



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Fifth Sunday in Easter
April 28, 2024
10:45 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”

Abide

Jesus, in the Gospel of John, makes another “I am” statement. I am the true vine. Jesus compares the Father to a gardener who prunes branches to make them more fruitful. Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. We must remain in Him to bear fruit. Indeed, if the branch does not remain in the vine, it will be thrown away into the fire and burned. It is to the Father’s glory to bear much fruit.

“How Great Is Our God”

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves and Ed Cash
©2004 Rising Springs Music | Vamos Publishing | worshiptogether.com songs | Wondrously Made Songs

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty,
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
and trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.

How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great...how great...is our God!

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End
The Godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.

How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great...how great...is our God!

Name above all names, worthy of all praise.
My heart will sing; How great is our God!
Name above all names, worthy of all praise.
My heart will sing; How great is our God!

How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great...how great...is our God!

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

C **Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, You shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth You made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust Your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with Him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:4-7).

C **Amen.**

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.

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.**

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.**

Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life T everlasting. Amen.**

Children’s Message

Anna Kruger

♪ “Holy Forever”

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, Phil Wickham, Brian Johnson, Jenn Johnson and Jason Ingram
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A thousand generations
Falling down in worship
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb,
And all who've gone before us
And all who will believe
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb.

Your name is the highest,
Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all.
All thrones and dominions,
All powers and positions,
Your name stands above them all.

Chorus: And the angels cry, “Holy.”
All creation cries, “Holy.”
You are lifted high, holy,
Holy forever.

If you've been forgiven
And if you've been redeemed,
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.
If you walk in freedom
And if you bear His name,
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.
We'll sing the song forever and amen.

Chorus: And the angels cry, “Holy.”
All creation cries, “Holy.”
You are lifted high, holy,
Holy forever.
Hear Your people sing, “Holy.”
To the King of Kings, “Holy.”
You will always be Holy,
Holy forever.

Your name is the highest,
Your name is the greatest,

Your name stands above them all.
All thrones and dominions,
All powers and positions,
Your name stands above them all.

Jesus, Your name is the highest,
Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all.
All thrones and dominions,
All powers and positions,
Your name stands above them all. (*Chorus*)

You will always be Holy, Holy forever.

Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless thee and keep thee.
The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious to thee.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and T give thee peace.
C Amen.

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.

“Your Love Awakens Me”

Words and Music by Phil Wickham and Chris Quilala

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There were walls between us.
By the cross You came and broke them down,
You broke them down.
And there were chains around us.
By Your grace we are no longer bound,
No longer bound.

You called me out of the grave.
You called me into the light.
You called my name and then, my heart came alive.

Your love is greater.
Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me. *(repeat)*

Feel the darkness shaking,
All the dead are coming back to life.
I'm back to life.
Hear the song awaken
All creation singing, “We're alive
'Cause You're alive!”

You called me out of the grave.
You called me into the light.
You called my name and then, my heart came alive.

Your love is greater.
Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me. *(repeat)*

(3x) And what a love we've found.
Death can't hold us down.
We shout it out:
“We're alive 'cause You're alive!”

(4x) Your love is greater.
Your love is stronger.
You're love awakens, awakens, awakens me.

Your love awakens me.
Your love is greater.

Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me.

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!