

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

AS WE GATHER

When Jesus uses the image of the vine and speaks of vineyards, He is choosing something very familiar to His hearers. Viticulture is well known around the world. More than eighteen million acres worldwide are used for growing grapes - from Panama to Tajikistan to Zimbabwe! Today, the cultivation of vineyards is still an important agricultural component in both Israel and the Jordan, lands where Jesus walked and taught. Life in the vineyard is vital! As branches grafted to the Vine that is Christ, we are vitalized by His power. As we worship, God's life-supporting power infuses us! It is time to continue growing!

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118:24

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "Just as I Am without One Plea!"

[LSB 570 – 6 stanzas]

Just as I am, without one plea
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,

But that Thy blood was shed for me
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,

To rid my soul of one dark blot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
Fightings and fears within, without,

With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,

Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Because Thy promise I believe,

Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,

Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

INVOCATION

(please stand)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 66:1–4, 8–9; 40:5

Pastor: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

People: **sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

Pastor: Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds!

People: **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”**

Pastor: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

People: **who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

Pastor: You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!

People: **I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

People: **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant 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.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 145:1–2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16*

Pastor: A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.

People: **I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.**

Pastor: Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.

People: **The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Pastor: All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, and all Your saints shall bless You!

People: **My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever.**

All: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Christ, have mercy,

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen. *(please be seated)*

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

(Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)

26 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. 27 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 28 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." 30 So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 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. 33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." 34 And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 36 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?" 38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39 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. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: 1 John 4:1-11

(An exhortation to lives of Christian love.)

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in

the world already. 4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 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. 10 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. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(please stand)

HOLY GOSPEL: **John 15:1-8**

(Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 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. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 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. 5 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. 6 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. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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. *(please be seated)*

HYMN: “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

[LSB 611 – 5 stanzas]

Chief of sinners though I be,
Died that I might live on high,
As the branch is to the vine,

Jesus shed His blood for me,
Lives that I might never die.
I am His, and He is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus’ love,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Love that found me—wondrous thought!

Higher than the heav’ns above,
Lasting as eternity!
Found me when I sought Him not.

Only Jesus can impart
Peace that flows from sin forgiv’n,
Faith and hope to walk with God

Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav’n,
In the way that Enoch trod.

Chief of sinners though I be,
All my wants to Him are known,
He sustains the hidden life

Christ is all in all to me;
All my sorrows are His own.
Safe with Him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford
When my wayward heart would stray,
Grace in time of need supply

By Your Spirit and Your Word!
Keep me in the narrow way;
While I live and when I die.

MESSAGE: “Remain in Me”

John 15:1-8

OFFERING

If you are a **visitor** this morning, you are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to give as the offering plate is passed. The offering is an opportunity for **members** to practice faithful stewardship and to support the ministries of Christ’s church.

OFFERING SONG: “We Give Thee But Thine Own” (LSB 781 - vv. 1-2)
(Please sing as the offering is presented at the Altar)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

RECEIVING OF MEMBER

Welcome - Terry Lynn Burns Chhabra

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs . . . Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer

Pastor: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught us to pray . . .

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Risen and ascended Lord, You are the vine and we are the branches. Apart from You there is no life. By Baptism You have grafted us into Your gracious life. Cause Your Word to abide in us and make us fruitful to the glory of Your Father, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

BENEDICTION

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

People: Amen.

(please be seated)

HYMN: “To God Be the Glory”

[HFG 363 – 3 stanzas]

To God Be the glory, great things he has done!
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,

Refrain

So love he the world that he gave us his Son,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

O Come to the Father through Jesus the Son

Let the earth hear his voice!

Let the people rejoice!

And give him the glory, great things he has done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
The vilest offender who truly believes,

Refrain

To every believer the promise of God;
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us, great things he has done, And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son
But purer and higher and greater will be Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain.

PRESENTATION - Texas District Church Extension Fund by Raelyn Pracht

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the living Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs...

Prayers for Pastor Neil Vanderbush as he considers accepting our Divine Call to be our Sole Pastor

Pastor Neil Vanderbush requests prayers wife, **Hollie**, who fell and broke her arm requiring surgery

Prayers for **Ruth Knupke**, who fell & hurt her arm. Thankfully, she did not break anything.

Prayers for **Pastor Rick Pfaff** as his transplant surgery has been schedule for April 30th, prayers for the donor and the medical teams.

Prayers for **Susan Boenig** who fell & broke her shoulder, is undergoing therapy - preparing for surgery

Alana Kemmy requests prayers for her 16-month-old **granddaughter Raven**, who has a serious intestinal issue

David & Lorrie Wendeborn request prayer for grandson **Theodore** recovering from surgery

Prayers for **Chris Carter & wife Penny** as he continues chemo and radiation

Kathleen Blakely requests prayers for niece, **Michelle Mohnke O'Brian** for elimination of breast cancer, comfort and peace through the process

Brad & Laura Sanders request prayers for Laura's Father, **Jack**

Prayers for **John and Susy Soper** for healing & pain relief

Terry Chhabra who is having vision problems

Prayers for **Gloria Bloecher & her medical team** as she remains in their care

Debra Beard requests prayers for her brother, **Tod Dunlevy** in Wisconsin

Kim Pfaff recovering from quadruple heart bypass surgery

Rutledge Family requests prayers for **Sister-in-Law Heather Mulledy's** breast cancer

Parkers and Theis request prayers for **Robert Patterson** undergoing cancer treatment

Kathy Giardinelli requests prayers for **volunteers and good participation** as we gather to pray for our nation at the **National Day of Prayer on Thursday May 2nd**

Mark Giardinelli who will be going on Ysleta El Paso Lutheran Mission in June

Prayers for Justice & Peace around the world, especially with tensions in the Middle East

For family discord, reconciliation, & healing; for rescue for those in abusive relationships

Prayers for those with physical, emotional need & those who are lost to hear & receive Jesus' Gospel

**Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray,
trusting in Your mercy; thru Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

APRIL ALTAR FLOWERS

Apr 7th – Judy Georg – celebrating Charles's birthday

Apr 14th – Vonda Petmecky – in memory of Fred Petmecky

*Apr 21st – Kim & Maurine Maloy – in honor of Sarah & Avery's birthdays
and our 51st wedding anniversary*

Apr 28th – Mike & Lynn Lang – celebrating 11th wedding anniversary

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WELCOME . . . *Whoever you are . . . Wherever you have come from . . . we are so glad you are here!* Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior together. If you are visiting with us today, we'd love to get to know you! Please don't forget to sign your name and fill in your contact information in the red booklets on the inside aisle!

Adult Bible Study - Pastor Lofgren will continue his study in the Begin book

Today's Afternoon Bible Study – Join us as we discuss David Jeremiah's Book "Where are they now?" Robert Jeffress's Book "A Place Called Heaven." Hope to see you there!

Calling a Pastor – Messiah has voted unanimously to extend a Divine Call to Pastor Neil Vanderbush.

Presentation by Texas District Church Extension Fund – Raelyn Pracht

Messiah Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study - April 30th we will meet at 8:30 am at Centinela, 215 West Bandera Road. George Berberich is leading our study on Spiritual Warfare.

2nd Floor Repairs to begin - With the repairs to the second floor of the church now scheduled (hooray!), we need help to move contents of the upstairs storage room into the high school room. The good news is that we only need to clear half the room for repairs to the ceiling. With a few volunteers, it should be less than an hour project. Thank you in advance for your help! David Roads.

What: Move shelves and VBS stuff into high school room **When: Tuesday April 30th at 10:00AM**

National Day of Prayer – May 2nd – Two events will be offered at this year's National Day of Prayer. You may register for one or both. The morning prayer segment will start with a light breakfast fare and will focus on Family, Education and Health. The noon National Day of Prayer event will focus on Work, Government, First Responders and Media and will include pizza and beverages for lunch. Please register at messiahboerne.org/prayer. Kathy Giardinelli

Fellowship Committee's Wine Tasting – Sat. May 4th from 4-7 pm at the home of Kathleen & David Blakely 179 Mira Vista Drive, Comfort, Tx.

Messiah's Ladies - Mother's Day Brunch – Thu. May 9th at The Dienger Trading Company at 9:30 am

Adult Game Day – Sat. May 11th from 2-5 pm in the Fellowship Room of the Family Life Center.

Children's Church – Mario & Eve Betancourt will be hosting **Children's Church Sunday – May 19th**

Fellowship Committee's Family Picnic – Sat. June 1st from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Joshua Springs Park Large Pavilion – lunch will be catered by Bill Miller. Tickets go on sale April 28th.

Issues Etc. - Educating A New Generation Of Lutherans... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: Taylor Swift's Latest Album, Men Competing in Women's Sports, The Benefits of Liturgical Worship, "I Have Overcome the World," "Love One Another" and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

9401 Dietz Elkhorn

Boerne, Texas 78015

(830) 755-4300

www.messiahboerne.org

Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor

Gina Husky, Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool

David Rhoads, Facilities Manager

Maurine Maloy, Administrative Assistant



Serving us today - April 28, 2024

Elders: Maurice Doublett & Hal Eschenko
Coffee: Verna Sorensen
Breakfast: Verna Sorensen
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician: Bob Shoaf
AV: Tony Giardinelli
Reader: Sharon Sattler
Ushers: Vonda Petmecky – Mike Stender – Dennis & Sue Parker
Greeter: David & Sharon Sattler

Serving us Next Sunday – May 5, 2024

Elders: Larry Risley & Ed Mycock
Coffee: George & Linda Berberich
Breakfast: George & Linda Berberich
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician: Bob Shoaf
AV: Tony Giardinelli
Reader: Kathy Rottman
Ushers: Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek – Pam Fields – Maurice Doublett
Greeter: Larry & Kathy Rottman

Our Response to God

Worship Attendance – Sunday, April 21st - 88

March 2024 Contributions			
General Fund	\$45,088.71	Building Fund	\$1,255.00
Renovation Fund	\$ - 0.00 -	FLC Rental	\$2,300.00