

Zion
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021
8:00am & 10:30am

Order for Worship

MUSIC FOR GATHERING “Now the Green Blade Rises”

Nancy Raabe

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN “Now the Green Blade Rises”

(worship team)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

To you, O God,

all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life. **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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



Christ is a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia, Re-joice and praise, him, al - le - lu - ia.

For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb, e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.

Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy. Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de -

stroy. Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is liv - ing al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.**

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

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

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say

this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia

I am the vine you | are the branches * those who abide in me and I in them |
bear much fruit.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter. **Glory to you O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me

is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Kate

HYMN OF THE DAY “O Blessed Spring”

(read)

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of love, **you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.**

Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you**

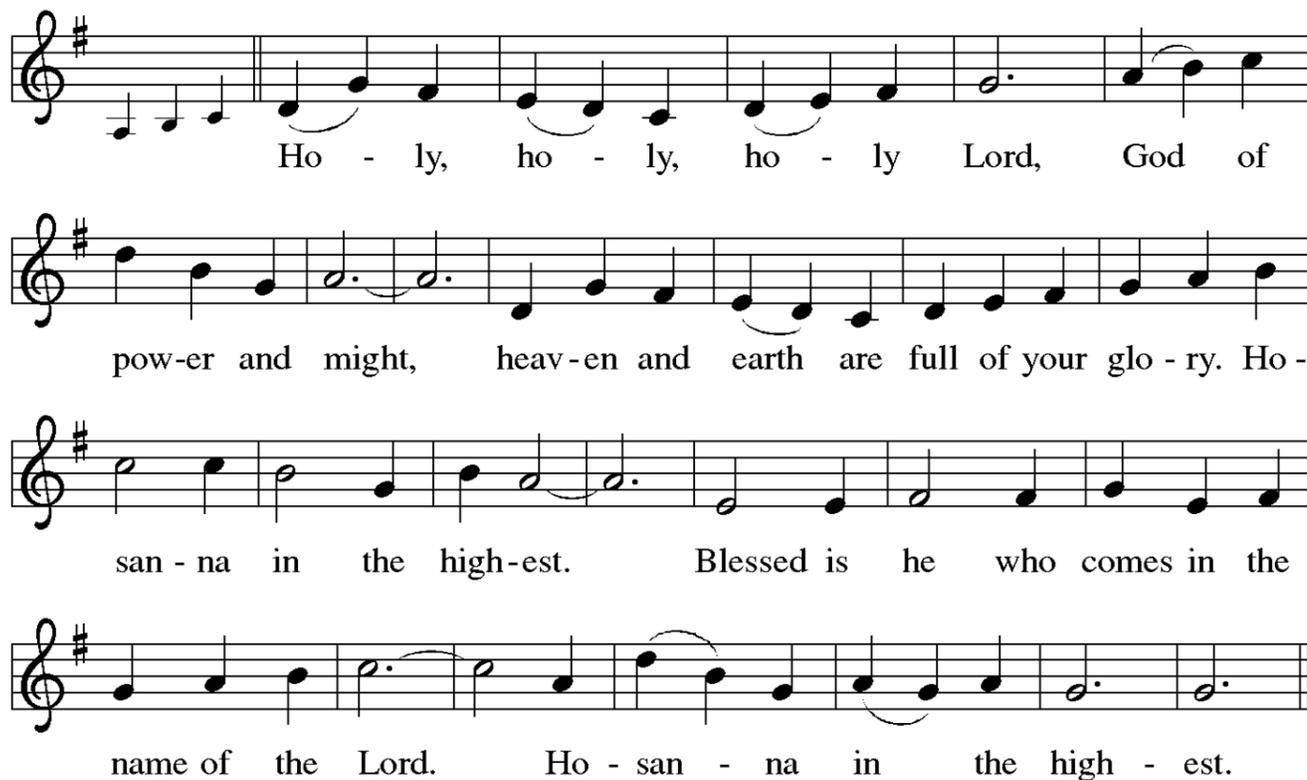
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right . . .

. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em-braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re-born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Flowers are presented by Erma May in honor of her grandchildren

TODAY’S WORSHIP TEAM:

Pastor Kate Warn, Karen Kline, Ellie McClure

8:00 a.m. Carol Atherholt, John Blanck, Sue Shaw (reader)

10:30 a.m. Wayne Olson, Denny Valins

Mary Welliver, French horn

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Weekly Record	Last week	Mo. Total	Budget
Attendance (in-person)	50	243	-----
General Fund offering	2,695	16,501	16,412
Capital Campaign Offering	311	2,646	-----

Mon - Psalm 80
Isaiah 5:1-7
Galatians 5:16-26

Tues - Psalm 80
Isaiah 32:9-20
James 3:17-18

Wed - Psalm 80
Isaiah 65:17-25
John 14:18-31

Thurs - Psalm 98
Isaiah 49:5-6
Acts 10:1-34

Fri - Psalm 98
Isaiah 42:5-9
Acts 10:34-43

Sat - Psalm 98
Deuteronomy 32:44-47
Mark 10:42-45

Announcements

Bells Across PA: Tonight at 7 pm listen for the church bells. We will be ringing Zion's bells to honor first responders for their dedication and efforts throughout the pandemic.

We have a Diaper Drive collection display table across from the church office. During the month of May we are collecting large size Pull-Up diapers for the Manheim Central Food Pantry. The Daughters of Zion Class decided this would be a nice "Mother's Day" project to help out the young mothers in our community. Bring your donations when you come, and let's load the table with love. Together we can "make a change" in their lives. Join us!!

Manheim Central Food Pantry is also looking for cereal, canned soups, tissues, baked beans, canned fruit and applesauce this month. Please put your donations in the grocery cart outside the church office or drop them in the collection box on the front porch of the food bank located at 334 W. Gramby St., Manheim.

The Wittel Farm Growing Project Planting Day and annual Blessing of the Farm is May 15 at 9 am. Wittel Farm is dedicated to growing fresh vegetables to help feed hungry people in Lancaster County. Volunteers are needed on a regular basis, including Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from April to October. See Wittel Farm on facebook for more information.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Easter lasts for several more weeks. Today's readings continue the unfolding of the meaning of the resurrection: the loving community formed by God's love is depicted with the metaphor of the vine and exemplified in the welcome to the Ethiopian eunuch.

Connected for Life

A parent stands at the bus stop on the first day of school with a kindergarten student. Another parent lingers in the doorway of a first-year dorm after unloading the final box from the car. These parents are entering new times they will not be present to help their children make some important life choices, and words of advice slip from their lips—eat your sandwich before your dessert, share with others, don't drink and drive, remember who you are. After years of preparation, their children step toward greater independence.

In today's gospel, Jesus lingers with the disciples before his death and prepares them for the time when he will no longer be present day to day to help them make their way in the world. Words slip from his mouth: "Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). These are difficult words as the disciples try to make sense of Jesus' impending death and the promise of his continued presence.

"Apart from me you can do nothing" may also be a difficult word for a self-reliant, individualistic culture such as our own, focused on personal achievement and success. God is the vine grower, Jesus the vine, and we the branches, who, separated from the life-giving vine, can do nothing.

Yet, these are gracious, gospel words from Jesus. He's been preparing his disciples for years to take this step. These are words that point not toward individualistic, self-reliant independence but toward dependence on the one whose life defies death and whose perfect love casts out all fear. Connected to the vine, these branches are given a death-defying life free from fear. These are gracious, gospel words from Jesus that point to a community nourished by this life-giving vine and bearing fruit for the sake of the world.