

# St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

8:30 & 11:00 am Services

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

**Introduction for the Day:** This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

## Gathering

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements     Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar

*Please stand as you are able.*

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ.

**We were baptized so that we might have a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God our Creator.**

Therefore, let us confess our sins to God so that, as nourished branches, we may abide in him who is the Vine.

*(Silence for meditation and self-examination)*

Almighty and all-merciful God,

**We confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.**

Christ is risen.

**Risen indeed!**

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins. In the name of Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others.                    **Amen.**

Gathering Song

**#449 We Know That Christ is Raised**

Opening Litany for the Fifth Sunday of Easter & Apostolic Greeting

The Lord is Risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

Just as branches need the vine to survive,

**we need Christ, the true Vine, in every aspect of our lives.**

To all who are longing for meaning and direction in their lives,

**Jesus says, "Stay close to me. Apart from me you can do nothing."**

To all who desire to follow the Lord's will in their ministry and community,

**Jesus says "You will bear much fruit."**

The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be  
with you all.

**And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

**page 149; Worthy is Christ**

Prayer of the Day

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.*

Word

First Reading

**Acts 8:26-40**

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

**Psalm 22:25-31, Read Responsively**

*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)*

Let us read responsively from Psalm 22.

From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## Second Reading

## 1 John 4:7-21

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

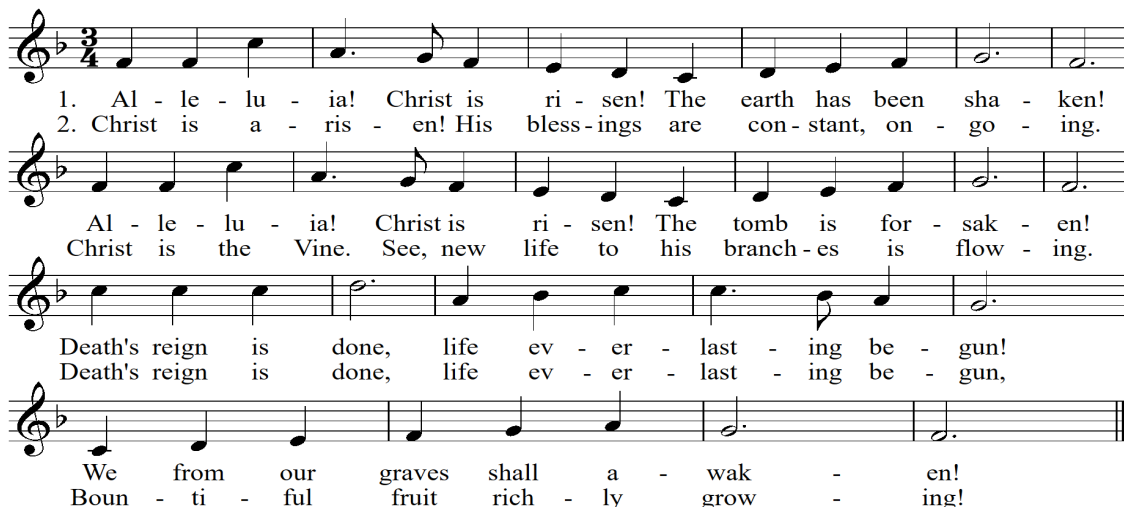
Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Gospel Acclamation

## Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!



1. Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ri - sen! The earth has been sha - ken!  
2. Christ is a - ris - en! His bless - ings are con - stant, on - go - ing.

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ri - sen! The tomb is for - sak - en!  
Christ is the Vine. See, new life to his branch - es is flow - ing.

Death's reign is done, life ev - er - last - ing be - gun!  
Death's reign is done, life ev - er - last - ing be - gun,

We from our graves shall a - wak - en!  
Boun - ti - ful fruit rich - ly grow - ing!

## Gospel

John 15:1-8

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.*

The Lord is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

The holy gospel according to John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O risen Lord!**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O risen Christ.**

## Sermon

Pastor Kevin Kretzmann Farrar

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Hymn of the Day

#447 O Blessed Spring

*Prayer Cards, which can be found in the pew racks, will be collected during the Hymn of the Day*

## Profession of Faith

Nicene Creed

*Inside back cover of hymnal, or page 104 of hymnal*

## Prayers of Intercession

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.

...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.**

*Please be seated.*

*Welcoming of New Members (8:30 Service)*

## Calling Forward our New Members

## Welcoming our New Members

We are here this morning to welcome these new members into the community which is St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. We are not a building, but the gathered family of God. We are siblings in Christ, given this new identity through our baptism into

Jesus' death and resurrection. Today we welcome you as members of this family in the larger body of Christ.

And so we ask, do you desire to join the membership of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church? If so please answer: "We do."

Gracious God, as you called James and John, Simon and Andrew to fish for people, so you have called us to serve you with our own talents and resources. We thank you for bringing to us these new members. You have told us that wherever two or more are gathered in your name, there you are with them. Help us, we pray, to see and feel that presence and that others may come to know you through their interactions with us.

**Amen.**

As active followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to spread the Good News. We encourage you to accept that call through your involvement in the church.

**We welcome you in Christ, and thank God for this unique opportunity to serve God and one another. May the God to whom we belong equip us for every good work that we do together in God's name.**

### Sharing the Peace of Christ

Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled." The peace of the risen Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

### Meal

Musical Offering

8:30

*A Vineyard Grows* by K. Lee Scott  
– Senior Choir

*Amid the world's bleak wilderness A vineyard grows with promise green, The planting of the Lord himself, The planting of the Lord.*

*His love selected this terrain, His vine with love he planted here To bear the choicest fruit for him, The choicest fruit for him.*

*We are his branches, chosen, dear, And though we feel the dresser's knife, We are the objects of his care, The objects of his care.*

*From him we draw the juice of life, For him supply his winery With fruit from which true joys derive, From which true joys derive.*

*Vine, keep what I was meant to be: Your branch, with your rich life in me.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Offertory Response

## Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Let the vine-yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing.  
 Ga - ther a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
 Ga - ther the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer now.  
 Grace our ta - ble with your pre - sence, Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

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## Offertory Prayer

Heavenly Gardener, you have grafted us onto hearty rootstock, the branch of your Son.  
 Help us, now, to bear much fruit. Accept the fruits of our labor. Through Jesus  
 Christ, our branch, and Lord.

**Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

### Dialogue and Preface

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

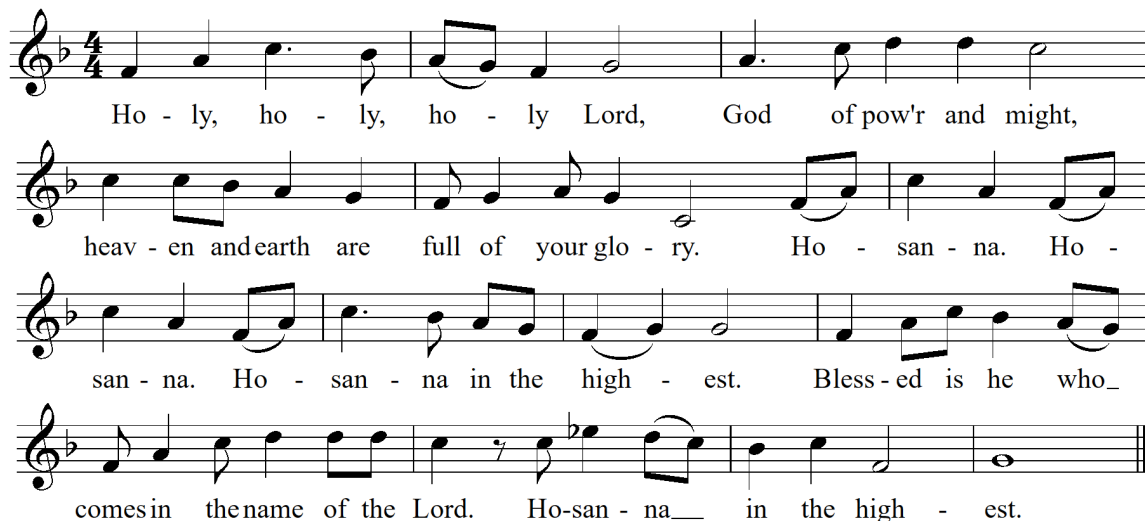
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who\_  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na\_\_ in the high - est.

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## Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
 your kingdom come, your will be done,  
 on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
 and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### Invitation to Communion

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

**The risen Christ invites us to this table.**

Come, eat, and be satisfied.

## Call to Communion

## In This Feast of Love

1. *Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä,* \_\_\_\_\_ *täs - sä pöy - däs -*  
 1. In this feast of love, \_\_\_\_\_ in this feast of  
 2. In this bread and wine, \_\_\_\_\_ in this bread and

*sä* \_\_\_\_\_ *syn - ti - sil - le it - se - si -*  
 love, \_\_\_\_\_ Lord, you share your blood and your  
 wine, \_\_\_\_\_ you have prom - ised, Lord, to be

*an - nat,* \_\_\_\_\_ *Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!* \_\_\_\_\_  
 bod - y, \_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus, Lamb of God, \_\_\_\_\_  
 with us, \_\_\_\_\_ Lamb of God div - ine. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Communion Hymn

## Seed, Scattered and Sown

**Refrain**

Seed, scat-tered and sown; wheat, gath-ered and grown;  
 bread, bro-ken and shared as one, the Liv - ing Bread of God.  
 Vine, fruit of the land; wine, work of our hands; one cup that is  
 shared by all; the Liv - ing Cup, the Liv - ing Bread of God.



## Verses



1. Is not the bread we break a shar - ing in our Lord?
2. The seed which falls on rock will with - er and will die.
3. As wheat up - on the hills was gath - ered and was grown,

*to Refrain*



Is not the cup we bless the blood of Christ out - poured?  
 The seed with - in good ground will flow - er and have life.  
 so may the church of God be gath - ered in - to one.

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*Please stand as you are able.*

### Communion Response

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his light and grace.

**Amen.**

### Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, you have invited us to your table, unify us, O Christ, make us one.

Then others will know who we are, children of a loving God where we can bear much fruit. We bless you now and evermore.

**Amen.**

## Sending

### Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope

✠ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

## Sending Song

## May the God of Hope Go with Us

1. May the God of hope go with us ev - 'ry day, \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. May the God of jus - tice speed us on our way, \_\_\_\_\_

to a world in need with news of joy and peace. \_\_\_\_\_ *back to v.2.*  
 bring - ing light and hope to ev - 'ry land and race. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Pray - ing, \_\_\_\_\_ let us work for peace; \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. work - ing \_\_\_\_\_ for a world that's new, \_\_\_\_\_

sing - ing, \_\_\_\_\_ share our joy with all; \_\_\_\_\_ *back to v.4.*  
 faith - ful \_\_\_\_\_ when we hear Christ's call. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## Postlude