



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Fifth Sunday in Easter

April 28, 2024

8 a.m. Worship



TO VIEW THE SERVICE WHILE IT IS GOING ON LIVE ... go to our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/sjlmidland/>. Since this is a PUBLIC PAGE, you do not need to have a personal Facebook account in order to view the livestream.

The video of the service will be available for viewing on Facebook following the service so others can view it later.

NOTE: Announcements and Prayers can now be found online by clicking on the "Church" tab and then going to "Church"

Preparation for Worship and Welcome

Hymn

“I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives”

LSB 468

I am content! My Jesus ever lives,
In whom my heart is pleased.
He has fulfilled the Law of God for me,
God’s wrath He has appeased.
Since He in death could perish never,
I also shall not die forever.
I am content!
I am content!

I am content! My Jesus is my head;
His member I shall be.
He bowed His head when on the cross He died
With cries of agony.
Now death is brought into subjection
For me by Jesus’ resurrection.
I am content!
I am content!

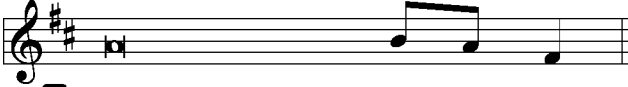
I am content! My Jesus is my light,
My radiant sun of grace.
His cheering rays beam blessings forth for all,
Sweet comfort, hope, and peace.
This Easter sun has brought salvation
And everlasting exultation.
I am content!
I am content!

I am content! At length I shall be free,
Awakened from the dead,
Arising glorious evermore to be
With You, my living head.
The chains that hold my body, sever;
Then shall my soul rejoice forever.
I am content!
I am content!

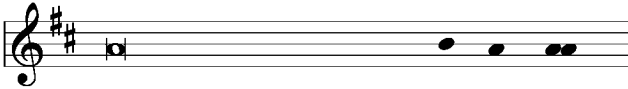
Opening Versicles



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Praise to you, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

Antiphon

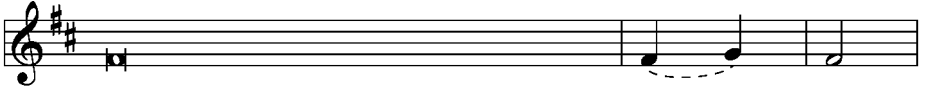


L Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.

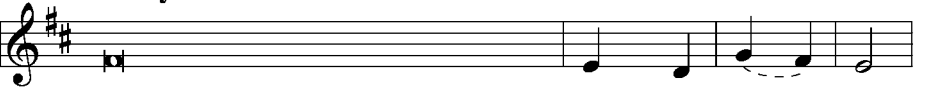


C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

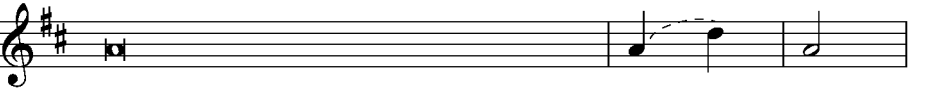
Venite



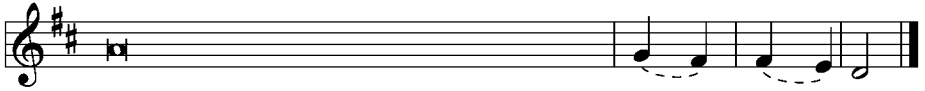
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great God
3 The sea is His, for He made it,
5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son



1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
3 and His hand formed the dry land.
5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
4 For He is our God,
5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
5 is now, and will be for ev - er. A - men.

Antiphon



L Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Introit

Reference Ps. 145:1-2,8,10,21; antiphon: John 16:16

A little while, and you will see me no longer;
and again a little while, and you will see me.

**I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.**

Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.

**The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your saints shall bless you!

**My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

A little while, and you will see me no longer;
and again a little while, and you will see me.

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his

mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 John 4:1-21

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides 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 testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also 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 been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, “I love

God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. 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. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children’s Message

Anna Kruger

Hymn

“Christ the Eternal Lord”

LSB 829

1 Christ the eternal Lord,
Whose promise here we claim,
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured
On all who name Your name;
With thankfulness and praise
We stand before Your throne,
Intent to serve You all our days
And make Your glory known.

Christ the unchanging Word
To ev'ry passing age,
Whose timeless teachings still are heard
Set forth on Scripture's page;
Transform our thought and mind,
Enlighten all who read,
Within Your Word by faith to find
The bread of life indeed.

Christ the redeeming Son,
Who shares our human birth,
And by His death salvation won
For ev'ry child of earth;
Inspire our hearts, we pray,
To tell Your love abroad,
That all may honor Christ today
And follow Him as Lord.

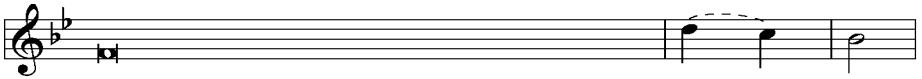
Christ the unfading Light
Of everlasting day,
Our Morning Star in splendor bright,
The Life, the Truth, the Way;
That light of truth You give
To servants as to friends,
Your way to walk, Your life to live,
Till earth's brief journey ends.

Christ the ascended King
Exalted high above,
Whose praise unending ages sing,
Whom yet unseen we love;
When mortal life is past
Your voice from heaven's throne
Shall call Your children home at last
To know as we are known.

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Sermon

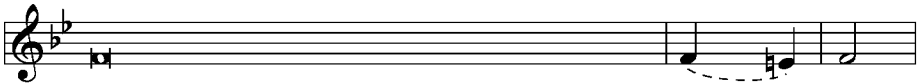
Te Deum



- 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 3 The noble army of martyrs praise — You.



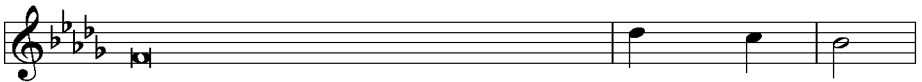
- 1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
 2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
 3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



- 1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
 2 The glorious company of the apostles praise — You.
 3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
 4 You are the king of glory, O — Christ;



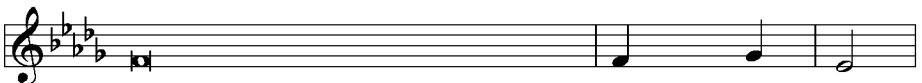
- 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
 2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise — You.
 3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
 4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



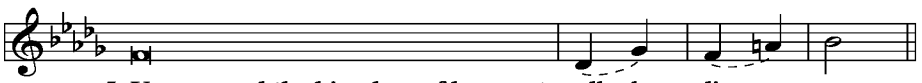
- 5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
 6 You sit at the right hand of God



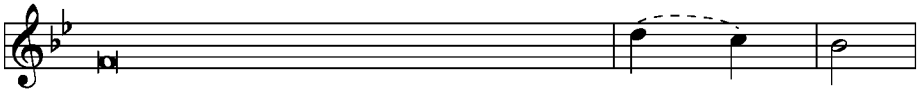
- 5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
 6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



- 5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
 6 We believe that You will come



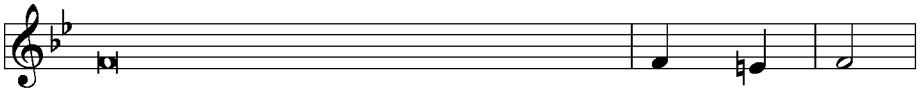
- 5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
 6 to be — our — judge.



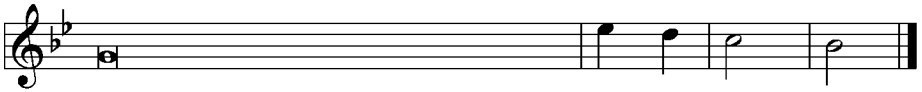
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,
 8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
 9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out _____ sin.



7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.
 8 Govern them and lift them up for - ev - er.
 9 O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy up - on _____ us.



7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints
 8 Day by day we magni - fy You.
 9 O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.



7 in glory ev - er - last - ing.
 8 And we worship Your name for - ever and ev - er.
 9 O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be con - found - ed.

Offering

Kyrie



Salutation



P The Lord be with you.



C And with your spir - it.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray:

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect for Grace

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benedicamus



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction



P The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C A - men.

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

LSB 919

Abide, O dearest Jesus,
Among us with Your grace
That Satan may not harm us
Nor we to sin give place.

Abide, O dear Redeemer,
Among us with Your Word,
And thus now and hereafter
True peace and joy afford.

Abide with heav'nly brightness
Among us, precious Light;
Your truth direct and keep us
From error's gloomy night.

Abide with richest blessings
Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom
Grow daily through Your Word.

Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.

Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.

Acknowledgments

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General Announcements

1. VBS 2024: Breaker Rock Beach

- a. Our first VBS volunteer meeting will be **Tuesday, April 30 at 6:00 pm** in the Lounge
- b. Come learn about this year's program and opportunities for you to be involved!

2. LifeClinic

- a. LifeClinic is excited to gather with supporters at LAUGH FOR LIFE to celebrate what God has done and what He is doing to restore hope, eliminate barriers, and empower choices for life in our community.
- b. On **May 2, 2024** Laugh for Life will be held at the Horizon Center in Saginaw. Enjoy dinner and family-friendly entertainment by comedian Mike Williams. Mike will have you rolling on the floor with laughter, while building your reverence for the work of local lifesaving organizations like LifeClinic. Go to lifeclinic.org/partners/events-fundraisers/. Select St. John's Lutheran Church from the drop-down menu as your host table.

3. Home to Stay

- a. Ten Midland area churches, including St. John's Lutheran Church, worked together in 1969 to create Home to Stay (formerly Midland Area Homes), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to prevent and combat homelessness.
- b. Will you join in support of this mission? Home to Stay is hosting its "*Welcome Home*" luncheon on **Wednesday, May 22nd from 11:30 - 1:00 pm** at the Midland County Country Club. RSVP to info@myhometostay.org or (989) 496-9550. Lunch is free of charge.
- c. We hope you can attend!