

Full Service Bulletin

MISSION SERVICE

APRIL 28, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Psalm 122:1)

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

Prepare your heart for worship: read the introduction, look up the Scripture readings and pray. You may pray:

God of grace, You have given us minds to know You, hearts to love You, and voices to sing Your praise. Fill us with Your Spirit, that we may celebrate Your glory and worship You in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN.

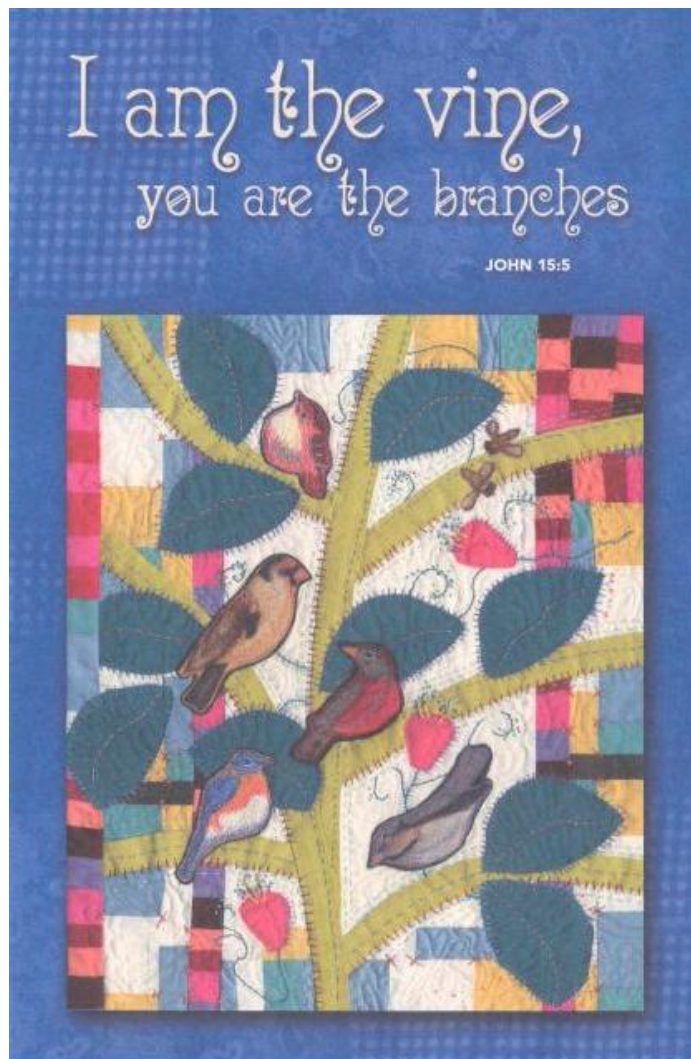
CHILDREN

We welcome children of all ages. The Children's Library is available if a child needs a break during the service.

INTRODUCTION

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 that we read of 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 sends us out to bear fruit for the life of the world.



WELCOME AND MEDITATION

GATHERING HYMN *(Please rise.)*

“God Will Take Care of You” (Maj # 368 - favorite)



1 Be not dis-mayed what-e'er be-tide, God will take care of you;
2 Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you;
3 All you may need he will pro-vide, God will take care of you;
4 No mat-ter what may be the test, God will take care of you;



be - neath his wings of love a - bide, God will take care of you.
when dan - gers fierce your path as - sail, God will take care of you.
noth - ing you ask will be de - nied, God will take care of you.
lean, wea - ry one, up - on his breast, God will take care of you.



Refrain



God will take care of you, through ev - 'ry day, o'er all the way;



God will take care of you, God will take care of you.
take care of you.



Text: Civilla D. Martin, 1869-1948 Music: MARTIN, W. Stillman Martin, 1862-1935

INVOCATION (*= All may make the sign of the cross.*)

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, Who calls us beloved children, Who gathers us into one flock, Who guides us into all truth.

C: AMEN.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: If we claim to be to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sins, for God is faithful and just and will forgive us and purify us from all unrighteousness.

(Please kneel. Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: Faithful and just God, **C: we confess our sin. We are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways of darkness that lead to death. We confess our failure to live fully the good news of the resurrection. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved one another as You have loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let Your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new; that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, and know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. AMEN.**

P: This is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others.

C: AMEN.

GREETING (*Please rise.*)

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

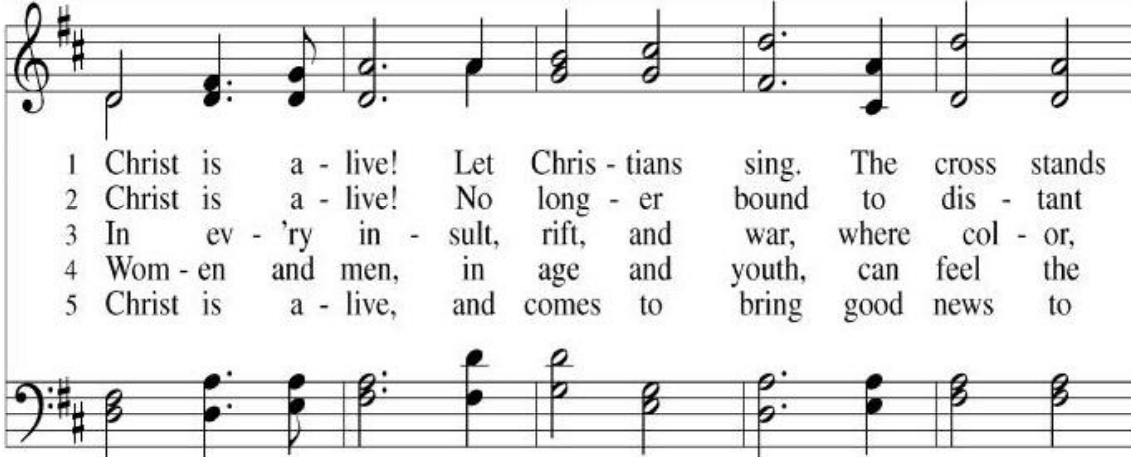
WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME

With one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Let all the peoples praise him."(Romans 15:6,11)

HYMN OF PRAISE "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing"

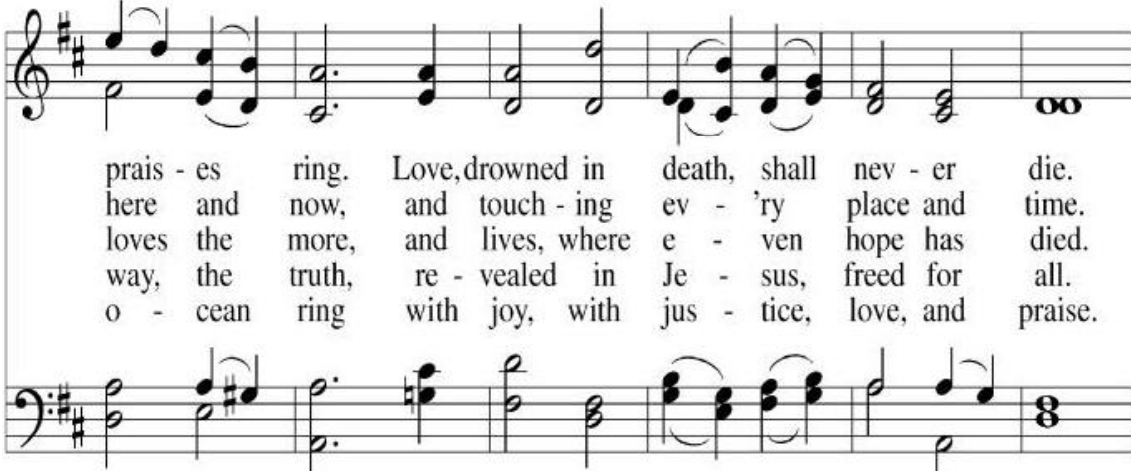
(ELW # 389 - Text: Brian A. Wren; Tune: T. Williams)



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the life, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
way, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray together: **C: 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.**

RESPONSIVE READING....Psalm 150 (*congregation: indented*)

Praise the LORD. Praise God in His sanctuary;

praise Him in His mighty heavens.

Praise Him for His acts of power;

praise Him for His surpassing greatness.

Praise Him with the sounding of the trumpet,

praise Him with the harp and lyre,

praise Him with tambourine and dancing,

praise Him with the strings and flute,

praise Him with the clash of cymbals,

praise Him with resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD.

(Please sit.)

PRAISE SONG

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” (ELW # 545 - favorite)

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flashing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant-ing bird, and flow-ing foun-tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1933 Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

For everything was written to teach us, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

FIRST READING Acts 8:26-40.....Pg. 1705

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING 1 John 4:1-21.....p. 1902

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Please rise.)*

"Greater Is He That Is In Me" (Maj # 309 - favorite)

The image shows a musical score for the acclamation. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system has the lyrics: "Great-er is He that is in me, Great-er is He that is in me;". The second system has the lyrics: "Great-er is He that is in me Than he that is in the world." The music is in 4/4 time and G major.

TEXT: Lanny Wolfe; based on 1 John 4:4 MUSIC: Lanny Wolfe

8.8.8.7. GREATER IS HE

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL John 15:1-8.....Pg. 1676

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Young children go to Children's Church)

(Please sit. See outline in Announcements insert.)

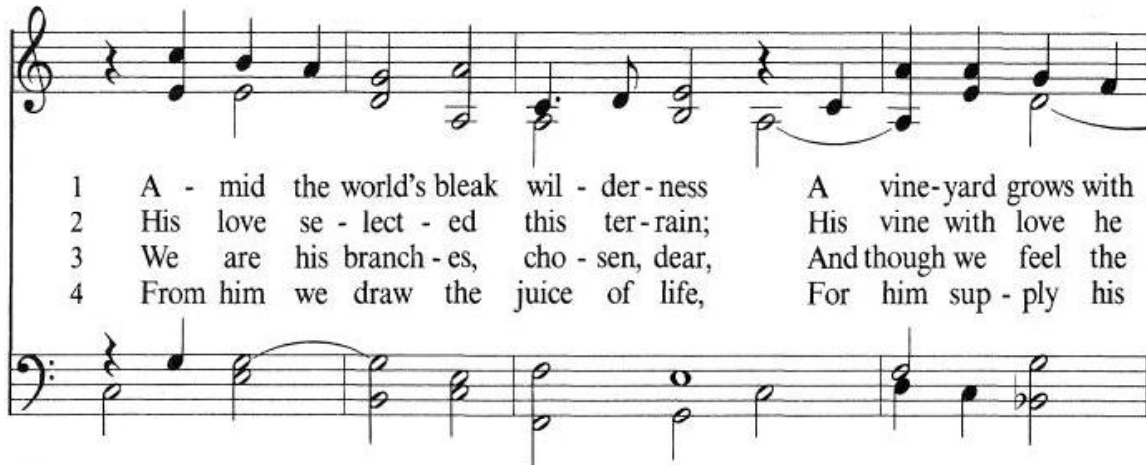
SERMON Nelson Randolph

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

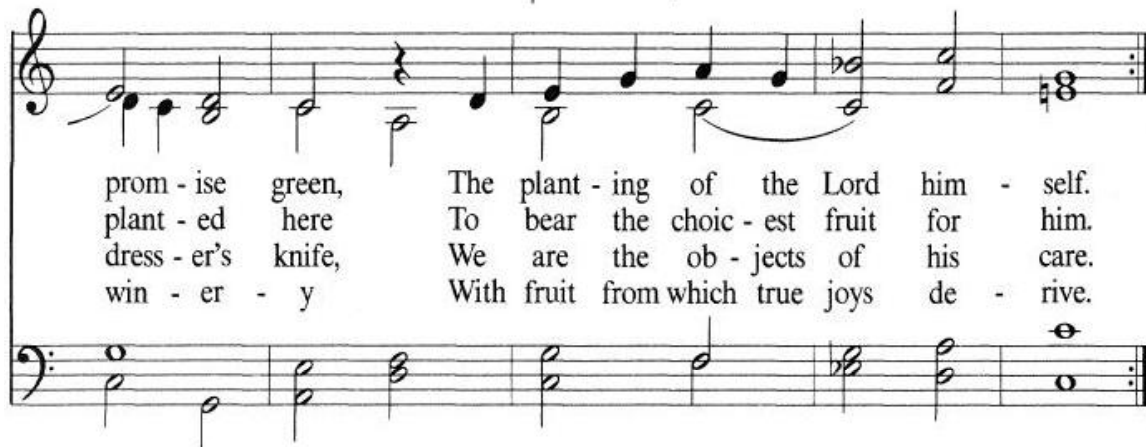
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.
(Romans 15:13)

HYMN OF THE DAY *(Please rise.)*

“Amid the World’s Bleak Wilderness” (LBW # 378)



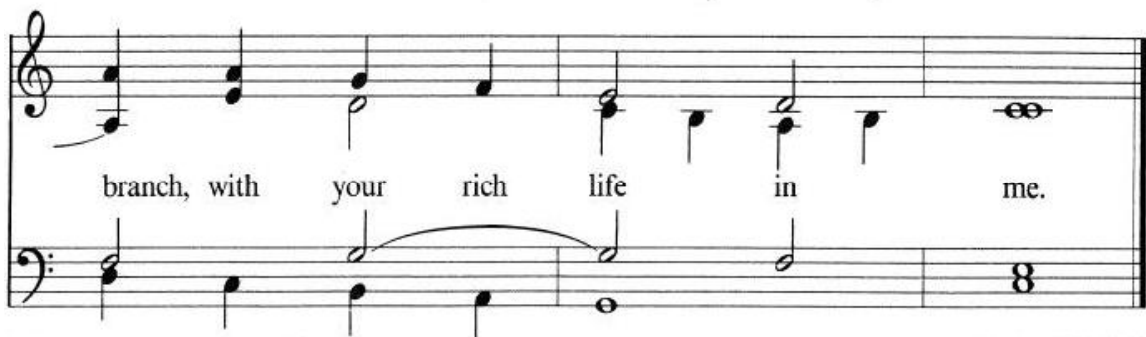
1 A - mid the world's bleak wil - der - ness A vine-yard grows with
2 His love se - lect - ed this ter-rain; His vine with love he
3 We are his branch - es, cho - sen, dear, And though we feel the
4 From him we draw the juice of life, For him sup - ply his



prom - ise green, The plant - ing of the Lord him - self.
plant - ed here To bear the choic - est fruit for him.
dress - er's knife, We are the ob - jects of his care.
win - er - y With fruit from which true joys de - rive.



5 Vine, keep what I was meant to be: Your



branch, with your rich life in me.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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.

OFFERING

We no longer pass the plate, but your offerings are needed more than ever. The plate is located at the back of the center aisle. Please place your offering and your Communication Card there as you come in or go out. Thank You!

(Please sit.)

MISSION MOMENT Egg Hunt Report

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Please kneel.)*

(Response: L: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isaiah 2:5)

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Who raised our Lord Jesus from death, lift you up and restore you to wholeness.

C: AMEN. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Jesus Christ, the Word of life, bless you and send you to be His witnesses.

C: AMEN. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: God the Holy Spirit, Who renews the whole earth, refresh you in the gift of baptism this day and always.

C: 

SENDING HYMN *(Please rise.)* “On Our Way Rejoicing”

(SBH # 193 / ELW # 537 - Text: John S.B. Monsell; Tune: Frances R. Havergal)

PASSING THE PEACE

L: As we leave to serve the Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit, let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we have received. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

POSTLUDE

FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS

Everyone is invited to remain for fellowship and refreshments.

Snacks, coffee and hot water are available in the Gathering Place.

You can brew your own coffee/tea using the Keurig® in the Parlor.

In march time

1 On our way re - joic - ing Glad - ly let us go; Con-quer'd hath our
 2 If with hon-est-heart - ed Love for God and man, Day by day thou
 3 Un - to God the Fa - ther Joy - ful songs we sing, Un - to God the

Lead - er, Vanquish'd is the foe. Christ with-out, our safe - ty; Christ with-
 find us Do - ing what we can, Thou who giv'st the seed - time Wilt give
 Sa - viour Thank-ful hearts we bring, Un - to God the Spi - rit Bow we

in, our joy; Who, if we be faith - ful, Can our hope de - stroy?
 large in - crease, Crown the head with bless - ings, Fill the heart with peace.
 and a - dore, On our way re - joic - ing Now and ev - er - more.

Refrain

On our way re - joic - ing As we for - ward move,

Heark - en to our prais - es, O thou God of love! A - men.

APRIL 28, 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SERVANTS OF THE LORD THIS WEEK

GREETER: 8:30-Skylre Hahn / 10:45-Sharon Braningan
SOUND: 8:30-Josh Miller / 10:45-*Volunteer*
SONG LEADER: 8:30-Bella Zyskowski
LIVESTREAM: 8:30-Mike Zyskowski
LITURGIST: 8:30-Pat Gilbert / 10:45-Lyn Stryker
LECTOR: 8:30-Patty Stein / 10:45-Lyn Stryker
CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Ruthann Kistler
ALTAR GUILD: Jan Stryker, *Volunteer*
COUNTERS: Karen Brown, Jan Stryker
GRASS: Tom Barlow, Larry Wonderly, Missy Yalch
HOSPITALITY: Holy Cross Social Ministry
PHONETREE: Jonathan Mosebach
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Mike Zyskowski
PRAYER CARE: call Darlene Treisner (610) 442-8494

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE SPONSORED BY:

Holy Cross to the glory of God

BULLETINS ARE SPONSORED BY:

Irene & Gary Graham
In Honor of Grandson Jake's Birthday

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

2700 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017
Office (610) 867-6231 † Holycrossoffice@rcn.com
Preschool (610) 867-9735 † Holycrosspastor@rcn.com
www.holycrossbethlehem.com or www.holycrossbethlehem.life

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*
Nancy Cook, *Music Director* † Jonathan Mosebach, *Office Secretary*
Volunteers Needed, *Sexton* † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*
Lisa Wechsler, *Treasurer* † Glade Schroeter, *Webmaster*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship - 8:30 & 10:45 AM † Sunday School - 9:45 AM
(*Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts*)

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