

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:30 am - April 28, 2024 Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

# **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING HYMN** "Earth Is Yours" by Gungor

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit

### Welcome to Messiah

We are a community of grace where we live out Jesus' commandment to love God with our whole heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We also seek to be a welcoming community for all people. This includes people of every race, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnic background, economic grouping, religious affiliation, and political persuasion. We do this simply because God created all people in God's own image and Christ Jesus came so all people might have abundant life. We may not always be perfect, but this is our intention--all are welcome!



The presiding minister will read the sections in plain text. You are invited to read the bold portions.





### 4 THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\Phi$  one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

### Amen.

Look, here is water!

### Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

### Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

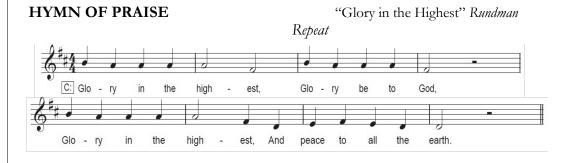
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, 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 you all. **And also with you.** 





### 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.** 

Please be seated FIRST READING Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An 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.) <sup>27</sup>So 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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>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 silent before its shearer,

so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As 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?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When 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. <sup>40</sup>But 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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

### SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In 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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

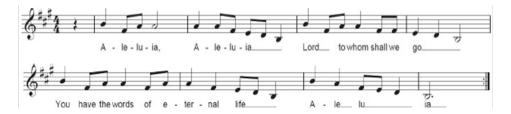
God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those 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. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** 

"Alleluia" Rundman



GOSPEL John 15:1-8

# Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide 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. <sup>5</sup>I 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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

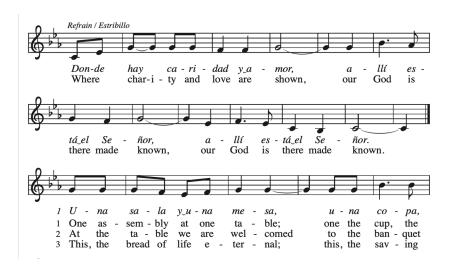
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** 

Please be seated.

### **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

#931 "Where Charity and Love Are Shown"





Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit

# **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in a bright and amazing God, who has been to the depths of despair on our behalf; Who has risen in splendor and majesty; who decorates the universe with sparkling water, clear white light, twinkling stars and sharp colors, over and over again.

We believe that Jesus is the Light of the world; That God believes in us, and trusts us, even though we make the same mistakes over and over again.

We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one another as siblings, and to the Maker's business in the world. Amen.

### 9 PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

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, hear our prayer.

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, hear our prayer.

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, **hear our prayer.** 

On this Blue Sunday we pray for children who are facing abuse and neglect. Rescue them from danger and allow hope to grow in their futures. Heal their minds and bodies and place them in spaces of safety with caring adults who will continue to nurture them. Guide us to create a space of awareness and courage to advocate for the most vulnerable. God of grace, hear our prayer.

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... God of grace, hear our prayer.

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 to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

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, hear our prayer.

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. **Amen.** 

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

1

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

**SPECIAL MUSIC** 

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

Fernando, Violinist

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit

Please be

Seated

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



... Your love is proclaimed throughout all creation.

We offer our thanksgiving and praise in our alleluias!

... You've showed us the power of forgiveness and the abundance of life.

We offer our thanksgiving and praise in our alleluias!

... until the day we celebrate it in your presence at the great banquet.

We offer our thanksgiving and praise in our alleluias! Amen.

### THE 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.

Please be seated.

# **COMMUNION HYMNS**







#1077 "Mercy, We Abide in You" #957 "Take Me to the Water"

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

# Benediction:

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER & BLESSING

# **BENEDICTION**

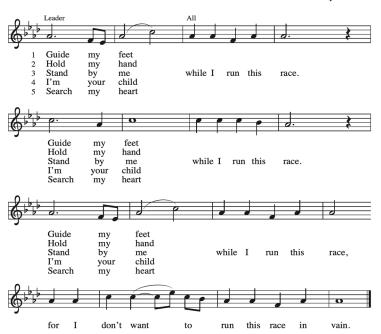
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

### Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always. **Amen.** 

# **SENDING HYMN**

#987 "Guide My Feet" vs. 1, 3 & 5



# **SENDING**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

### **POSTLUDE**

# Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church



### Children belong in worship!

Worship kits and a nursery space is available. God rejoices in the joyful noise of children and so do we!



#### God calls us to welcome everyone!

Messiah seeks to be a welcoming community and to share the love of God with our neighbors. If you are new, please introduce yourself to our pastors.



### Worship should be accessible!

Hearing devices (and T-Coil) and large print bulletins are available. We invite you to sit or stand as you are comfortable. All gender and family restroom facilities are available on the first level, please see signs in the



#### All are welcome at Jesus' table!

During communion grape juice and gluten-free options are available. Those not wishing to commune may come forward for a blessing. Those not able to come forward may receive communion in their pew, please notify the usher.



### God calls us to pray!

Private prayer requests may be made by writing them on the back of the Welcome Card. If you would like to be added to the prayer list or receive a pastoral care visit, please contact the church

# Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

305 W. Magnetic St., Marquette Michigan 906.225.1119 — www.messiahlutheranmqt.org

Preacher: Pr. Andrew Plocher
Liturgist: Pr. Molly Hunter

Assisting Minister:

Reader: Brenton Fitzpatrick

Ushers: Jill Luoma

Greeters: Milt & Boli Soderberg

Communion Assistants: Gayle Mack, Kerry McGinley, Karen Burkman

Songleader: Sara Parks
Pianist: Jacob Schmeltzer

Band Members: Tom Bronken, Darren Smith, Jason Parks

Audio Technician:
Livestream Technician:
Projection Technician:
Nursery:
Flower Delivery:

Dan Zini
Tracie Zini
Inga Banitt
Maddie Dykema
Jane Brow

### Acknowledgements:

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Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church



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