



Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church



**Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024, 9:00am
On-line Streaming
& In-Person Worship Service**

Welcome Visitors!

We hope that you will enjoy your time with us today. Ushers are here to serve. If you have questions or need something, they are more than willing to help, it's why they are here!

Rest rooms are available to the left as you exit the sanctuary, near the coat rack.

Most understand that God made children who are wiggly and full of energy. Please don't worry. Activity bags for children are found near the coat rack. If you feel that you must take your children out, there are also some books and toys in the library to the right as you exit the sanctuary, and you can still hear worship through the speaker. A changing station is available in the handicapped restroom.

There are listen assist devices. If you need one, please stop at the usher's area and they will be glad to supply you with one. There are two types of listening devices, one that just fits over the ear and another that works directly with some hearing aids.

Welcome to our sacred space, ancestral lands of the Lenni Lenape and Susquehannock, and home of our forebears. Important note about the bulletin. To save more trees and utilize the hymnal, parts of the service marked "pg. XXX" will be found in the front portion of the hymnal. Parts of the service marked "ELW XXX" will be found in the back portion of the hymnal.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *To Christ Belong, in Christ Behold*

Farle

please stand

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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!**

GATHERING SONG: *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!*



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Refrain
 Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

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.

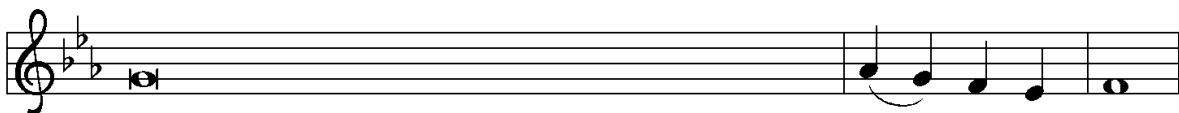
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



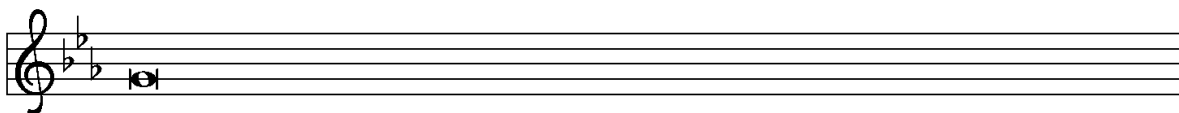
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



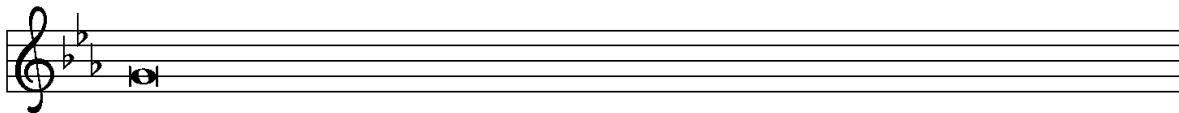
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men, a - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



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



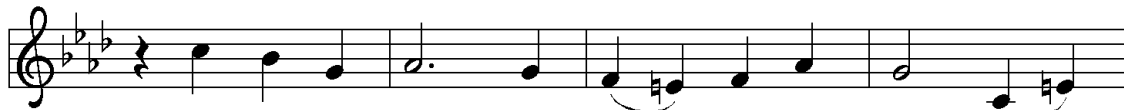
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

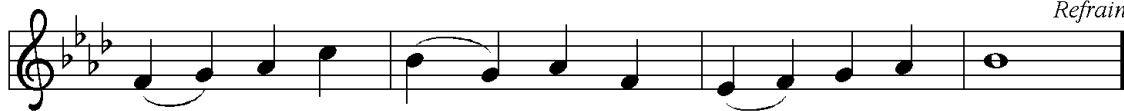


blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

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.**

Please be seated

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

The first reading is written in the eighth chapter of Acts beginning at the 26th verse. The reading can be found on page 892 of your pew Bible.

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.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

The second reading is written in the fourth chapter of First John beginning at the 7th verse. The reading can be found on page 991 of your pew Bible.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

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

⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

¹⁰In 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.

¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to John the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.**

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Pastor Serena Sellers

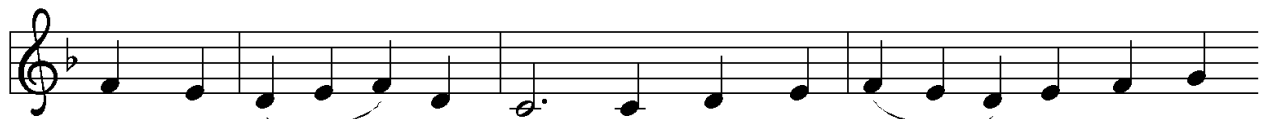
SERMON: Pastor Sellers

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY: *O Blessed Spring*



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us
2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain
3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to
faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will
last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take
this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -



be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Share that peace with those around you.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, so that all are
welcomed, the gospel is shared and the hungry are fed. Online
donations to the church may be submitted through this link.*

<https://www.christlc.org/giving>

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Go into the World*

Sleeth

(Sanctuary Choir)

Please stand

OFFERTORY HYMN: *Be Not Afraid*

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The second system of musical notation is identical to the first, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) with the same key signature and time signature, and the same lyrics.

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, **O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

True Vine, we pray for the unity of your church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Great gardener, we pray for the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters, the Susquehanna and Wissahickon. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Most High God, we pray for the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, we pray for all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering especially Ron, Gary, Charlie, Frank, Elva, Dorothea, Michael, Charlotte, Karl, Randy, Harry, David and Dave. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Father, we pray for the family of this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, write cards and post messages, and for all who seek to share your love with one another and the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

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. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *To Christ Belong, in Christ Behold*



1 To Christ be - long, in Christ be - hold God's
 2 The brood - ing Spir - it moves un - seen as
 3 Re - joic - ing in God's prom - ise strong, our



won - ders still un - fold: the bur - ied
 liv - ing wa - ters stream to quench all
 trea - sure and our song, in faith we



grain springs forth a - gain with fruit one hun - dred - fold.
 thirst and bring to birth a new com - mu - ni - ty.
 cling, and glad - ly sing: to Christ we now be - long.



Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, with
 The bind - ing shroud is here re - leased, the
 In Christ a - bide, in Christ be - hold the



Christ from death we rise, drawn through the
 veil of sin and grief, and in their
 world be - loved and whole. In love re -



night by dawn - ing light in - to a - bun - dant
 place a wreath of grace and robes of joy and
 main, by love pro - claim God's won - ders still un -



life, in - to a - bun - dant life.
 peace, and robes of joy and peace.
 told, God's won - ders still un - told.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: *Christ is Alive!*

Williams

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The Rev. Serena Sellers

Christ Lutheran Church

2211 Mainland Road

Harleysville, PA 19438

Phone: (215) 256-8738

E-mail: clc@christlc.org

Website: www.christlc.org

Pastor's Email: pastorss@christlc.org

Pastor's Phone #: 267-377-6138

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