

the LIFE

LUTHERAN CHURCH
& DAY SCHOOL

5th Sunday Of Easter
April 28, 2024

The core of the Christian faith is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the risen Lord in the preaching of this faith.

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.
(John 15:5)

ALTAR FLOWERS

In memory of my husband, Jim on his
fourth anniversary in heaven. Just as we
wrote in our wedding rings, I will love you
forever and always.
Your loving wife,
Miki

Welcome!

THE LIFE Lutheran Church is committed to
Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ

We journey through faith by:

- REVERENTLY worshipping God
- JOYFULLY serving our neighbors, as we
- TOGETHER live out the Gospel

Visitors: First time at THE LIFE? Thanks for joining us! Please fill out a Welcome Card and place it in the offering plate. After the service, be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor.

Holy Communion: We believe that the true body and blood of Jesus Christ are present in the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. Holy Communion is offered at all of our services and is for all baptized Christians who share our belief that Christ, himself, is truly present.

If you have any questions feel free contact Pastor Vetrano at pastor@thelifeny.org or call the church office at 516.333-3355

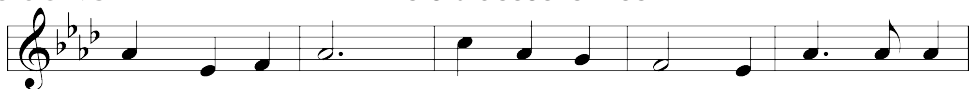
5th Sunday Of Easter

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This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

OPENING SONG

"Alleluia Jesus Is Risen"



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
3 Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es; Life in the
4 Weep-ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent; Death put a -
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -



sound-ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen-dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -
Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the
sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: "O grave, be
ru - sa-lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch-



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
o - pen!" Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

EASTER LITANY

(We omit the Confession during the 50 Days of Easter)

P God of life, we give you praise and glory.

C **We praise you, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit.**

P You have given Jesus victory over sin. You have made his cross a sign of glory.

C **May we glory in the cross of Christ.**

P With Jesus, you have buried us in death to sin and raised us to new life.

C **And we are alive in Christ.**

P The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil, washes away sin, restores innocence, casts out hate, and brings us peace. In Jesus Christ, you are † free from all your sins and restored to new life. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever! Christ is Risen!

C **He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!**

SONG OF PRAISE

Chorus

Bless the Lord oh my soul

Oh my soul

Worship His Holy name

Sing like never before

Oh my soul

I'll worship Your Holy name

Verse 1

The sun comes up

It's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass

And whatever lies before me

Let me be singing

When the evening comes

(chorus)

"10,000 Reasons"

Verse 2

You're rich in love

And You're slow to anger

Your name is great

And Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness

I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons

For my heart to find

(chorus)

Verse 3

And on that day

When my strength is failing

The end draws near

And my time has come

Still my soul will sing

Your praise unending

Ten thousand years

And then forevermore

(chorus)

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **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.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Psalm 121”

I lift my eyes to the One from whom salvation comes

I lift my eyes unto the One who saves. (2x)

Amen. Amen. Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

A The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.”

A The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SONG OF THE DAY

“At The Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”



1 At the Lamb’s high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
6 Now no more can death ap - pall, Now no
7 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy! This a -



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
more the grave en - thrall; You have o - pened par - a - dise,
lone can sin de - stroy; From sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free,



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
And Your saints in You shall rise. Al - le - lu - ia!
New - born souls in You to be. Al - le - lu - ia!

MESSAGE

Rev. Justin Vetrano

APOSTLES' CREED

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* The term catholic presented in this way is defined as universal.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

SONG OF PREPARATION

The sun cannot compare to
the glory of Your love
There is no shadow in Your Presence
No mortal man would dare to stand
before Your throne
Before the Holy One of heaven
It's only by Your Blood and it's only
through your mercy

“Offering Song”

Lord I come
I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the
praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive the honor
that You're due
O Lord I bring an offering to You

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- P** Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

- A** We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

- A** For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

- A** For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering, especially those we name with our lips and in our hearts. (*pause*) God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

- A** For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion and food to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

- A** With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C **Amen.**

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 We pray, Holy living and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the Earth and for saving us from the power of sin and death. We thank you for your Son Jesus, who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry and with a love stronger than death gave his life for others. Remember, therefore, His life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for this dying world, that one day we will join with Heaven and earth and all the angels evermore praising you and singing...

SANCTUS means “holy”

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory; Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he, who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

FRACTION

AGNUS DEI

Verse 1

The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price!

"The Lamb"

Chorus

Worthy is the Lamb
Whose death makes me his own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne!

COMMUNION SONG

Verse 1

Lord it's You who has brought
me to this day
Who has carried and kept me in Your care
I look back and I see You in all my years
And so forward I go knowing You are there.

Refrain

May each word from my lips
Be a song of good news
Every touch of my hand
Be a gift of grace
Every beat of my heart
Be a prayer to You
And the sum of my days
Be a life of praise.

"Servant's Prayer"

Verse 2

May my feet never stumble and ever stay
Nor grow weary upon this rocky road
For the path I am on is a narrow way
But I know You are with me so on I go
(refrain)

Verse 3

May my eyes ever fixed on
Your kingdom be
As my heart ever longs for joy to come
For my hope is in things that I cannot see
But because of your promise I press on
(refrain)

Verse 4

Christ before me to guide me on my way...
Christ beside me so I am not alone...
Christ within me to give me words to say...
Christ behind me to bring the harvest
home. (refrain)

COMMUNION SONG

Verse 1

Father, you are holy
Lifting up your name
we give you praise
You wipe away our
tears,
You're there throughout
the years
Your name means peace
Alleluia, A----le---lu--ia

“Peace, Father You Are Holy”

Verse 2

Jesus you are holy
Lifting up your name
we give you praise
You wipe away our
tears,
You're there throughout
the years
Your name means peace
Alleluia, A----le---lu--ia

Verse 3

Spirit you are holy
Lifting up your name
we give you praise
You wipe away our
tears,
You're there throughout
the years
Your name means peace
Alleluia, A----le---lu--ia

COMMUNION SONG

Verse

You give life, You are
love
You bring light
To the darkness
You give hope, You
restore
Every heart that is
broken, Great are You,
Lord

“Great Are You Lord”

Chorus

It's Your breath in our
lungs, So we pour out
our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our
lungs
So we pour out our
praise
To You only

Bridge

And all the earth
Will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry,
These bones will sing
Great are You, Lord (3x)

DISMISSAL

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

G Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with His favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Let my life be a reflection
Of the love that You have shown
Let Your love be my direction
And my heart be Your home.

“Reflection”

Until the trumpet sounds and
heavens part
Until the moon is red and
the sky is dark
Until the heavens shake and
the mountains quake
And the stones cry out Your name
Until the hills are sweet and
filled with cream
Until the young ones see
and the old ones dream
The angel flies, the sleeping rise,
and the mysteries are plain.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

SENDING

P Jesus said, “I have come that you may have **LIFE** and have it abundantly.” Go in peace, serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: All children are welcome to attend Sunday School each week. Grade levels include **Pre-K, K- 1st, 2nd -3rd and 4th-5th Grade**. For info, contact Nancy@thelifeny.org

MEN'S MINISTRY - Wed., May 1, 7:30pm: Join us in the church hall for food and fellowship. Feel free to bring desserts or drinks if you wish. Info, contact Vicar Rubino, Alex.Rubino@thelifeny.org.

VBS 2024 AT THE LIFE - Aug. 5th -9th (9am-12pm) -Registration is open for participants and volunteers. To register visit - thelifeny.org/summer-vbs. Parents can sign up their children to participate, or to volunteer as helpers. Questions, email: VBS@thelifeny.org.

VOLUNTEER AT THE LIFE! Please consider assisting occasionally as an Usher, Reader, Sunday School Teacher, and/or Hospitality Helper. For details, please contact Pastor Crocitto, Crocitto@thelifeny.org.

LSS INFANT LAYETTE PROGRAM: Current requests are wipes (small packs), long sleeve white onesies newborn to 24 months, size 1 diapers, baby bottles, and newborn toys (rattles and small stuffed animals). Place in outside bin, with "Baby" written on bags. Or order direct shipped thru Amazon, visit here: thelifeny.org/fooddrive

HELP THE HUNGRY: DONATE TO THE FOOD DRIVE: THE LIFE continues to collect food items for the Food Pantry of Lutheran Social Services (LSS). Most needed are laundry pods (store brand is fine), spices, garlic powder, onion powder, salt, pepper, baby wipes and diapers. Drop off donations anytime in the covered bin by the parking lot, or donate conveniently thru our Amazon Food Drive link, at thelifeny.org/fooddrive. Info, contact the church office.

LIFE FOR UKRAINE: Together we can help bring Ukrainian refugees to safety and hope through our ongoing effort. Go to our webpage, thelifeny.org/ukraine and click the "Donate Here" button. **All donations go directly** to help displaced families. **Like & follow the LIFE for Ukraine FB page:** facebook.com/lifeforukraine **Donate Here:** thelifeny.org/ukraine

ONLINE GIVING: If you would like to contribute offerings to the church conveniently from home, you can do so securely at this link: thelifeny.org/giving. You can also text your donation to [516-302-4488](tel:516-302-4488)

ANYTHING YOU NEED? Should you need Pastor Vetrano, please feel free to text or call anytime at 516-902-7602

DIG DEEPER INTO FAITH - Bible Studies at THE LIFE - All are welcome!

Tuesday, April 30, 11 am – *The Weekly Lessons* – Weekly study -- In Person only – Contact Pastor Crocitto, crocitto@thelifeny.org for information.

Wednesday, May 1, 1 pm – *The Gospel of John* – Weekly Study -- In Person only – Contact Pastor Vetrano, pastor@thelifeny.org, for further information.

Monday, May 6, 7 pm – *The Chosen* Season 3 – Weekly Study -- In-person or Zoom – Contact Dcn. Larry Rath, larry@thelifeny.org for more more information.

Tuesday, May 7, 7 pm – *Daughters of Grace, Midwives of the Old Testament*, Women's Bible Study- Bi-monthly study --Zoom Only – Contact Roxanne Oellrich, roxanne@thelifeny.org, for a link.