



Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

LSB 545

- 1** Word of God, come down on earth,
Living rain from heav’n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth
Faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
- 2** Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav’n to die,
Crucified for our salvation,
Saving Word, the world restoring,
Speak to us, your love outpouring.
- 3** Word that caused blind eyes to see,
Speak and heal our mortal blindness;
Deaf we are: our healer be;
Loose our tongues to tell your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken,
Heal the world, by sin now broken.
- 4** Word that speaks God’s tender love,
One with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above,
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Stand

Invocation

- P** We begin our worship in the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.
- G** Amen.

Opening Sentences

- P** Jesus said, “If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.
- G** **I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.**
- P** My command is this:
- G** **Love each other as I have loved you.”**

Confession & Absolution

- P** We confess, O Lord, that we have failed to keep your commands.
- G** **We have neglected to love our brothers and sisters as we have been loved. We have hardened our hearts and nurtured frustration, annoyance, and resentment.**
- P** Father, for the sake of Jesus,
- G** **Have mercy upon us and forgive our sin.**

We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.

- P** John’s first epistle repeats this law, saying “In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands.” However, he follows this word with the good news about our life in Christ: “And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.” Saints of God, you know that your trust in Jesus gives you full confidence in God’s approval. Know also that you are daily being transformed so that in your new nature love for your neighbor is not a burden but a joy. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Because Christ lives

in you, you will bear his fruit of love in the world.

C Amen! Thanks be to God!

Sharing of the Peace

P On the evening of the first day of the week, the disciples gathered together. And because they were afraid of reprisals from the Jewish leaders, they had locked the doors to the place where they met. But suddenly Jesus appeared among them and said,

C Peace be with you.

P Then he showed them the wounds of his hands and his side – they were overjoyed to see the Lord with their own eyes! Jesus repeated his greeting,

C Peace be with you.

P Then eight days later, Thomas and all the others were in the house together. And even though all the doors were locked, Jesus suddenly stood before them and said,

C Peace be with you.

P As Christ's body in this place, we share his peace with one another.

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).

Kyrie (Spoken)

LSB 168

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

This Is the Feast

P This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Sit

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ^[37] ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear,

because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

LSB 488

1 He is arisen! Glorious Word!

Now reconciled is God, my Lord;

The gates of heav'n are open.

My Jesus did triumphant die,

And Satan's arrows broken lie,

Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.

O hear what cheer!

Christ victorious,

Rising glorious,

Life is giving.

He was dead but now is living!

Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8

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

G Glory to you, O Lord.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown

away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing

LSB 584

- 1 Faith and truth and life bestowing,
Open now the Scriptures, Lord,
Seed to life eternal sowing,
Scattered on the wind abroad.
Let not hearts, your Word receiving,
Like a barren field be found,
Choked with thorns and unbelieving,
Shallow earth or stony ground.
- 2 May the Spirit's pow'r unceasing
Bring to life the hidden grain,
Daily in our hearts increasing,
Bearing fruit that shall remain.
So in Scripture, song, and story,
Savior, may your voice be heard.
Till our eyes behold your glory
Give us ears to hear your Word.

Homily

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,

**God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day he rose again according to the
Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And he will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

Presentation of the Offering

Preface

P (Jesus) said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?”

C And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he

explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

- P** As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly,
- C** “**Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.**”
- P** So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other,
- C** “**Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?**”
- P** They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.”
- C** **Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.** (*Luke 24:25-35*)

Sanctus

LSB 178

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might:
Heav’n 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.**

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Agnus Dei

LSB 180

- C** **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution

We believe that as we partake of the bread and wine in Holy Communion, Jesus the Messiah is feeding us with his own true body and blood. In eating his body and drinking his blood we receive the promise that our sins are forgiven, and that we will therefore live eternally with God. We also believe that this eating and drinking is a confession of our faith.

If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and if you share our understanding of Christ's Real Presence in this meal, you are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood for your benefit.

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

LSB 633

- 1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from his pierced side.
Alleluia!**
- 2 Praise we him, whose love divine
Gives his sacred blood for wine,
Gives his body for the feast—
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.
Alleluia!**
- 3 Where the paschal blood is poured,
Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
Through the wave that drowns the foe.
Alleluia!**
- 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love
Eat we manna from above.
Alleluia!**

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And your saints in you shall rise.
Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in you to be.
Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, your name we praise.
Alleluia!

Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens

LSB 589

1 Speak, O Lord, your servant listens,
Let Your Word to me come near;
Newborn life and spirit give me,
Let each promise still my fear.
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife,
Wars against your Word of life;
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor
That I cling to you forever!

2 Oh, what blessing to be near you
And to listen to your voice;
Let me ever love and hear you,
Let your Word be now my choice!
Many hardened sinners, Lord,
Flee in terror at your Word;

**But to all who feel sin's burden
You give words of peace and pardon.**

- 3 Lord, your words are waters living
When my thirsting spirit pleads.
Lord, your words are bread life-giving;
On your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, your words will be my light
Through death's cold and dreary night;
Yes, they are my sword prevailing
And my cup of joy unfailing!**
- 4 As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;
Let your words in me take root.
May your Spirit e'er be near me
That I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing your praise,
From my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given
In the endless joy of heaven.**

Thy Strong Word

LSB 578

- 1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
At thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank thee,
While thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!**
- 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,
Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of thy salvation,
Breathed thine own life-breathing breath.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!**

- 3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
Bright with thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory,
And our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!**
- 4 From the cross thy wisdom shining
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth
All thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!**
- 5 Give us lips to sing thy glory,
Tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the light which thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias,
Alleluias without end!**
- 6 God the Father, light-creator,
To thee laud and honor be.
To thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!**

He's Risen, He's Risen

LSB 480

- 1 He's risen, he's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death's prison, the _incarnate, true Word.**

**Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.**

- 2 The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.**
- 3 But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan he vanquished, his foes.
The conquering Lord lifts his banner on high;
He lives, yes, he lives, and will nevermore die.**
- 4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions his blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are his own.**
- 5 Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
With Father and Spirit he ever shall reign.**

Dismissal

Stand

Thank the Lord

- ☐** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Benediction

LSB 183

- ☐** 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 favor and give ✠ you peace.
- ☐** Amen

Almighty Father, Bless the Word

LSB 923

- 1 **Almighty Father, bless the Word**
Which through your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root,
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!
- 2 **We praise you for the means of grace**
As homeward now our steps we trace.
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here
May all at last in heav'n appear.
- 3 **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Announcements

Sending

- P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- G** Thanks be to God.

Serving in worship today

April 28, 2024

Pastor

Jason Neel

Acolyte

Zack Weinhold

Elders

Kevin Zimmerman

Chuck Johnson

Reader

Robert Pajak

Usher

Mike Voegele

In our prayers

Celebrating Birthdays: Beth Gerard 4/30, Jonelle Welle 4/30, Isaac Jauch 5/2, Suzanne Geren 5/3, and Tom Trapp 5/4.

Celebrating Baptismal Birthdays: Karen Callies 5/1.

Celebrating Anniversaries: John and Linda Riebe 5/1 and Doug and Natalie Hoffman 5/2.

This Week at a Glance

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	6:00 p.m.	Revelation Bible Study
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Stewardship Board
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
	7:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Spring Clean Up
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:30 a.m.	Combined Youth Group
	6:00 p.m.	Revelation Bible Study

Notes of Information:

Hope 4 Youth: Hope 4 Youth, a shelter that serves teens and young adults needs water bottles. If you would like to donate a pack or water bottles please leave them in the Narthex. If you have questions, please contact Beth Gerard.

NACE: North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf is currently in need of items for “weekend pack” that are sent home with children from area schools. They need things like dried fruit, fruit cups, oatmeal packs, easy mac, shelf stable milk and other small snack items. Thank you for your donations. For more information reach out to Toni Peterson at 763-434-5665

Our Sponsored Seminary Student: Our Seminary student, Jonathan Chapa, is well into his vicarage at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Moorhead. He has also had opportunities to preach at St. Andrew and Grace, which are two LCMS churches across the river in Fargo. In addition to teaching confirmation, he also facilitates a college ministry. He has a good core group of students and a growing fellowship. He recently packed meals for those in need, in connection with a Mercy Meals event at Redeemer. He and his wife, Stephanie, are relieved to have escaped an "authentic" North Dakota winter. Jonathan will return to St. Louis in the fall, for his last year at the Seminary. Their newsletter, with a photo, is posted on the Missions Bulletin Board in the narthex.

Trinity First School: Trinity First is an inner-city school in Minneapolis, serving Pre-K through 8th. grade. We lovingly designate 2% of our monthly Mission Offerings to their ministry. Your generosity is multiplied as students and their families experience growth and hope in Jesus. Because of you: Two 7th graders will be Baptized soon. Two 8th graders are nearing the end of their confirmation journey and are ready to confirm their belief in Jesus. Over 30% of their students receive one-on-one services. 37 students meet regularly with the school counselor to equip them with confidence and hope for success in school and life. 6 Spanish speaking families have received Bibles with extended teaching

notes, so that their faith in Jesus may flourish by His Spirit. See their newsletter posted on the Missions Bulletin Board in the narthex.

LWML Byte: There is a need and opportunity for Lutheran outreach to people struggling with mental illnesses and disorders. However, it is challenging for pastors, church workers, and lay leaders because they do not have enough training to provide effective and appropriate care. LCMS Life Ministry received an LWML Mission Grant of \$96,000 to help meet the cost of developing materials for training church workers as they minister to those suffering from mental illness.

Annual Spring Clean-up Day: Everyone is invited to our annual spring cleanup day. It will be May 4th, starting at 9:00 am. We hope to deep clean the church building inside, the barn and work on the yard/gardens. If you can help for even a short time, come join us, all ages welcome. Bring outside tools if you would like to do yard work and cleaning supplies for inside. This is a rain or shine event. If you have any questions, contact Rick Welle or Beth Gerard.

Youth Plant Sale: Please mark your calendar for May 11 for the Annual Youth Plant Sale. We will have hanging baskets and other flowers for your Mother's Day needs. The plant sale will be from 9 am to 1 pm with plants available on Sunday as well.

Book Club: Spirit of Christ Book Club: Spirit of Christ Book Club will meet in the fellowship hall at 7 p.m. Dates and books are:

May 20: The Unsinkable Molly Brown by
Caroline Bancroft

June 24: The Keepsake Sisters by Lori Wilde

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mager at 763-434-9652.

Sermons and bulletins posted online: Audio and video recordings of worship sermons and digital bulletins are posted weekly. Bulletins and past sermons can be found at **www.spiritofchristhamlake.org**.

Offerings via Give+: Online giving is easy to do, one-time gifts and recurring donations are accepted. Visit the link at soclc.org to sign up or learn more.

Average Weekly Offering	\$6936
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	\$6973



SPIRIT of CHRIST
Lutheran Church

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Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another reaching out to all people, proclaiming, and sharing the love of Christ.

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