

April 28, 2024

(B)

Fifth Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING. Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.’
The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 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?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 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. 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.

SECOND READING. 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 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. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. 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. We love because he first loved us. 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

GOSPEL. John 15:1-8

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible Copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.



Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 28, 2024 @ 11:00am

“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

Welcome!

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Our Lord’s Supper is being celebrated today. Everyone is welcome to receive this Holy Sacrament.

Thank you

Thank you, Sheila Brown, for playing the organ for us this morning.

If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.

St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church



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Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + 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.

Look, here is water!
Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

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Offering Prayer

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.

The lines of the Psalm printed in bold font are sung in unison to the tune of a familiar hymn. The lines in plain font are read by the leader.

Psalm 22: 25-31 – Tune 380, Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!

Leader: In the full assembly I will praise you.

I will praise you, Lord my God, | With the celebrating throng.

In the presence of those who worship you I will offer the sacrifices I promised.

I will praise you, Lord my God, | Join the grateful in their song.

The poor will eat as much as they want; those who come to the Lord will praise him. May they prosper forever!

Let all nations join to sing | Praises to their gracious King!

All nations will remember the Lord. From every part of the world they will turn to him; all races will worship him.

I will praise you, Lord my God, | With the celebrating throng.

To him indeed shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go to the dust.

I will praise you, Lord my God, | Join the faithful in their song.

Future generations will serve him. People not yet born will be told: "The Lord saved his people."

Let all ages join to sing | Praises to their gracious King!

Sing Psalms! By Arden W. Mead. © Copyright 1999/2005 by Creative Communications for the Parish

Dates to Remember

May 4	Brainstorming session
May 5	10:00 a.m. – Coffee Hour, first Sunday of the month
May 17	6:30 p.m. – Spring Fling: Wine, Cheese and Flamenco Guitars

Everyone is welcome to attend **St. Matthew’s 1st Annual Spring Fling** featuring Wine (and non-alcoholic beverages), Charcuterie Trays, and live acoustic music. Tickets are \$5.00 per person, however a free-will offering basket will be available in support of available from Dianne Yungblut until May 10. Please buy your ticket early, as numbers are limited!

Attention: Minutes of meetings are always posted in the office on the bulletin board.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

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GATHERING

Welcoming Song529, sung twice
Thanksgiving for BaptismPrinted
Gathering Song 369 Christ the Lord
	Is Risen Today; Alleluia!

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KyriePage 147
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Prayer of the Day	

WORD

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Second Reading1 John 4:7-21
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	“Glory to you, O Lord.”
GospelJohn 15:1-8
	“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon	
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	Is Raised

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Prayers of Intercession	
Prayer Response“hear our prayer.”
Peace	(non-contact gestures)

MEAL

Offering Prayerprinted
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Prayer after Communion	

SENDING

Blessing	
Sending Song	..881 Let All Things Now Living
Dismissal:	
	Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
	Thanks be to God. Alleluia!