

Welcome to St. Michael Lutheran Church

# “Christ, Our Life”

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

*April 28, 2024 + 11:00 am*

## MORNING SONG

( \* = please stand )

### PRELUDE

\* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *(including portions of Psalm 25 and 105)*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Remember, LORD, Your great mercy and love,

**C: For they are from of old.**

P: Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;

**C: According to Your love remember me, for You, LORD, are good.**

P: Trusting in the Lord's goodness and love, and pleading the blood of Jesus, who died for us and rose again, let us confess our sins to Him. *(We pause for silent confession).* Father in Heaven. . .

**C: We poor sinners come to You with contrite hearts and confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, both by what we have done, and by what we have failed to do. Have mercy on us and forgive us all our sins on account of the obedient life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: Our gracious Heavenly Father has heard our confession, and because of our faith in the all sufficient sacrifice of Christ on the cross, He forgives us all our sins and grants us His pardon and peace. May the Holy Spirit empower us with His grace to live to His glory.

**C: Amen.**

A: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name;

**C: Make known His deeds among the peoples!**

A: Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;

**C: Tell of all His wondrous works!**

A: Glory in His holy name;

**C: Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**

A: Seek the LORD and His strength;

**C: Seek His presence continually!**

A: Remember the wondrous works that He has done,

**C: His miracles, and the judgments He uttered.**

A: He remembers His covenant forever,

**C: The word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.**

A: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**C: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### \* SONG OF PRAISE

#### \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also 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: Amen.**

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 8:26–40

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE READING:** 1 John 4:1–11

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\* RESPONSE** (1 John 2:24-25)

A: Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.

**C: And this is the promise that He made to us—eternal life.**

**\* HOLY GOSPEL:** John 15:1-8

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

**C: Glory be to You, O LORD.** (After the reading the following is said. . .)

P: This is Gospel of the LORD.

**C: Praise be to You, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**BIBLE MESSAGE:** *“Christ, Our Life: Our True Vine”*

**\* MUSICAL OFFERING**

**\* THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**C: 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.**

**\* PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*(Each petition concludes with, “Lord, in Your mercy,” to which the congregation responds, “Hear our prayer.”)*

**\* LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

**\* ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\* BLESSING AND SENDING**

P: May the grace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be and abide with you now and always.

**C: Amen.**

A: Let us always abide in the true Vine.

**C: That we may bear much fruit.**

**\* CLOSING SONG**

**POSTLUDE**

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**SERVING TODAY (4/28)**

**Preach & Assisting (A):** Rev. Daniel Maske  
**Presiding Minister (P):** Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann  
**Lay Ministers:** Rich Conklin, Dave Johnson  
**Ushers:** Jesse Hogue  
**Lector:** Tammy Songer  
**Children's Message:** Pastor Maske  
**Greeters:** Meg Bess, Linda Bischoff

**SERVING SUNDAY (5/5)**

*Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann*  
*Rev. Daniel Maske*  
*Howard McNees, Ryan Bigelow*  
*Jesse Hogue*  
*Lynn Wendzel*  
*Pastor Naumann*  
*Mark Ruesch*

**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. <sup>27</sup> 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 <sup>28</sup> and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent, so he opens not 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> And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> 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?" <sup>38</sup> And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**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. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**John 15:1-8**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.