

**Sunday, April 28, 2024**



*No branch can bear  
fruit by itself; it must  
remain in the vine.  
Neither can you bear  
fruit unless you remain  
in me.*

*John 15:4*

**Christ's Lutheran Church  
Murrysville, Pennsylvania**

# **“A Place to Believe, Belong, and Become”**



**Christ's Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered and welcoming, Christian community committed to encouraging faith-filled living, deepening friendships, and life-changing discipleship.**

Welcome! If you are new to worship in a Lutheran church, this introduction will help guide you through our worship service. The prayers, responses, and service music are printed in this bulletin. You will need to use the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnals to sing the hymns. Our Sunday morning service is livestreamed on YouTube and your image may appear.

**Communion** - All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the gift of Holy Communion. Children who haven't received Holy Communion may also come forward for a blessing. You can either kneel or remain standing when you come to the altar. We offer both wheat and gluten-free wafers, and both wine and grape juice. If you would like to receive grape juice, please take a glass from the tray that has already been filled when you come forward. If you would like to receive a gluten-free wafer, please let Pastor Wayne know when he gives you the bread.

**Children are always welcome!** Please feel free to walk around in the rear area of our worship space if your child becomes restless. Rest rooms (with diaper decks) are located in the hallway to the right of the entryway. You can find cloth bags containing activities for children aged 3 and older in the back of our worship space. We ask you to please return the cloth bags and their contents (minus any artwork your child creates while you are worshipping) at the end of today's service.

**CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**5330 Old Logan Ferry Road, Murrysville, PA 15668**

**Office: 412-795-1212**

**Church Office email: [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org)**

**Website: [www.christsmurrysville.org](http://www.christsmurrysville.org)**

**App: [Christ's Lutheran \(ELCA\)](#)**

# The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

*(Please take a moment to silence your electronic devices)*

## PRELUDE

*Suite on "Aurelia"*

*Robert A. Hobby*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHARING OF CONCERNS

P: He is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our continuing need for repentance and God's mercy.

P: Most Merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive 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 neighbor 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: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

*"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"*

*ELW #385*

## GREETING

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.**

## This Is the Feast of Victory



1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4. Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5. For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.  
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
 gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Based on Revelation 5, © 1978, *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. by Augsburg Fortress  
 Tune: FESTIVAL CANTICLE, Irregular with refrain; Richard Hillert, 1923–2010, © 1975, 1988, Richard Hillert

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** 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.

**C:** Amen.

### **FIRST READING: ACTS 8:26-40**

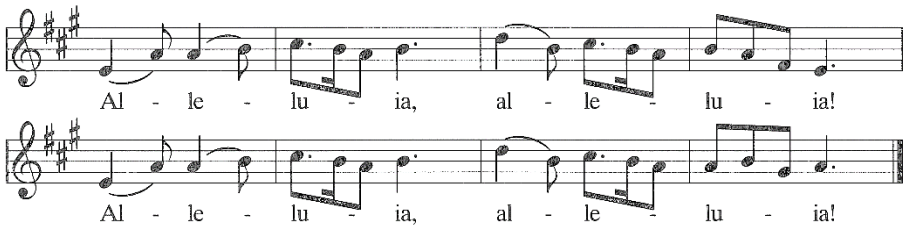
Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He 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.

### **SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 4:7-21**

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.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - CELTIC ALLELUIA**



The image shows two staves of musical notation for a Celtic Alleluia. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!" on the first staff and "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!" on the second staff. The second staff ends with a double bar line.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL: JOHN 15:1-8**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me 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: The Gospel of the Lord.  
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

*Pastor Wayne Gillespie (please be seated)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"The Church's One Foundation"*

*ELW #654*

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen, and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

P: Lord in your mercy, (*after each petition*)

C: **Hear our prayer.**

**TODAY, WE ARE INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING  
PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS:**

John Colosmo, Debbie Faust, Steve Gebhard, Bob Gustafson, Ronald "Gus" Gustafson, Peggy Henry, Oren Keibler, John Magnus, Lara Eddy McClain, Charlie Meade, Romaine Miller, Lorri Nixon, Linda O'Donnell, Michael O'Donnell, Paul Rizzo, Andrea Schwartz Nutter, Barbara Salenske, Bob Stover, Mark Yandura, and the family and friends of Jean Bottorf.

**Praying for Our Mission Partners & Friends:**

Jerry & Helen Lang  
John, Patricia, John, & Joseph Lasher  
Marlin & Susie Lasher  
John & Gertrude Laughrey



P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love, through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**OFFERING to Support God's Work in Our Church and Beyond**

*This is a time in our service that we use to remember that all that we are, all that we have, and all that we do, is an offering to God.*

*You can scan the code to download and use our new app [**Christ's Lutheran (ELCA)**] to send your offering, place your offering in the offering plate that is passed at this time in our service, or send your offering to the church by mailing it to: **Christ's Lutheran Church, 5330 Old Logan Ferry Road, Murrysville, PA 15668***



**OFFERTORY**

*"Adagio on "Aurelia"*

*Robert A. Hobby*



## CREATE IN ME

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right". The second staff continues: "spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take". The third staff continues: "not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the joy of". The fourth staff concludes: "your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it." The music ends with a double bar line.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A:** Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

**C:** Amen.

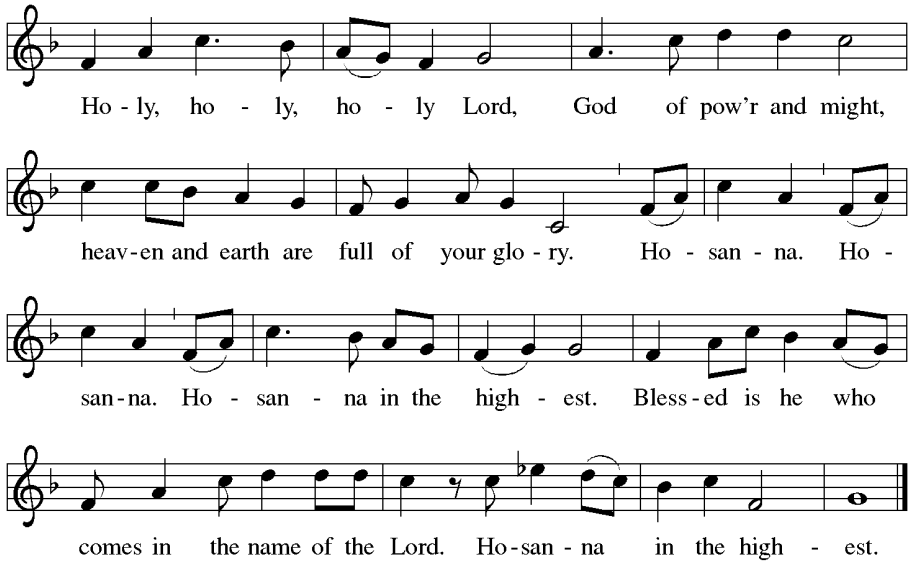
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff continues: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff continues: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff concludes: "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The music ends with a double bar line.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . (*concluding*)  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

C: Amen.

## LAMB OF GOD

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; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## HOLY COMMUNION *(please be seated)*

*(When Communion is finished, please stand)*

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

C: Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished  
us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your  
goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and  
friend.

C: Amen.

## **THE BLESSING**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always.

**C: Amen.**

## **“AARON’S BLESSING”**

*Pastor Wayne Gillespie*

**May the Lord bless and keep you forever.**

**May the Lord always be by your side.**

**May the Lord make His face shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you ev’ry day.**

**May the Lord give you peace on your journey.**

**May God’s love and peace fill your heart.**

**May the Lord bless and keep you forever.**

**May the Lord always be by your side.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

*“On Our Way Rejoicing”*

*ELW #537*

## **THE DISMISSAL**

A. Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Toccata on “Aurelia”*

*Robert A. Hobby*

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Pastor

Rev. Wayne G. Gillespie

Email: [revwaynegillespie@gmail.com](mailto:revwaynegillespie@gmail.com)

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Steven J. Myers

Organist

Kevin Clemens

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We appreciate the continued commitment of our Readers, Worship Assistants, Reconcilers, Tech Team, Ushers, and many others who make our worship services happen. You can volunteer by signing up on our app by clicking on Weekend Worship Teams or by contacting the church office.



**Thank you for making our Weekend Worship services possible!**

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**Come join us for a night of Music, Entertainment, and Fellowship at  
Christ's Lutheran Church featuring  
Ring Pittsburgh, Friday May 3, 2024 at 7:30pm**



Ring Pittsburgh is a community handbell choir founded in 2016 by James Rosetti, who serves as Music and Artistic Director. This ensemble of experienced musicians uses their unique musical art form to entertain and educate audiences across the Pittsburgh area. Please join us for an evening of Fun and Fellowship. For more information visit: [www.ringpittsburgh.org](http://www.ringpittsburgh.org)

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**MEETINGS IN MAY**

**Just a  
reminder...**



May 1 <sup>st</sup> @ 9:00 am	Property Team Meeting
May 6 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm	Worship & Music Team
May 7 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm	Support Team
May 12 <sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 am	Congregational Life
May 13 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm	Outreach Team
May 16 <sup>h</sup> @ 6:30 pm	Council Meeting



### ATTENTION 2024 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

High School Graduation is an important and exciting time. We would like to recognize the students who will be graduating in 2024, as they move on with their future opportunities. Please let us know if you have a student who will be graduating this year. A photo and a summary of your graduate's plans and activities/interests can be submitted to the church office at [office@christsmurrysville.org](mailto:office@christsmurrysville.org). The information will be posted on our church bulletin board. We're looking forward to congratulating these students!

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**CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK!  
JUNE 24<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> 9 AM - NOON**

**Volunteers needed! A volunteer meeting will be held on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the upstairs social hall. Come join the fun!**



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**CHRIST'S LITTLE PANTRY**



THANK YOU to all who have helped to keep the Little Pantry filled. The **second weekend** of each month is now designated as Christ's Little Pantry Weekend, although you can bring food to put into the Little Pantry with you on any weekend. You can be a part of this life-changing ministry by bringing one or two items with you when you come to worship on that weekend and by placing your generous gift in the collection box in the Entryway, or directly into the Little Pantry, which is located in our lower parking lot. Your kindness is truly appreciated. Let's work together to keep our Little Pantry full!!

**Current pantry needs: Peanut butter, Jelly, Box Dinners, Pancake mix (made using water), Syrup, Snack Bars, Juice, Tuna, Pasta Sauce, Canned Pasta, Crackers.**

**No canned vegetables are needed at this time.**



## **CLC ANNUAL FLEA MARKET AND BAKE SALE**

**Saturday June 1 ~ 8 am to 2 pm**

This year's flea market is rapidly approaching, so we hope you will keep this in mind as you do your spring cleaning! You may drop off your items beginning Thursday, May 23rd and Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> during church office hours, 10 am to 3 pm, and Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup> when you come to worship services. Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, you may drop off items from 9:15 am to 2 pm and from 6 to 8 pm. We will not be accepting items on Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, which will be strictly a workday for our volunteers! Please remember that the volunteers have to unload, sort and price your items, so please make sure your donated items are clean and usable.

Baked goods can be dropped off on Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, during church office hours. Pre-bagged cookies in either ½ or dozen amounts, brownies, mini loaves of breads or cakes are great sellers.

Please remember that we cannot accept the following due to the difficulty or cost of disposing of them if they do not sell: Hazardous materials including automotive oil and lubricants, paints and aerosols, household cleaners, TV's, computers and related items (hardware, software and peripherals), clothing, boots and shoes, large furniture and large exercise equipment such as weigh benches, treadmills, and ellipticals.

Flea market sign-up sheets will be available in the entryway. If you can spare any time to help with set-up, pricing, working the day of the sale, clean up and/or donating baked goods, any amount of time is greatly appreciated. Even if it is just an hour or two! Any youth help would be great as well.

If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Replogle, 724-339-2208 or [sareplogle154@gmail.com](mailto:sareplogle154@gmail.com). As always, the Outreach Committee appreciates your support of our project!

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**  
**April 28, 2024 – May 4, 2024**

**Sunday 4/28**

9:00 am  
10:00 am  
7:30 pm

**PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION**

Children & Adult Sunday School  
Sunday Morning Worship  
Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

**Monday 4/29**

5:30 pm  
8:00 pm

**GIVE THANKS FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS**

Kindermusik  
Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting

**Tuesday 4/30**

9:00 am  
9:30 am  
5:30 pm

**PRAY FOR OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Sewing Group  
Kindermusik  
Kindermusik

**Wednesday 5/1**

9:00 am  
9:30 am  
5:30 pm

**PRAY FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

Property Team  
Kindermusik  
Kindermusik

**Thursday 5/2**

9:30 am

**PRAY FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE**

Kindermusik

**Friday 5/3**

7:30 pm

**PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES - EVANGELISTS**

Ring Pittsburgh Handbell Choir Concert

**Saturday 5/4**

6:00 pm

**OUR CONGREGATION AS WE WORSHIP**

Saturday Evening Worship

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