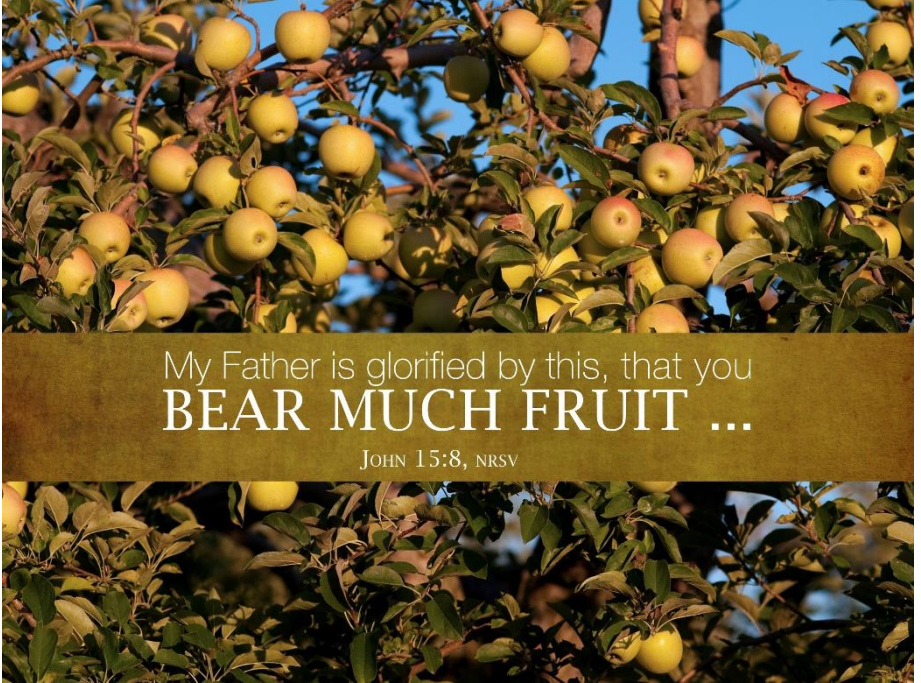


Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024
10:30 a.m.



My Father is glorified by this, that you
BEAR MUCH FRUIT ...

JOHN 15:8, NRSV



MARTIN LUTHER CHAPEL

"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"

444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778

www.martinlutherchapel.org

WELCOME

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

Stand

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** **Amen.**

WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/ Remain Standing

P Most merciful God,

C **We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Stand

GREETING OF PEACE

Introduce yourself to those around you with the greeting of peace.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

HYMN "Awake My Heart With Gladness" v 1, 3, 6

1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, See what to - day is done;
 3 This is a sight that glad - dens—What peace it doth im - part!

Now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, Comes forth the glo - rious sun.
 Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens The joy with - in my heart.

My Sav - ior there was laid Where our bed must be made
 No gloom shall ev - er shake, No foe shall ev - er take

When to the realms of light Our spir - it wings its flight.
 The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.

6 Now I will cling forever
 To Christ, my Savior true;
 My Lord will leave me never,
 Whate'er He passes through.
 He rends death's iron chain;
 He breaks through sin and pain;
 He shatters hell's grim thrall;
 I follow Him through all.

[P] 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.**

[P] In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C 
Lord, have mer - cy.

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

C 
Lord, have mer - cy.

[P] 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.

C 
Lord, have mer - cy.

[P] For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.


C 
Lord, have mer - cy.



[P] Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C 
A - - - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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


Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Go to Verses*

Verse 1 
Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Sing the Refrain*

Verse 2

Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Sing the Refrain*

Verse 3

Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - - - tion:

Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - - men. *Sing the Refrain*

Verse 4

For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - - - ia. *continue below*

Final Refrain

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

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[P] The Lord be with you. **[C]** And also with you.

[P] O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **[C]** Amen.

Sit

Children are invited to the Fireside Lounge for the Children's Lesson.

FIRST LESSON Acts 8:26-40

Philip and Stephen were among the first deacons chosen for service in the early church. After Stephen was martyred, Philip and the rest were scattered but continued to preach. In this encounter, reflection on scripture leads to baptism into the body of Christ.

☐ 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.) 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

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

☐ This is the Word of the Lord. ☐ **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON 1 John 4:7-21

This letter is a commentary on Jesus' command to "love one another." Love is the mark of God's abiding presence, because God is love. Love gives itself away in service to those in need.

R Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives 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 do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 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. 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. 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. We love because he first loved us. 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

intro: one chord

C Al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter - nal - life. Al-le-lu - ia. Al-le-lu - ia.

GOSPEL [P] The Gospel of John, written in chapter 15 beginning at verse 1.

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

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 would bear fruit, for apart from him, they could do nothing.

[P] Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become 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,
creator 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 again to judge the living and the dead.

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

MESSAGE

HYMN “Fruitful Trees, The Spirit Sowing”

1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow-ing, May we rip - en
2 Lad - en branch-es free - ly bear-ing Gifts the Giv - er
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas-ter, Christ our pat - tern
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend-ing, May we grow till

and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow-ing,
loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,

Rich in love and joy and peace.
Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
Music: Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932
Text: © 1984 Hope Publishing Co.
Tune: © 1980 Concordia Publishing House; setting: © 1998 Concordia Publishing House

DOROTHY
87 87
John 15:1-9; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:8-10; Luke 6:43-45

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with “Lord, in your mercy,” to which the congregation responds, “hear our prayer.” The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

OFFERING

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in the offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.



Give Now

OFFERTORY PRAYER AND SONG

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,
C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

introduction

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

THE PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.



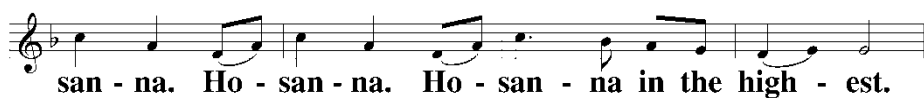
P Lift up your hearts.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



P It is indeed right and salutary that we should ... and so we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.


P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD’S PRAYER


Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

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


THE LAMB OF GOD



C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION *You may approach the altar as space is available to receive communion elements pre-packaged or from the common loaf, along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free options are available.*

HYMN “Thine The Amen, Thine the Praise”

1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal ly Thine the
 3 Thine the tru - ly Thine the yes Thine the
 4 Thine the king - dom Thine the prize Thine the
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more

lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head
 prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree
 ta - ble we the guest Thine the mer - cy all from Thee
 won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise
 dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree

Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the
 All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the
 Thine the glo - ry yet to be Then the ring - ing and the
 Then the jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the
 Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly

sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the
 rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the
 sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the
 sto - ry Then the wel - come to the least Then the
 ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the

vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy feast at Thy feast.
 splen - dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

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THE BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE AND PRAYER

intro: one chord

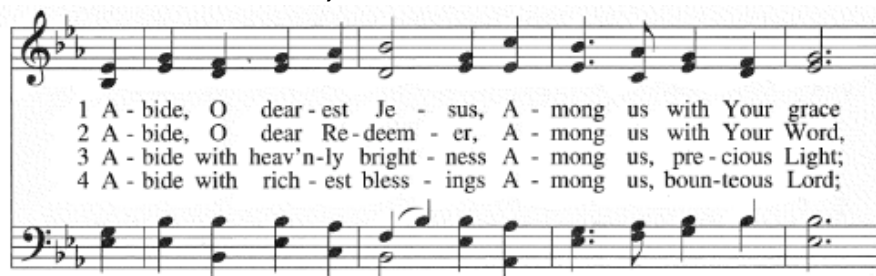
C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'-ry-one what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name. He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

P Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

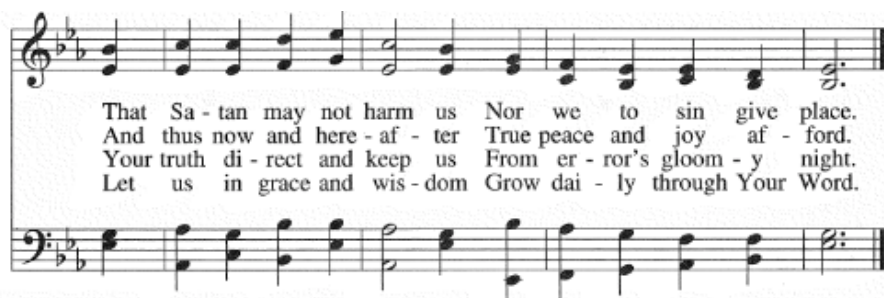
BENEDICTION

- P** 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. **C** Amen.
- P** Go in peace; serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN “Abide, O Dearest Jesus”



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace
 2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,
 3 A - bide with heav'n-ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;
 4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun-teous Lord;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.
 And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.
 Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.
 Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.

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

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

POSTLUDE

Our Confession about Communion

Our Confession

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible, and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

- a. have been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord, and concur in our confession;
- b. are not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.
