

# Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool May 5, 2024

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

**Rev. Mark Selbo**

*Website: [ChristLutheranVH.org](http://ChristLutheranVH.org)*

*Twitter: @ChristLuthVH*

*Facebook: /ChristLutheranVH*

Church: 847-367-5787  
[ChristLutheranVH@aol.com](mailto:ChristLutheranVH@aol.com)

Preschool: 847-367-5791  
[CLCPreschool@aol.com](mailto:CLCPreschool@aol.com)



Member of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
(ELCA – [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org))



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### All Are Welcome – All the Time!

You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to participate in any part of worship.

If you wish to take communion, we ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus.

His body and blood were given and shed for you.



Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God's love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer.

We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us. It is in our welcome which we commit ourselves to being an anti-racist space, a space where we seek daily to deepen our work of inclusion in the life of our church. Our unity is in Christ. All are welcome here.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS & SHARING OF PRAYER CONCERNS**

*By Kathy Davis, who will provide updated Prayers of Intercession*

## **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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.

**Amen.**

*Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.*

*– Silence for reflection –*

*Most merciful God,*

**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 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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together in Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in our hearts. **Amen.**

## **SONG: Shout to the Lord, ELW #821**

*(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)*

My Jesus – my Savior – Lord, there is none like you.  
All of my days – I want to praise – the wonders of your might-y love.  
My comfort – my shelter – tower of refuge and strength;  
Let every 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. **(Repeat)**

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and  
the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you!**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour  
into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your  
promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **READING – Acts 10:44-48**

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The  
circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the  
Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the gentiles, for they heard them speaking in  
tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone withhold the water for  
baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” So he  
ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay  
for several days.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God*

## **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 98**

O sing to the Lord a new song,  
**for he has done marvelous things.**

His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.  
**The Lord has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.  
**All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
**break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
**with the lyre and the sound of melody.**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
**make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it.  
**Let the floods clap their hands;**

let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord,  
**for he is coming to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world with righteousness  
**and the peoples with equity.**

## **READING – 1 John 5:1-6**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it who conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

– *Please stand as you are able* –

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SUNG) – ELW 172**

**Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Halle, halle, halle – lujah.**

**Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!**

## **THE GOSPEL – John 15:9-17**

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*(Jesus said:)* “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

*The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.*

## **SERMON – “Surprised by Joy”**

## **SONG: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee, ELW #836**

*Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal*

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of Love!  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

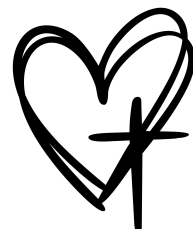
Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest;  
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

## **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.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** *(on separate sheet)*

*Hear us, O God... Your mercy is great.*



## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.*

*– Please share a greeting or sign of peace –*



**All Welcome at Communion**  
Single-serve kits in first tray  
Bread and wine next  
Choose as you feel comfortable

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks & praise.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION** *(not printed/Presider's book on altar)*

### **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.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AT THE FRONT**

**All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.** You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are interested will be invited by an usher to come up the center aisle to the front to receive Communion or a blessing. You are also welcome to remain in your seat to pray. Welcome!

Today we will offer both single-serving Communion kits as well as a traditional distribution of bread and wine. Please choose as you feel comfortable.

Single-serving kits are available in the first tray. Select a sealed cup and bring it back to your seat to open and partake. Once at your seat, peel back the top layer to find the wafer, and then the bottom seal to drink. An usher will offer a basket to collect the empty container.

If you would like Traditional Communion, select an empty cup from the second tray and come forward to Pastor Selbo, who will place a piece of bread into your open hand. The assistant will then pour wine into your cup. Your empty cup may be placed in the trays at each side as you return to your seat. Questions? Just ask when you get to the front.

### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

#### **BENEDICTION**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

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

## **SONG: On Our Way Rejoicing, ELW #537**

*Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal*

On our way rejoicing gladly let us go.  
Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe.  
Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy;  
Who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?

On our way rejoicing; as we forward move,  
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!

Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing;  
Unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring;  
Unto God the Spirit bow we and adore,  
on our way rejoicing now and evermore.

On our way rejoicing; as we forward move,  
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!

## **DISMISSAL**

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace! Serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Caring Hands** – May 18 & June 15 from 9 to noon. Meetings break for summer, but work continues - reach out if you would like patterns or ideas ([CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com](mailto:CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com))
- **Lay Leadership Day** – May 18 from 9a to 1:30 p.m. at Our Savior's, Naperville. Sessions on Climate Justice, Stewardship of Space, Leadership & Equipping, Church Governance - and includes your lunch! Only \$10! Sponsored by the Carlmark Fund (thanks, Nan Carlmark Dahlke). (<https://bit.ly/4cZ2loD>)
- **MCSELCA Synod Assembly** – June 1 in St. Charles. ([MCSELCA.org](http://MCSELCA.org))
- **Encampment Collection** – Thank you to all who contribute to our deliveries to the Chicago homeless encampment near Pastor Padraig's house. We continue to collect blankets/ sleeping bags (new or gently used/clean), socks, hand warmers, gloves, feminine products, and Mariano's gift cards (store closest to camp).
- **Sanctuary Support** – For asylum seekers living in Chicago shelters. New wishlist diapers, formula, coats, children's clothes (baby to teen), children's/adult cold medicines, cough drops, Advil,/Tylenol, shoes, coats, strollers, book bags, suitcases, storage bins with lids.
- **Sue's Pantry** – Looking for small sizes of flour, cooking oil, sugar. Also anything needed to keep a home and family clean – dish soap, laundry detergent, body wash, shampoo.
- **Love INC** – Housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Want to learn more? Have a child or family in need of a bundle of clothes or housewares? Give the details to Natalie she will get us covered! (Thanks, Natalie.) (<https://loveinclakecounty.org/>)
- **COOL Ministries** – We support the COOL pantry in Waukegan as well as Vernon Township Pantry with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway or give online. ([CoolMinistries.org](http://CoolMinistries.org))
- **BSA Troop 273** – Thank you for supporting our partner Scouts as they have supported us. **Looking to restart Cub Scout Pack 273!** Children/families ages Kindergarten through 4th grade are encouraged to reach out to Theresa ([tcalabrese98@gmail.com](mailto:tcalabrese98@gmail.com)).
- **Prayer concerns?** Please consider reaching out so that our network of Prayer Warriors can pray. You may remain anonymous. Please email [ChristLutheranVH@aol.com](mailto:ChristLutheranVH@aol.com) with your request. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Team, please send an email.
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** Your presence in worship is very important. Thank you for being part of this community of faith. If you would like to support the efforts of this community, we welcome donations, which can be provided by credit card or Paypal through the link at the bottom of our webpage, [ChristLutheranVH.org](http://ChristLutheranVH.org). Thank you.