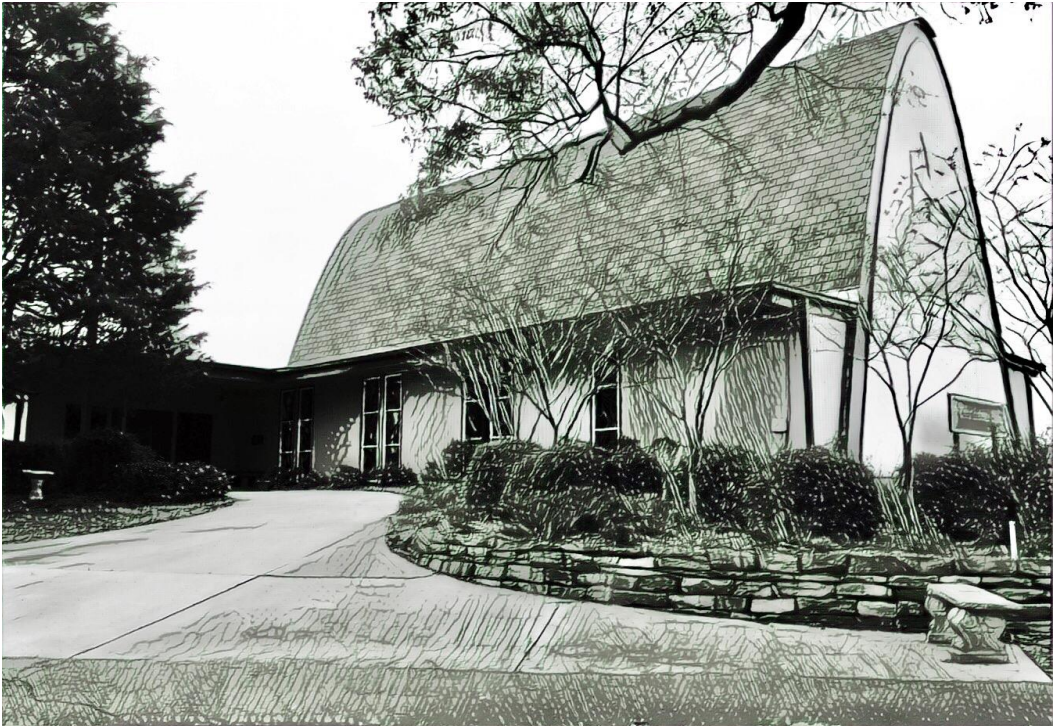


CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Rev. George Fields, Pastor

Divine Service Each Week with Holy Communion: **10:30 a.m.**

Sunday School for all ages: **9:00 a.m.**

4423 I-55 North, Jackson, MS 39206-6102 – (601) 366-2055

www.christlutheranjacksonms.org

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

+ April 28, 2024 +

“I Am the True Vine”



We welcome our members and guests to Christ Lutheran today, and pray God’s richest blessings upon you during this time of worship!

All members and our guests are asked to complete the worship attendance pads which can be found on each pew. Guests are also asked to sign the guest register found in the Narthex. We are so glad to have you worshipping with us today!

LARGE PRINT worship folders are available at the usher stand at the back of the nave.

WELCOME:

“‘And every branch that bears fruit, he purges.’ This was said concerning the persecutions then coming upon them. For purging is a type of pruning that makes the branch bear better. This implies that persecutions rather make people stronger.”

–St. John Chrysostom, *Homilies on the Gospel of John*

THE LORD'S SUPPER

In preparation for reception of the Lord's Supper (*Holy Communion*), it is important that we review and understand what the Bible teaches regarding this sacrament:

The Bible teaches that Jesus gives us His very body and blood along with bread and wine in Holy Communion¹, and that these are means by which He forgives our sins², and strengthens us for daily living, and draws us into closer fellowship with Him and other believers. The Bible also teaches us to examine ourselves prior to receiving the meal³. For those receiving Holy Communion, examine yourself with these questions:

Do I believe that I am a sinner and I am sorry for my sins?

Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior?

Do I believe that Christ's true body and blood are present in this holy meal for my forgiveness?

Do I truly intend with the help of God to correct my sinful life?

According to Christ's Word in the Holy Scriptures, and in confession with the true Christian faith, at Christ Lutheran we observe the practice of closed communion. We believe that all who commune must confess the same holy faith, as Holy Scripture teaches. Since one's church affiliation indicates an individual's confession of faith, we ask that only those who have been instructed in the above teaching **and** are confirmed members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod commune. If you have not been instructed in this teaching on Holy Communion, are in doubt, or hold a different confession of faith⁴, you are still welcome to come forward and cross your arms to indicate that you would like a blessing.

¹Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23

²Matthew 26:28; 1 John 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19

³1 Corinthians 11:28-32

⁴1 Corinthians 10:17; 1 Corinthians 11:26

DIVINE SERVICE II

PRESERVICE MUSIC

The congregation may use this time for prayer and meditation.

OPENING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

#700

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of your Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of 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.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PSALM: LAUDATE DOMINUM IN SANCTIS EIUS

Psalm 150; Ant. Psalm 150:6



Let everything that has breath | praise the LORD!*

Praise | the LORD!

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctu- | ary;*
praise him in his mighty | heavens!

Praise him for his | mighty deeds;*

praise him according to his excellent | greatness!

Praise him with | trumpet sound;*
praise him with | lute and harp!

Praise him with tambou- | rine and dance;*

praise him with | strings and pipe!

Praise him with sounding | cymbals;*
praise him with loud clashing | cymbals!

Let everything that has breath | praise the LORD!*

Praise | the LORD!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Let everything that has breath | praise the LORD!*

Praise | the LORD!

KYRIE

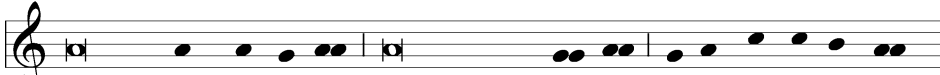
Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



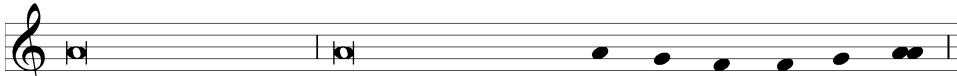
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



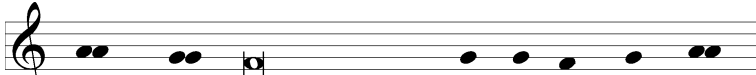
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

DIGNUS EST



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so 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 A - men.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7, Ps. 8:6



Christ has risen | from the dead.*

**[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor,
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*
he has put all things un- | der his feet.**

EPISTLE

1 John 4:1-11

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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

ALLELUIA

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

P The Holy ✠ Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

A Dark Saying

Please stand

NICENE CREED

☩ I believe in one God, (Rom 10:10; Deut 6:4)
the Father Almighty, (Mt 6:9; Ex 6:3)
maker of heaven and earth (Gen 1:1; Jn 1:1)
and of all things visible and invisible. (Col 1:16)
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, (Rom 10:9)
the only-begotten Son of God, (Jn 3:16; Mt 16:16)
begotten of His Father before all worlds, (Jn 1:2)
God of God, Light of Light, (Jn 17:22; Jn 8:12; Jn 1:1)
very God of very God, (Col 2:9) **begotten, not made,** (Jn 1:2)
being of one substance with the Father, (Jn 10:30)
by whom all things were made; (Heb 1:2; Jn 1:3)
who for us men and for our salvation (1 Tim 2:4; Rom 3:23)
came down from heaven (Jn 6:41; Lk 15:20)
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary (Lk 1:34-35)
and was made man; (Jn 1:14)
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. (Mk 15:25; Jn 19:16-18)
He suffered and was buried. (Jn 19:1-3; Lk 23:53)
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures (1 Cor 15:4; Lk 24:6)
and ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9)
and sits at the right hand of the Father. (Acts 7:55)
And He will come again with glory (Mt 26:64)
to judge both the living and the dead, (Acts 10:42; Mt 3:12)
whose kingdom will have no end. (2 Pt 1:11)
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, (Jn 14:26; Gen 1:2; Acts 2:38)
the Lord and giver of life, (Gen 1:2; Jn 3:6)
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, (Jn 15:26)
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, (Mt 3:16-17)
who spoke by the prophets. (Eze 11:5)
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, (1 Pt 2:5; Eph 2:19-22)
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, (Eph 4:5)
and I look for the resurrection of the dead (1 Cor 15:35-49; 1 Thess 4:13-18)
and the life ☩ of the world to come. (Mk 10:29-30; Mt 10:40-42)
Amen. (Ps 106:48)

Us men means all people.

Christian: the ancient text reads “catholic,” meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition of the prayer:

Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

For comfort, health, and recovery: **Cheryl Bodkin, Anita Martin, Sherri Smith, Bobby Springer, Leslie Thomas;**

For those who are ill or distressed: **Jenalee Adams, Layne Bagley, Shirley Bagley, W.L. Bagley, Sarah Bowman, Mimi Bradley, Deloris Brent, Martha Brown, Nathan Brown, Hunter Burkhalter, Wayne Burt, Bobby Carroll, James E. Cookston, Joan Cowards, Belinda Cowards-Gonzales, Robert (Andy) Evers, Tahlia Ferderer, Randy Fowler, Parker Haines, Dan Hansen, Tim Hansen, Faye Hartman, Valerie Henderson, Sharon Holleman, April Ann Hubmann, Joslyn Jones, Robert Kelly, Steve Kennedy, John Koster, Katelyn Lawing, Rod Loose, Paul McCullough, Jerry McIntyre, Edlia Miller, Elaine Monaghan, Don Ochs, Deborah-Annette Ried, Jon Sandberg, Noah Schultz, Jonnie Pearl Smiley, Bob Smith, Sherri Smith, Deborah Springer, Gary Stoeckmann, Nicole Tatum, Donny Thomas, Leslie Thomas, Nikki Vines, Leonard Watson, Dana Weaver, Cynthia Widlitz, Carol Wright, Jimmy Wright, Marshall Wright, Barbara Zeigler;**

For college and graduate students: **Sara Fields, Will Nelson;**

For military servants and their families: **Gabriel Escude, Glen Hansford, Holden Hathcock, Bill Nelson, Steven Tatum, John Weidner Jr.;**

For foreign missionaries: **especially Rev. Vance & Linda Becker;**

This week's prayer family: **Will Pickering** and his loved ones.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



P The Lord be with you.



C And al-so 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 salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
† Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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

Matthew 26:26–28;

Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

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.”

PAX DOMINI

John 20:19



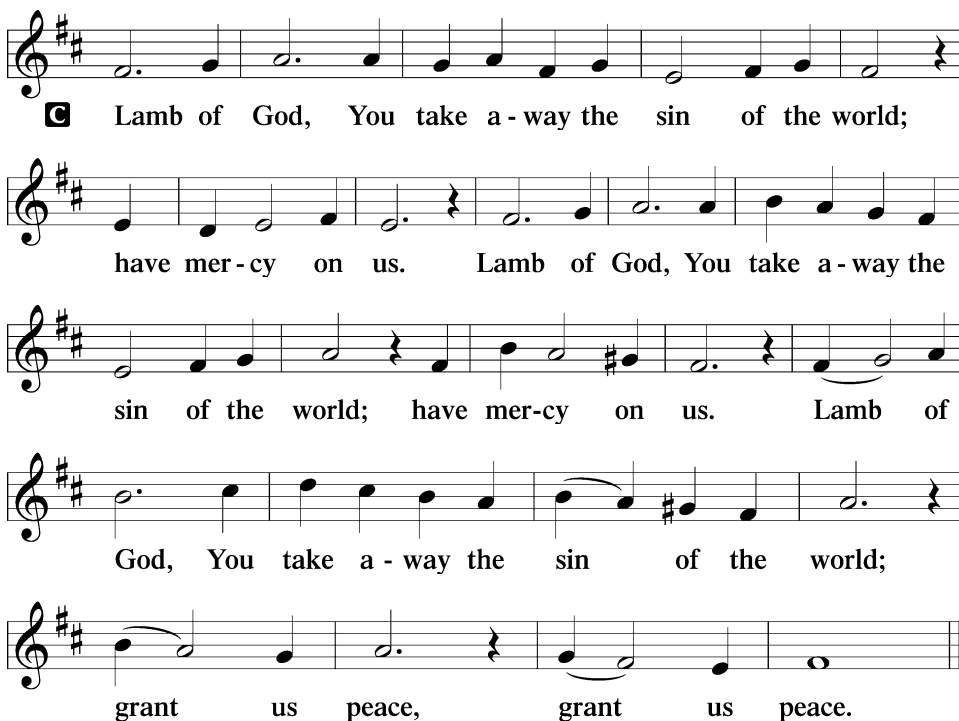
P The peace ✠ of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

AGNUS DEI

John 1:29



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

All who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and have introduced themselves to the pastor are welcome to partake of the Holy Communion at Christ Lutheran. If you have not spoken to a pastor, but would like to receive the Lord's blessing, you may still come to the rail and kneel, crossing one arm over the other in the shape of an 'X'. This symbolizes that one is marked by the cross and Triune name of Almighty God.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed
At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

#560
#633

Please stand following distribution of communion

NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29-32



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre-pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re-veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

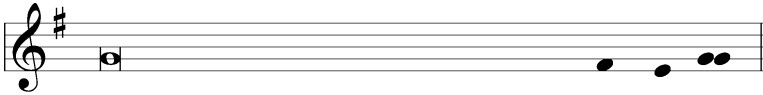
P We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26



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 A - - - - - men.

CLOSING HYMN

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

(Tune #569)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
And Christ shall give you light;
So learn His love, its length and breadth,
Its fullness, depth, and height.</p> <p>2 To us on earth He came to bring
From sin and fear release,
To give the Spirit's unity,
The very bond of peace.</p> | <p>3 Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
Who died that He might save;
With kind and gentle hearts forgive
As God in Christ forgave.</p> <p>4 For us Christ lived, for us He died,
And conquered in the strife;
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
And Christ shall give you life.</p> |
|--|--|

Acknowledgments

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Serving Today:

Celebrant: Rev. George Fields

Acolytes: William Held

Interpreter: Denee Smith

Altar Guild: Michelle Miller & Nancy Teal

Elder: Glen Hansford

Organist: Sr. Sara Fields

Cantor: Keith Martin

Communio Tonight: Join us once more to meander through many'a topic as Christians in the world today! Bob Pedersen will be leading our discussion tonight after repast at the Fields' house. See you there at 5:00!

CPC Life Walk: The Center for Pregnancy Choices, the crisis pregnancy center that our congregation is supporting, will hold their sixth annual Life Walk **this Saturday, May 4th**, at Trustmark Park. For more information, visit the Christ Lutheran Facebook page or talk to Pastor Fields or Jonathan Kettler.

Feast of the Ascension: Forty days after Easter comes... Jesus' Ascension! We shall celebrate this festal day with Divine Service on **Thursday, May 9th, at 7:00 p.m.**

Readings for next Sunday, May 5th, the Sixth Sunday of Easter:

Introit Ps. 66:1-2, 8-9, 20; Psalm 98; Acts 10:34-48; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-17.

This week at Christ Lutheran Church: April 29 – May 5

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. LifeLight

Friday 6:30 a.m. Bible & Breaky

Saturday 8:00 a.m. CPC Life Walk

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Divine Service – Fifth Sunday of Easter

5:00 p.m. Communio



Issues, Etc.™

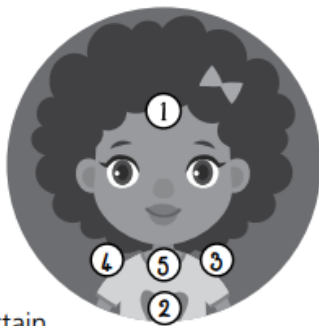
Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio

YOUR LIFELINE TO THE LUTHERAN WORLDVIEW... You can listen to in-depth teachings on interesting subjects like:

Taylor Swift's Latest Album, Men Competing in Women's Sports, The Benefits of Liturgical Worship, "I Have Overcome the World," "Love One Another", and more...

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to what you want when you want at www.issuesetc.org. Simply click on "Listen", choose "On Demand", then select from the vast array of speakers and topics available in the archives.

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What is “making the sign of the cross”?

Making the sign of the cross means to draw an invisible cross on yourself at certain times during personal prayer, the Divine Service and other appropriate times during worship.

How do I make the sign of the cross?

Hold your thumb and two fingers together. ① Touch your forehead, ② then your tummy, ③ your left shoulder, ④ then your right shoulder ⑤ and finally your chest. Try it a few times and you’ll get it. Before long, it will be easy to do!

Why is it a great thing to do?

Can you think of a time when your pastor first made the sign of the cross on you? At your Baptism, you received the sign of the cross on your forehead and on your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ! Making the sign of the cross is a great way to remember all that Jesus has done for you on the cross and given to you in and through Baptism!



Parents: Before or after the service, practice making the sign of the cross with your children. Remind them that we may make the sign of the cross at certain times during the service, for example, anytime you see a small red “cross” symbol, or pastor makes the sign of the cross on the congregation.





CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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Church phone: (601) 366-2055
www.ChristLutheranJacksonMS.org