



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
May 2, 2021

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870

(419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

In Person/Parking Lot Worship 9:00 am

Zoom Worship 10:30 a.m.

May 2, 2021 Fifth Sunday of Easter

In the church parking lot, please turn your car
radio to 101.7 FM to listen to our worship service at 9 AM.

This signal is only 1500 feet.

You can also join us on Zoom for worship at 10:30 AM.

Welcome to Worship. 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.

We give thanks and welcome Morgan Walker for leading us in worship this morning.

Gathering Hymn

"We Know That Christ Is Raised"

ELW 449

1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Hallelujah!
2. We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life,
as living members of our Savior Christ.
Hallelujah!

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Canticle of Praise

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on earth, and peace to God's people on earth.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

A reading from Acts.

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.

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

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, 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.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Second Lesson: 1 John 4:7-21

A reading from 1 John.

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.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?
Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to John.

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 bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Morgan Walker

Hymn of the Day

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

ELW 674

1. Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain

2. Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! Refrain

Refrain

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,

pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

Praying this week's prayer requests

Prayer requests can be emailed to stacylauer@gmail.com, texted to 419-680-0358, or mailed to the church.

Prayers of Intercession

Response: Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Peace

The peace of the Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

We give back to God what God first gives us. Offering can be mailed in to the church at 106 Scheid Road, Sandusky OH 44870, by texting give to 614-389-9681, given on our church website, on your way out of the parking lot or in the plate on your way out of the sanctuary.

Canticle of Thanksgiving

Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.
Great and wonderful are your deeds,
O God of the universe; just and true are your ways,
O Ruler of all the nations.
Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?

Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.
For you alone are the Holy One, and blessed is the one whose name is the Word of God.
All praise and thanks to you, holy God!
Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

Thanksgiving for the Word

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Shout to the Lord”

ELW 821

My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord, there is none like you.
All of my days I want to praise
the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength;
let ev'ry breath, all that I am
never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands;
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is:

“A Family of Disciples, Faithfully Making Christ Known”

And a congregation of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S, MINISTERS

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Pastor Stacy's Day Off – Friday

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Like us on Facebook: St. John's Lutheran Church, Sandusky

2021: The Year of Generosity Memory Verse

Matthew 6:21 **“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”.**

We thank Lisa Fryer for leading our worship songs this morning and all our volunteers Chuck and Sandy Thompson and Paula Hoffman for helping with worship.

Reservations and Volunteers:

Worship in the sanctuary means that we will have reservations each week, so please email or call Sandy Thompson if you want to worship in the sanctuary. We request that these are submitted EACH WEEK by Wednesday evening so that we can make sure we have enough space for everyone. Yes, it may be a hassle to call each week, but we want to make this fair for everyone and we have a small space.

We will also need three volunteers every Sunday! If you are willing to volunteer, please let me know. Being a volunteer also assures you have a space reserved in the sanctuary. We also need a cantor to assist with our music. This is someone who will sing along with Morgan playing, but will stand in the Upper Room. Would you be willing to sing?

Scholarship Fund Drive

During the month of May we will be raising funds for the St. John's Scholarship Fund. The funds benefit members of the congregation who are continuing their education beyond high school. We need your financial support to ensure that scholarships will continue to be available. Donations can be mailed to the church at 106

Scheid Rd., Sandusky Oh. 44870. Be sure to make the check out to St. John's Lutheran Church and on the memo line put Scholarship Fund. Scholarships will be available in June. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Lucht 419-433-5107.

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

May 3—Corwin Semon
6—Bob Stacy
10—Lisa Johnson
Yvonne Semon
12—Kerry Laird
14 —Catherine Wilson
Jason Steckel
22 —Jim Semon
23 —Ronald Zorn

26 —Richard Schlessman

26 —Jon Baaske

28 —Alex Schlessman

May Anniversaries

May 14—Lisa and Ron Fryer
21 —Jeff and Kristi Justi
24 —Pastor Stacy and Ryan
Scovanner

May Worship Volunteer Schedule

May 2:

Temps and sign in: Sandy Thompson

Usher: Chuck Thompson

Cantor: Lisa Fryer

Zoom reader: Paula Hoffman

May 16:

Temps and sign in: Trudi Baaske

Usher: Jon Baaske

Cantor: Giordanos

Zoom reader: Paula Hoffman

May 9:

Temps and sign in: Ray Witt

Usher: Jeff Justi

Cantor: Sandy Thompson

Zoom reader: Allison Young

May 23:

Temps and sign in: Pat Babiuch

Usher: Jason Shupe

Cantor: Bill Lucht?

Zoom reader: Ann Voight