



*5th Sunday of Easter  
April 28, 2024*



*St. Matthew's Lutheran Church*

*Lay Peacher: Leandra Ludlam, Presiding: Karla Stoker,  
Worship Assistant: Liz Hawke  
Pew Edition*

*WELCOME and INTRODUCTION*

**Welcome to St. Matthew's! We're glad you're here!**

**PRELUDE AIR**

**Florence Price**

St. Matthew's vision is a community deeply rooted in the love of God, energetically engaged in meaningful relationships with our neighbors near and far, committed to rich diversity, intentional inclusion, bold advocacy, and care for creation to connect people to God and transform lives.

**PM:** 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.

*Let us take a moment to quiet our hearts and minds from the business and stresses of the week and prepare for worship.*

*Gathering*

*The Holy Spirit Calls Us Together as the People of God.*

**PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**PM:** We gather together to build our relationships.

**C:** Our relationship with God. Our relationship with each other. Our relationship with our neighbor.

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

**PM:** Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**PM:** 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!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**PM:** 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. **C: AMEN**

**PM:** Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

## GATHERING SONG: The Day of Resurrection!

ELW361



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,  
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right  
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,  
4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,



the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.  
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,  
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.  
all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,  
and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;  
Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.  
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!  
and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

### GREETING

**PM:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also, with you.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**PM:** 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. **C: AMEN**

**PLEASE BE SEATED**

*Word*

*God Speaks to Us in Scripture Reading, Preaching and Song.*

**FIRST READING Acts 8:26-40**

**Liz Hawke**

*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.*

**WA: A Reading from the book of Acts**

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

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>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?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>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.

**WA:** Word of God Word of Life

**C:**      **Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21**

**Liz Hawke**

*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.*

**WA: A Reading from 1 John**

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>Love 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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**WA:** Word of God Word of Life

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Samantha Johnson

**PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 3



## GOSPEL JOHN 15:1-8

Leandra Ludlam

**LP:** The Gospel of the Lord

**C:** Glory to you, O Lord.

**LP:** [Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

**LP:** This is the Gospel of the Lord

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

**PLEASE BE SEATED**

## SERMON

Lay Preacher, Leandra Ludlam

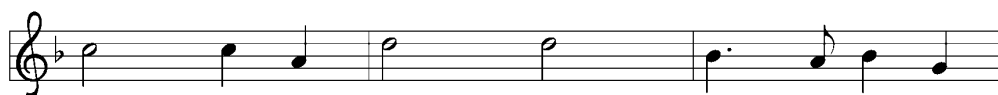
**Please Rise in Body or Spirit**



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man  
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending  
 this my resurrection;  
 into your hands, Lord,  
 I commit my spirit.  
 This have I searched for;  
 now I can possess it.  
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,  
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion  
 offers in mercy  
 healing, strength, and pardon.  
 Peoples and nations,  
 take it, take it freely!"  
 Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982  
 Music: SHADES MOUNTAIN, K. Lee Scott, b. 1950  
 Text © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.  
 Music © 1987 Bimamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

**Please Be Seated.**

*The Worship Assistant leads the prayers and assembly responds at the conclusion of each petition.*

### *Prayers Of The People*

**WA:** 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.*

**WA:** For the ..... God of grace,

**C:** hear our prayer.

**WA:** Let us join together to offer our prayers to the One who Loves.

Whether inscribed on paper or etched upon our hearts, we weave them into the hearts of this community and let them rise like incense during the Easter Vigil.

*As the congregation comes forward with prayers, quiet music is played in the background. When all is complete, the presiding minister continues.*

**PM:** 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.

**C:** **AMEN**

### *Peace*

**PM:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** **And also, with you.**

**PM:** Say to the people viewing online Peace be with you.

**PM:** Say to your neighbors next you Peace be with you.

### *Meal*

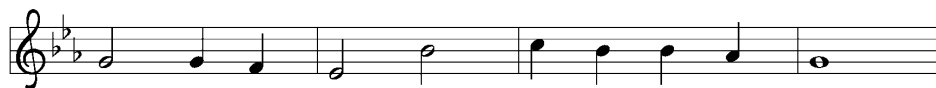
*God Feeds Us with the Presence of Jesus Christ.*

#### **OFFERING**

**PM:** The gifts we offer are given as thanks to the Lord for the abundant blessings in our lives. These gifts of time, talent and treasure are used to support the mission and ministry of St. Matthew's the wider church, the community in Taylorsville and beyond into the world. We thank you for your generosity as we lift our hearts in praise for God's generosity here in this place for gifting us, with you!

#### **OFFERTORY Abide With Me**

**ELW629**



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**WA:** 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. **C: Amen.**

**PM:** At St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, all are welcome to receive Holy Communion at Christ's table. Who is all? New worshipers, babies, toddlers, teenagers, middle-aged and older, members, non-members, those who aren't sure of their faith, those who are sure of their faith, those who are doubting, wondering and wandering. You are wanted at the table of God's grace, mercy and love.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

**PM:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also, with you.**

**PM:** Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

**PM:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## TABLE PRAYER

**PM:** Holy, living, and loving God,  
we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,  
for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,  
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.  
We give you thanks for Jesus  
who, living among us,  
healed the sick,  
fed the hungry,  
and with a love stronger than death,  
gave his life for others. **C: AMEN**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**PM:** In the night .....  
both now and forever.

**C: AMEN**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**PM:** In joyful praise of Jesus' resurrection let us pray

**C: 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

**PM:** The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

The Ushers will invite you down the aisle to the bread and wine/grape juice stations to receive communion.  
After you receive, you may kneel at the altar to pray or return to your seat.

## COMMUNION HYMN Build A Longer Table

ACS1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.  
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

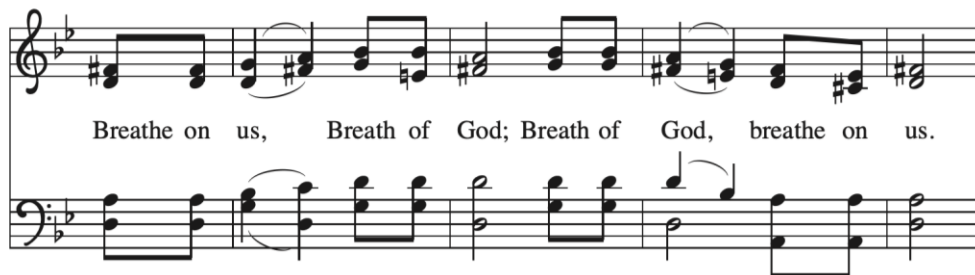
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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## 2<sup>ND</sup> COMMUNION HYMN Breathe On Us, Breath Of God

ACS941



Breathe on us, Breath of God; Breath of God, breathe on us.

Text: Patrick G. Michaels, b. 1954

Music: BREATH OF GOD, Patrick G. Michaels

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## COMMUNION

**PM:** The Body of Christ Given for You. The Blood of Christ Shed for You.

## TABLE BLESSING

**PM:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood nourish and strengthen us for his service, now and forever. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**WA:** Shepherd God,  
you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend. **C: Amen.**

### *Sending*

*God Blesses Us and Sends Us in Mission to the World.*

## SENDING OF COMMUNION

**PM:** Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care:  
As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,  
assist Mary Wimmer who is set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned.*  
In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: AMEN**

## *GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS*

- *Thank you to Brian for bringing worship today into our homes.*
- *Thank you to Kathleen, Leandra, Karla, Liz, and Samantha for leading worship this morning,*
- *There are no meetings scheduled for this week!*
- *Outreach & Advocacy Opportunities:*
  - *Over the next several months we will be collecting items to put together personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief on the God's Work Our Hands Day of Service September 8, 2024.*
    - *Month of May we will be collecting two bars of packaged hand soap.*
- *Annual St. Matthew's Yard Sale – June 22, 2024. We are asking if you can please keep your items at home until the Wednesday before the sale. The basement is full.*
- *Please check the following for the latest updates on church news: St. Matthew's Facebook page, the website, the bulletin boards, your personal emails, text messages and voice mails.*

## **PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT FOR THE BLESSING**

### *BLESSING*

**PM:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**PM:** The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always. **C: Amen.**

# SENDING SONG Let All Things Now Living

ELW881



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.  
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.  
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune  
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

## DISMISSAL

**WA:** We are all called to proclaim God's grace by telling the story of Jesus  
go out this week to bring light, hope and healing to the world.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE Toccato

Florence Price

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