

Service of Word & Sacrament
Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B
May 2, 2021 9AM & 10:30AM
May 5, 2021 6:30PM



In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather as usual for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot all be together in person, we are still called into communion and to hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

Prelude

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for the waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.
Amen.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Amen.

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

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So Philip 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. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹The eunuch 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 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.

Psalm 22:25-31

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

²⁶The 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.

²⁸For 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.

³⁰Their 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

Gospel: John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²My Father removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit my Father 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. ⁷"If 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."

Homily

Hymn of the Day

Baptized in Water

ELW # 456

(The congregation will not sing but may use the hymn text for mediation.)

- 1 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our king: heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing.
- 2 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king: one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praise we sing.
- 3 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king: born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Seward, b. 1932

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Reflection

Jesus Christ is the true Vine, but we are too often withered branches, afraid and without the fruit of love. This day let the word of God do its cleansing, pruning work. In that word you—whether you are alone or gathered with an assembly of disciples—are connected to the crucified and risen Christ, and God's own Spirit flows to you. You are made alive and part of Christ for the life of the world. This day let Philip explain the scriptures also to you. Remember that, with the Ethiopian eunuch, you are baptized. Remember that you have drunk from Christ the vine at the eucharist in the past and you will do so again. Abide in Christ and let his word abide in you. Then, even now when the world is filled with fear, put fear away and turn in love toward your neighbors, especially toward those that others may consider outsiders.

Prayers of Intercession

On this fifth Sunday of Easter, let us unite in Christ to pray for all in any need.

God of triune mystery, as you have formed your church to be one fruitful vine, strengthen our churches and our ecumenical connections with Christians across the street and around the globe. Hear our prayer, O loving God: **Make us one in you.**

As you blessed Philip the evangelist, nurture our missionaries and theologians, our seminaries, our Sunday schools, and all adult discussions of the faith. Hear our prayer, O enlightening God: **Make us one in you.**

As you brought the Ethiopian eunuch to baptism, lead all Christian communities to welcome people of each sexual identity, every skin color, and all national backgrounds. Hear our prayer, O embracing God: **Make us one in you.**

As you created an earth with countless forms of plant and animal life, train us to honor and maintain the bountiful earth that you intend for us and future generations. Hear our prayer, O creating God: **Make us one in you.**

As you have provided food and drink for humankind, give to all persons wisdom in their use of wine, and strengthen recovering alcoholics in maintaining their sobriety. Hear our prayer, O empowering God: **Make us one in you.**

As you call humankind to live in love with one another, bring peace to nations, to neighborhoods, and to homes. Protect the oppressed and the vulnerable in every land, show us the path to nonviolence in all things. Hear our prayer, O reconciling God: **Make us one in you.**

As you have promised to hear the cries of all the needy, listen now to the countless people around the world who are suffering from sickness, from the coronavirus, from injustice, from abuse, from starvation. Hear our pleas for India. We pray especially for. . . Hear our prayer, O healing God: **Make us one in you.**

As you have sustained each of us in your love, receive now the silent petitions of our hearts. Hear our prayer, O abiding God: **Make us one in you.**

We remember those who have died in the faith, especially today Athanasius the theologian and those we name in our hearts. As you have promised to bring your people into your strong and tender embrace, preserve us until we enter with all the saints into your everlasting mercy. Hear our prayer, O eternal God: **Make us one in you.**

Into your hands, O living God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Liturgy of Holy Communion for In-Person Worship

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Great Thanksgiving & Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Music for Meditation During Communion:

We Were Baptized in Christ Jesus

ELW #451

(The congregation will not sing but may use the hymn text for mediation.)

- 1 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our king: heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing.
- 2 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king: one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praise we sing.
- 3 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king: born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Saward, b. 1932

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Benediction

May our glorious God grant us a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. **Amen.**
Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Join us for fellowship on Zoom following the postlude of the 9AM service.

Yoga Devotions

Wednesdays May 12 & 26 at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Join us in the side yard at St. Matthew for an hour of yoga centered on a focus verse from scripture. Bring your mat; this is appropriate for any ability level.

Schedule

Sunday 9AM Worship in Sanctuary; 10:30 AM Worship in Fellowship Hall
Monday, Friday 9AM Hymn Devotion
Tuesday 9AM Morning Prayer & 9PM Night Prayer
Wednesday 6:30PM Worship in Sanctuary

Meetings

Worship & Music Committee Meeting via Zoom on Monday, May 3, at 6:00 p.m.
Staff Support Committee Meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, May 4, at 6:30 p.m.

Office Hours

Pastor Traci: Monday & Wednesday 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Lori: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Serving God and Us

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist/Organist – Dr. Adam Smith/Mary Nelson

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Bill Brown

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

First Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*Youth & Camping*”

Return to worship as of TODAY according to the following schedule:

First Sunday of the month:

9 AM worship in the sanctuary; 10:30 AM worship in the fellowship hall

Second, Third, and Fourth Sundays:

9 AM worship, weather permitting, using the yard, drive, sidewalk, or
kitchen Patio

Fifth Sundays in May and August

10:30 AM worship at the Kreider Farm, followed by brown bag picnic in
the pavilion

(In the event of rain, outdoor services will not be in-person,
but will be live-streamed at 9 AM.)

Wednesdays

6:30 PM worship in the Sanctuary

THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)

The Third Century Fund had good earnings year in 2020 and as a result has \$5,437 for distribution in 2021. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting David Lehman, chairperson or committee members Allen Kuster, Laura Orczeck, Beth Garner or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 30, 2021. Funds will be distributed in June 2021. You can email Dave at: **dlehman1@atlanticbb.net**

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

USE OF THE FUND

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements.

Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given using the following guidelines.

1. Youth of all ages - scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs and education.
2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members and the ELCA.
3. Worship and music - support for the worship of St. Matthew.
4. Capital Projects - major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Shirley Acker, Carl & Dawn Alexy, John Aljets, Vivian Beach, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Clyde Claycomb, Donna Gearhart, Betty Helsel, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, Audrey Hite, Ruth Johnson, Janet Kreider, Harry Partner, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Cindy Barnes, Randy Barrett, Jim Brower, Diane Cappel, Dwight Ciccotelli, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Dan Hershberger, Jere Hess, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Jenny, Anna Klepser, Janet Kreider, Darren Kreutzer, Karrie McCall & Family, Chuck McGeary, Kristen Malloy, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Nathan, Aunt Mica, Elaine Ormsby, Kevin Ormsby, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, Paul Ruth, Barbara Smith, Luther Steele, Cindy Thomas, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

Our college students: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jacob Orczeck.

Specialist Training in the Army: Nathan Smith

**The National Day of Prayer is
Thursday, May 6th.**

A time of prayer for the local community will be held outside of the Martinsburg Borough Building at 7:00 p.m. May 6, 2021

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 80. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Monica, mother of Augustine, 387) James 3:17-18. **Wednesday** John 14:18-31. **Thursday** Psalm 98. **Friday** Acts 10:34-43. **Saturday** (commemoration of Julian Norwich, renewer of the church, c. 1416) Deuteronomy 32:44-47. **Sixth Sunday of Easter** (commemoration of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, 1760) Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17.

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw.

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**St. James Huntingdon + St. Luke Roaring Spring + St. Matthew Martinsburg
Catechism Schedule ~ Summer 2021**

The pastor-teachers of our catechism co-op are pleased to welcome back our confirmation students whose instruction was paused because of the pandemic and to introduce our new students who are now old enough to join in classes. We have monthly get-togethers planned for the summer to help our group get reacquainted and build our community for the year of learning ahead. We will still spread the Small Catechism curriculum over two academic years; it doesn't matter which year you start first. Our plan is to take advantage of the summer weather for outdoor activities while we continue to navigate safety concerns. We look forward to seeing you!

May

Saturday the 22nd, 10 AM, Holy Hike and Cookout Lunch at Canoe Creek State Park

Begin with a 1+ mile (gentle) hike over the course of which we will celebrate a simple service of communion. Afterwards, we will grill hot dogs for lunch and play a get-to-know-you game. The whole family is invited (RSVP to your home pastor). State Parks are currently requiring masks for group programs.