

The 5th Sunday of Easter, 28 April 2024 Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Gathering

We are five Sundays into our celebration of Easter. This week our Easter image is of Christ the vine, and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described 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 feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

Our worship order is contained in this booklet. The people's parts are indicated by **bold** type. The red hardback hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, is our main worship resource for hymns and song. You can find hymns in the second half of the book, and are numbered at the top of each hymn. Occasionally, worship may veer from the printed bulletin – just follow the Spirit!

A warm welcome whether you are joining us in-house or by social media. Our prayer is that worship today will be a blessing as we sing and pray and hear God's Word together. We welcome you to the Lord's Table this morning. Christ Church is a family of faith deeply rooted in our upper Bucks communities, supporting one another in faith, working together to serve God.

Please take this weekly resource home with you – use it to take notes, jot down reminders, pray, remember dates. You can call (215.766.8730) or email (christpipersville@gmail.com) for prayer needs. In an emergency, please call the parsonage at 267-362-8129.

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE: time for prayer and preparation.

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!** We are gathered in the name of the Father, + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

In baptism, by water and the Word, God liberates us from sin and death,

joining us to the resurrection life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May God's Easter promise be renewed in us

as we proclaim our faith and renew our baptismal covenant.

-Silence -

Do you reject the devil and all his empty promises, renouncing the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I do, by the grace of God, and the power of the resurrection.

Walking with God's people, will you seek His ways, showing His saving grace by faith-filled word and action?

We will, by the grace of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, hear the good news: God raised Jesus from the dead so that we might have forgiveness of our sins, and live in faith and hope. By the precious blood of Christ, I declare to you that your sins are forgiven! Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and praise our Father in heaven.

Blessed be God, forever! Alleluia! Amen!

WE SING THE GATHERING HYMN: ELW #449, WE KNOW THE CHRIST IS RAISED



GREETING

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

THE HYMN OF PRAISE: THIS IS THE FEAST (NEXT PAGE)



THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *Silence- The Prayer of the Day is offered. We join our hearts in silent prayer.* 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.**

Word

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON is from the Acts of the Apostles, the 8th chapter. (Acts 8:26-40)

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

and like a lamb silent before its shearer,

so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Silence for Reflection

PSALM 22 is read responsively by verse.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,

who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD,

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!" **Amen.**

Silence for Reflection

THE SECOND LESSON is from 1 John, the 4th chapter.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

SERMON SONG: #364, VS 1 before the Gospel	Refrain:
Christ has arisen, alleluia.	Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.
Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.	Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.
For our redeemer burst from the tomb,	Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
even from death, dispelling its gloom.	Jesus is living, alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL according to John, the 15th chapter. Glory to you, O Lord! (John 15:1-8)

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Response:

"Go spread the news: he's not in the grave. He has arisen this world to save. Jesus' redeeming labors are done. Even the battle with sin is won." Refrain:

Let us sing praise to him with endless joy. Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy. Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

Please be seated.

TEACHING THE WORD / SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: #377, ALLELUIA, JESUS IS RISEN! (NEXT PAGE)

(1 JOHN 4:7-21)

Al - le lu ia! Je - sus is ris 1 _ en! Walk - ing 2 the way, Christ in the cen ter 3 Je - sus the vine, we the branch are es; Weep-ing, be gone; sor - row, be si lent: 4 5 God, Eas - ter for Cit - y of ev er, _ 0. sound - ing light! Trum - pets re glo - ri in ous o - pen tell ing the eyes; sto - ry to our Spir - it life in the fruit of the tree; the bright. death put а sun - der, and Eas - ter is gold - en Je ru - sa lem, Je - sus the Lamb, _ Splen-dor, the Lamb, heav - en for er! ev break - ing giv - ing bread, glo our us ry: heav - en Christ to earth, the ple, to peo Cher - u bim sing: Ο grave, be 0 pen! saints and riv - er of life, arch an gels, _ 0 Oh. God what a mir - a cle sight! has in bless - ing, prise. Je sus our our con - stant sur -gift of the fu - ture flow - ing me. now to Clothe us won - der, dorn light. in а _ us in a - tion with cre God AM! sing the Ι _ to Refrain Je - sus is ris - en and shall rise. we a _ 0 Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu ia!

Please stand at pastor's invitation

We confess our faith in the words of the 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. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit And 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. And 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

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all longing for wholeness and peace.

We join our hearts in prayer for one another, those in need, and all of God's creation. Each petition concludes: ...in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.** We offer our own prayers aloud or in silence following, people of God, for what else shall we pray? The prayers may change for changing circumstances and needs.

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. In your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters (*local bodies of water may be named*). Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. In your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. In your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering especially those we name now aloud or in silence. People of God, for what else shall we pray? *Silence*... Healing God in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. In your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. In your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

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. **Amen.**

Meal

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

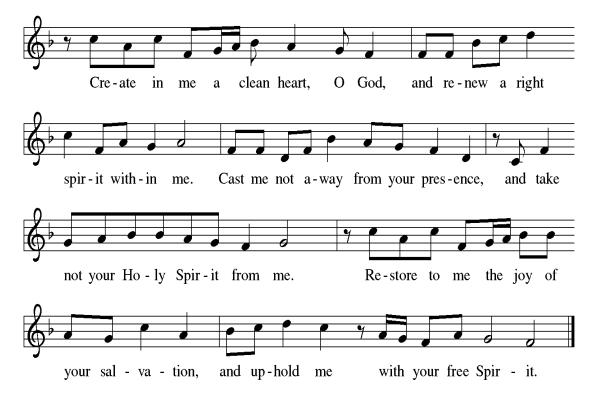
We greet one another in peace saying, "Peace be with you". Please feel free to step out of your pew and greet one another as you are comfortable: a handshake or a wave, a hug or a hand placed over your heart. Following the peace, please be seated.

COLLECTION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to God's gifts and mercies. In-House the offering plate is set by the baptismal font. In house or joining us online, tithes and offerings may be gathered and given by mail, given online at christpipersville.org or using the QR code.



THE OFFERTORY: HYMN #186, "Create in Me"



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. *silence* Risen and living Lord, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Nourish us at this your Table of grace that we may become your witnesses to the world working for peace and justice so all may know Jesus Christ, as Savior and risen Lord. Amen.

Sending

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, we give you thanks and praise. Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, we give you thanks and praise.

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Send your Spirit of truth, O God;

rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

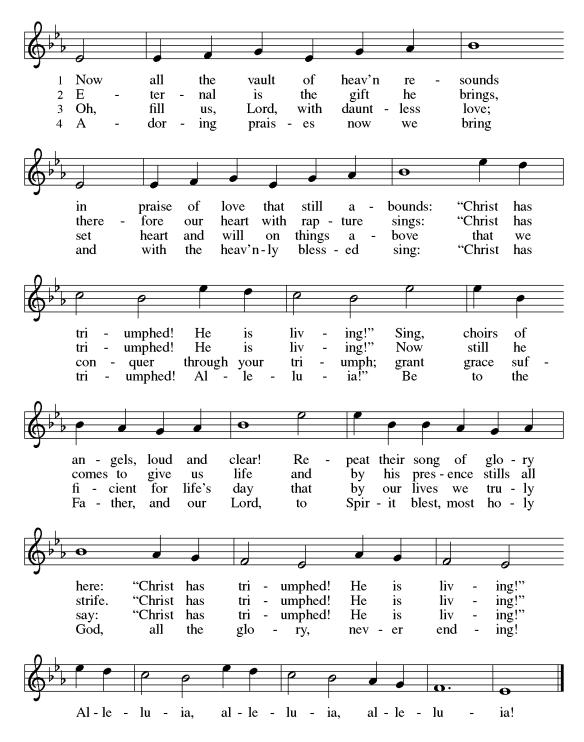
Let us stand in body or spirit and pray in the words Jesus taught us:

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.

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

WE SING THE SENDING HYMN: #367, NOW ALL THE VAULT OF HEAV'N RESOUNDS (NEXT PAGE)



THE DISMISSAL Alleluia! Go in peace, and tell the news that Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

THE POSTLUDE

WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CREDITS:

The ordo is the traditional liturgy of Holy Communion.

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Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

353 E. Dark Hollow Rd Pipersville PA 18947 215. 766. 8730

The Rev. Marie L. Caron, pastor the people of Christ Church, ministers Mrs. Cindy Carper, Secretary Mrs. Kim Campbell, Council President

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP can be seen on Facebook Live and Zoom. Watch your email for links to the live-streamed service and the recorded service to be posted to our website (www.christpipersville.org).

THE APRIL BULLETINS AND WEB SITE are sponsored by Debra Moench in Honor of the Moench and James families.

LECTOR: Diane Allison **FELLOWSHIP HOST:**

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS –The prayer list is printed in the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. In addition, we remember Anita N (H) and Louis Cooper (H,R). Please contact the church office, 215-766-8730 or e-mail, with any prayer needs. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless a new request is made.

SPRING BOOK SALE AND BAKE/SOUP/PLANT/RUMMAGE SALE continues this coming weekend on May 3 (10AM-6PM) and May 4 (9AM-1PM). Lots of books, baked goods, soup, plants and rummage items! Donations of pre-wrapped baked goods can be dropped off Friday morning.

Volunteers are needed to staff the kitchen & rummage room during the sale. Contact Kathy Brown (267-370-2765) with any questions or see the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board to volunteer to help during the sale.

LUTHERAN DAY WITH THE IRON PIGS: The Upper Bucks Lutheran Conference is planning an outing to the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs on Sunday, June 23rd, 1:35PM game. Tickets are \$30 each and include an all you can eat buffet and unlimited soft drinks. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. <u>Order/Payment deadline is</u> <u>today, April 28th</u>. Please place checks payable to Christ Lutheran Church in envelope marked "Iron Pigs".

LET'S HELP CELEBRATE BY SENDING A CARD! Corrine Monesmith will be 101 on May 2nd. Her mailing address is 146 Cafferty Road, Pipersville, PA 18947.

BLESSINGS BY THE BOX – We will once again be helping local Tinicum Elementary families facing food insecurity over the summer months by supplying them with Giant gift cards. If you would like to help, please place your donations in an envelope and note that it's for Blessings by the Box. We will be collecting donations through the end of May and gift cards will be distributed at the end of the school year in early June to 10 families. Last year's families were most appreciative of this assistance.

GRADUATING SENIORS: If you or someone in your household is graduating from high school or college this spring, please submit their name, school, degree and future plans to the church office by May 12th for inclusion in the next newsletter. Thank you.

FELLOWSHIP PERIOD hosts are needed. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

BULLETIN/WEB SITE SPONSORS: You may sponsor the Sunday bulletin or the church website in honor or memory of a loved one and we'll list your gift in the bulletin as well as social media and our website. The requested donation is \$20/week for the bulletin and \$25/month for the website. There are sponsorship envelopes and a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board for your convenience.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: A volunteer is needed each week to collect the trash and place it in the trash cart after worship. A sign-up sheet with instructions is posted on the bulletin board. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Volunteers are also needed to fill the candles, turn off fans/lights, turn down heat and change the hymn board...see Pastor Caron or Kim Campbell with any questions or to volunteer.

MEALS ON WHEELS: Drivers are needed for the Tinicum area on a regular basis as well as substitute drivers. Please call 215-345-6065 if you are able to deliver meals one or more times a month at lunch time.

LECTORS: Volunteers would be appreciated to read the lessons each Sunday. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board & copies of the lessons are available at least a week in advance.

DID YOU KNOW...Many Thrivent policy holders are eligible to designate "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to a charity of their choice. Christ Lutheran Church is one of those options. We received \$1,989.00 through this program in 2023 and \$751.00 to date in 2024.

GIANT GIFT CARDS can be purchased after worship (see Cindy Carper or Kim Szymanowski) or during the week from the church office. Gift cards are available in \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 & \$100 denominations. Checks should be made payable to Christ Lutheran Church. (*Gift cards may not be used to purchase other gift cards.*) Giant gives 5% back to the church for every card purchased. We raised \$2,400 in 2023 and \$800 to date in 2024.

SIMPLY GIVING is a program that enables you to financially support our ministry easily, securely and faithfully. You choose the amount and the schedule: weekly, bimonthly, or monthly. You can easily change the amount or timing. You can be a blessing! Contact the church office with any questions.

The Week of April 28th at a Glance

		The Week of April 20° at a Glance
Sun. 4/	/28	The Fifth Sunday of Easter
		9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship
		10:30AM Fellowship Period
		Happy Anniversary, Pastor Caron & Michael Clement!
Mon. 4/	/29	Confirmation Class
Wed. 5/	/01	11:00AM Ensemble Rehearsal
Thur. 5/	/02	8:30AM Morning Prayer; 9:00AM Bible Study
		Happy 101 st Birthday, Corrine Monesmith!
Fri. 5/	/03	Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off
		Synod Assembly
		10AM – 6PM Book/Rummage Sale
		Happy Birthday, Genya Hopf!
Sat. 5/	/04	Synod Assembly
		9AM – 1PM Book/Rummage Sale
Sun. 5/	/05	The Sixth Sunday of Easter
		9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship, Sunday School
		10:30AM Fellowship Period
		3-5PM Girl Scouts