Come and Thy people bless, And give Thy Word success,  
And let Thy righteousness On us descend**

**Come, holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear In this glad hour!  
Thou, who almighty art, Now rule in ev'ry heart  
And ne'er from us depart Spirit of pow'r.**

**To Thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be Hence evermore!  
Thy sov'reign majesty, May we in glory see,  
And to eternity Love and adore.**

**Text:** English, before 1760, alt.

**Tune:** Felice de Giardini, 1716–96; setting: *Lutheran Book of Worship: Select Hymns*, 1985

**Text and music:** Public domain

### 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 - page 184

**P:** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C: who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,  
**C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-evaluation*

P: O Almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

 **Kyrie** - page 186

**Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

 **Gloria in Excelsis**

P: Glory be to God on high:  
**C: And on earth peace, good will toward men.  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee  
We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father  
That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us  
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost  
Art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## Salutation and Prayer of the Day

E: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

E: 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 be to Thee, 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 be to Thee, 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.**

## **Hymn of the Day**

“Spread the Reign of God the Lord” - Hymn 830

**Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spoken, written, mighty Word  
Everywhere His creatures call To his heav'nly banquet hall.**

**Tell how God the Father's will Made the world, upholds it still  
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.**

**Tell of our Redeemer's grace, Who, to save our human race  
And to pay rebellion's price, Gave Himself as sacrifice.**

**Tell of God the Spirit giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n  
Strong and holy, just and true, Working both to will and do.**

**Enter, mighty Word, the field; Ripe the promise of its yield.  
But the reapers, oh, how few For the work there is to do!**

**Lord of harvest, great and kind, Rouse to action heart and mind;  
Let the gath'ring nations all See Your light and heed Your call.”**

**Text:** Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr. composite

**Tune:** *Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch*, Halle, 1704, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.;  
setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

**Text and music:** Public domain

## Sermon

 **Offertory** - page 192

**A:**    **Create in me a clean heart, O God**  
          **And renew a right spirit within me**  
          **Cast me not away from Thy presence**  
          **And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me**  
          **Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation**  
          **And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

## Prayer of the Church

### The Service of the Sacrament

Begins on page 194

**Preface** - page 194

 P:    The Lord be with you.

 C:    **And with thy spirit.**

 P:    Lift up your hearts.

 C:    **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

 P:    Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

 C:    **It is meet and right so to do.**

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. Unite our praises with those of all the faithful who are connected to Christ and join them with the unending praise of the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.



 **Sanctus** - page 195

**A: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabbaoth  
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest  
Blessed is He, blessed is He,  
blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest**

**Lord's Prayer** - spoken, page 196

**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.**

**The Words of Our Lord** - spoken, page 197

**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  $\pm$  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  $\pm$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

**Pax Domini** - page 197

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

 **Agnus Dei** - page 198

**A: O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world  
Have mercy upon us  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world  
Have mercy upon us  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world  
Grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

**Distribution of the Lord's Supper**

## Dismissal

P: 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** - page 198-199

A: **Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace**

**According to Thy word**

**For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation**

**which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people**

**A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**

**Amen.**

**Thanksgiving** - page 200

E: O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.

C: **and His mercy endureth forever.**

E: Let us pray: 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.**

**Salutation and Benedicamus** - page 202

E: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with thy spirit.**

E: Bless we the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Benediction** - page 202

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

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

 **C: Amen, amen, amen.**

## **Closing Hymn**

“Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing” - Hymn 691

**Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s sowing, May we ripen and increase  
Fruit to life eternal growing Rich in love and joy and peace.**

**Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless  
Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.**

**Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal  
Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self control.**

**Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s tending, May we grow till harvests cease  
Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven’s love and joy and peace.**

**Text:** Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

**Music:** Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932

**Text:** © 1984 Hope Publishing Co.

**Tune:** © 1980 Concordia Publishing House; setting: © 1998 Concordia  
Publishing House

## **Dismissal**

**P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

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

**P: Go in peace as you serve our living Lord.**

**: Thanks be to God.**