

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Welcomes You



May 24, 2020– 8:00 A.M.

**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church & School
4333 Cleveland Avenue, Stevensville, MI 49127
Phone: (269) 429-7222 - Church (269) 429-7111 - School
www.christ-luth.org**

Sunday Services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Class: 9:30 a.m..

Thursday Evening Service at 7:00 p.m.

Christian Day School: Preschool through 8th grade

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

As We Gather

Gracious Lord, heavenly Father, on this day we pause to remember the sacrifices made for freedom throughout the past centuries. We do indeed owe a debt of gratitude to those who have paid dearly for the liberty we enjoy. Yet, O Lord, I know that good government, peace, and freedom are really gifts granted from Your fatherly hand, as I confess in the Creed. As we remember those who have served our nation, help us to remember that civic duty, no matter how well done, does not grant entrance to Your kingdom. We are saved by grace, through faith in Christ, apart from our works. Freed from the Law's demands, I know that I am now free to serve my neighbor for my neighbor's sake. May the sacrifices of those who have gone before me serve as examples. When I meet those who have served, remind me to thank them. Almighty God, guide the leaders of our nation. Watch over those who serve in our armed forces, especially those far from home. And above all, grant that we, Your children by faith in Christ, may find a field of service in which we, as salt and leaven, may uphold righteousness, order, the peace, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn - "Open Now thy Gates of Beauty"Hymn 901

- 1 Open now thy gates of beauty;
 Zion, let me enter there,
 Where my soul in joyful duty
 Waits for Him who answers prayer.
 Oh, how blessèd is this place,
 Filled with solace, light, and grace!
- 2 Gracious God, I come before Thee;
 Come Thou also unto me.
 Where we find Thee and adore Thee,
 There a heav'n on earth must be.
 To my heart, O enter Thou;
 Let it be Thy temple now!
- 3 Here Thy praise is gladly chanted;
 Here Thy seed is duly sown.
 Let my soul, where it is planted,
 Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
 So that all I hear may be
 Fruitful unto life in me.

4 Thou my faith increase and quicken;
 Let me keep Thy gift divine,
Howsoe'er temptations thicken;
 May Thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life,
As my comfort in all strife.

5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee;
 Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee
 While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.

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Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation.....Page 151

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

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

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and Unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit



I will sing of steadfast love and | justice;*
to you, O Lord, I will make | music.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, | all the earth!*

Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with | singing!

Know that the Lord, | he is God!*

It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his | pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his | courts with praise!*

Give thanks to him; | bless his name!

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures for- | ever,*
and his faithfulness to all gener- | ations.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

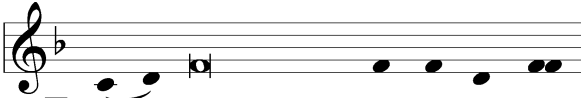
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

I will sing of steadfast love and | justice;*
to you, O Lord, I will make | music.

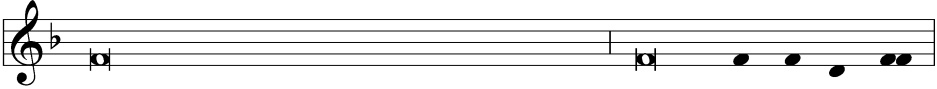
Ps. 100:1–5; antiphon: Ps. 101:1



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



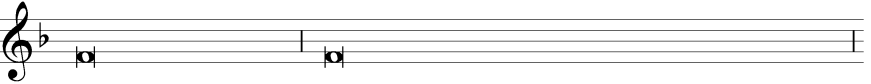
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



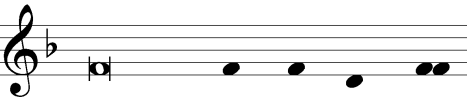
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



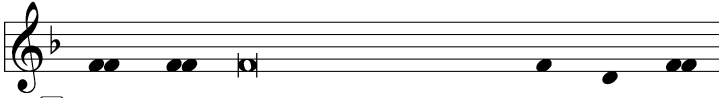
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise - "This is the Feast"Page 155



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



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




1 — Wor-ty 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. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.



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

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9

Salutation.....Page 156

- P** The Lord be with you
- C** **And also with you.**

Collect of the Day

- P** Let us pray
O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Readings from the Book of Concord

*The Augsburg Confession
Article V, The Ministry, 1-3*

So that we may obtain this faith, the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted. Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given [John 20:22]. He works faith, when and where it pleases God [John 3:8], in those who hear the good news that God justifies those who believe that they are received into grace for Christ’s sake. This happens not through our own merits, but for Christ’s sake.

*The Augsburg Confession
Article XIV, Order in the Church*

Our churches teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church, or administer the Sacraments, without a rightly ordered call.

Readings from Holy Scripture

First Lesson

Acts 1:12-26

¹²Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶“Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ¹⁸(Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰“For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

“May his camp become desolate,
and let there be no one to dwell in it’;

and

“Let another take his office.’

²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

P This is the word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C **God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,**

P He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

C **he has put all things under his feet.**

adapt. from Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6

Epistle Lesson

1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

P This is the word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.

C **I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Alleluia.**

Rom. 6:9; John 14:18

Alleluia and Verse



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.

Holy Gospel

John 17:1-11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 17th chapter.

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

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

⁶"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

Hymn - “O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts’ Desire”Hymn 553

- 1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts’ desire,
Creation’s mighty Lord,
Redeemer of the fallen world,
By holy love outpoured:
- 2 How vast Your mercy to accept
The burden of our sin
And bow Your head in cruel death
To make us clean within.
- 3 But now the bonds of death are burst,
The ransom has been paid;
You now ascend the Father’s throne
In robes of light arrayed.
- 4 O let Your mighty love prevail
To purge us of our pride
That we may stand before Your throne
By mercy purified.
- 5 Christ Jesus, be our present joy,
Our future great reward;
Our only glory, may it be
To glory in the Lord!
- 6 All praise to You, ascended Lord;
All glory ever be
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Through all eternity!

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Sermon
“A Prayer for Unity”
John 17:1-11

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

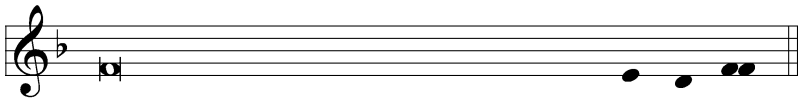
**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God 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 ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer for the Church

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.**



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 A - men.

Hymn - "Entrust Your Days and Burdens"Hymn 754

- 1 Entrust your days and burdens
To God's most loving hand;
He cares for you while ruling
The sky, the sea, the land.
For He who guides the tempests
Along their thund'rous ways
Will find for you a pathway
And guide you all your days.

- 2 Rely on God your Savior
And find your life secure.
Make His work your foundation
That your work may endure.
No anxious thought, no worry,
No self-tormenting care
Can win your Father's favor;
His heart is moved by prayer.

- 3 Take heart, have hope, my spirit,
 And do not be dismayed;
 God helps in ev'ry trial
 And makes you unafraid.
 Await His time with patience
 Through darkest hours of night
 Until the sun you hoped for
 Delights your eager sight.
- 4 Leave all to His direction;
 His wisdom rules for you
 In ways to rouse your wonder
 At all His love can do.
 Soon He, His promise keeping,
 With wonder-working pow'rs
 Will banish from your spirit
 What gave you troubled hours.
- 5 O blessèd heir of heaven,
 You'll hear the song resound
 Of endless jubilation
 When you with life are crowned.
 In your right hand your maker
 Will place the victor's palm,
 And you will thank Him gladly
 With heaven's joyful psalm.
- 6 Our hands and feet, Lord, strengthen;
 With joy our spirits bless
 Until we see the ending
 Of all our life's distress.
 And so throughout our lifetime
 Keep us within Your care
 And at our end then bring us
 To heav'n to praise You there.

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+ Silent Prayer +

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