



The 5th Sunday of Easter, 18 May 2025

Worship at 9.30 a.m.

Gathering

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

*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 #641, ALL ARE WELCOME (NEXT PAGE)

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions

live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as

hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -

Refrain

Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:

all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

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

Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

Ⓑ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *Silence- The Prayer of the Day is offered. We join our hearts in silent prayer. It concludes: ... one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Word

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON is from Acts, the eleventh chapter. (Acts 11:1-18)

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my

mouth.’ ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.” **The Word of the Lord.** Thanks be to God.

Silence for Reflection

PSALM 148 is read responsively by verse.

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

² **Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;**

⁹ mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰ **wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹² **young men and maidens, old and young together.**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah! Amen.**

Silence for Reflection

THE SECOND LESSON is from Revelation, the twenty-first chapter. (Revelation 21:1-6)

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.” The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

SERMON SONG: #364, vs 1 *before the Gospel*

**Christ has arisen, alleluia.
Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.
For our redeemer burst from the tomb,
even from death, dispelling its gloom.**

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!**

THE HOLY GOSPEL according to John, the thirteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!** (John 13:31-35)

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." 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: ELW #631, LOVE DIVINE



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

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.

We come before the God of resurrection and new life, rejoicing that Jesus is risen. Let us pray for the needs of the church and the world to God, who raised Jesus to new life.

*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 conclude:*

Into your hands, 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.**

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the Lord's name, saying "Peace be with you," or a similar greeting. 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.

The offering is gathered in-house. In-house or joining us online tithes and offerings may be given online at christpipersville.org or using the QR code.



THE OFFERTORY: HYMN #186, "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.

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 become your witnesses to the world
working for peace and justice so all may know Jesus Christ,
our Savior and risen Lord. Amen.

We join our hearts in silent prayer as the Table is prepared.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

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

It is our right, our duty, and our great joy to thank and praise You, O God...
...we praise your name and join their unending song:

Holy are you, Lord! Holy are you, God of power and might!
Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

Blessed is He who comes in the Name of our God! **Hosanna in the highest!**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, O God, the wellspring of all holiness.

We praise you for the gift of creation, the work of your hands...

...In obedience and thanksgiving, we remember the great and mighty acts of God,
and proclaim the mystery and promise of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Proclaiming all glory and honor is yours through the Holy Spirit, O God, we offer our prayer in the name of Christ, who 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.

THE AGNUS DEI: JUST AS I AM, #592

Just as I am, without one plea / but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee / O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown / hath broken every barrier down;
now, to be thine, yea thine alone / O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Please be seated.

THE COMMUNION

We share in the Lord's Body and Blood. We believe the risen Christ is truly present in the forms of bread and wine to forgive, renew and strengthen. All are welcome-this is the Lord's Table and He invites you! If you have taken an elements cup and prefer to commune where you are seated, please do so at any time after the invitation. The elements are offered with the words: 'The Body of Christ given for you' and 'The Blood of Christ shed for you'. The recipient may respond "Amen".

The musicians and other assistants will be communed first, followed by those online. Then the congregation comes forward by the center aisle, the organ side first, and then the pulpit side. Receive the Host (bread) from Pastor, with the words, 'The body of Christ, given for you.' The assistant offers the chalice of wine for intinction, (dipping the bread into the wine) with the words: 'The blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: Amen. Please return to your pew by the side aisle. Anyone, child or adult, who does not wish to take communion is invited to come forward, hands folded, to receive a blessing, or remain seated and commune by prayer.

As the altar is cleared and the chalice vested, there is silence for prayer and reflection. Following communion and the hymn, please stand at Pastor's invitation.

The hymn during communion is #481, Come to the Table



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

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

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Risen One,
you gather us at this table of grace, your people healed, fed and forgiven.

**Now breathe your life into us
that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen!**

Sending

THE BENEDICTION

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. **Amen.**

THE SENDING HYMN ELW#376, THINE IS THE GLORY



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave-clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan



where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

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.

"This is the Feast" is from *The Lutheran Book of Worship*, © 1978 Augsburg Fortress, used by permission of A-F license #5429-L. Create in Me, music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress, used by permission, OneLicense #A-71138. The Offertory Prayer is from *Sundays and Seasons*, used by permission Augsburg Fortress. Hymns: "Christ Has Arisen", text Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922 Swahili text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress. English text © 1977 Howard S. Olson, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission, OneLicense #A-71138. "Come to the Table", Text Claire Cloninger, Martin Nystrom; © 1981 Integrity's Hosanna Music, Used by permission, OneLicense #A-71138.

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
Mr. Brian Maddux, 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 MAY WEB SITE AND BULLETINS are sponsored by Susan Bechtold in Memory of Henry and Randy Bechtold.

LECTOR: Jean Graham

WE WELCOME Rich Spotts as our organist this morning and thank him for his musical leadership.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS – The prayer list is printed in the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. In addition, please remember Susan Jura (H,R), John Fischer (H,St), Lois Michael (H,St), Nick Molloy (H,R) and Sherrill Emmons (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.

BLESSINGS BY THE BOX – We will once again be helping 10 local Tinicum Elementary families facing food insecurity over the summer months by supplying them with Giant gift cards. We will be collecting donations through May 25th and gift cards will be distributed at the end of the school year in early June. We currently have received \$587 for this purpose (approx. \$14 per person). Last year's families were most appreciative of this assistance. If you would like to help, please place your donations in an envelope and note that it's for Blessings by the Box or pick up a specially marked envelope on the table by the doors. This year we are also including special snack bags for the children. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for details.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC – Sunday, June 1st, 10 a.m., at Peace Valley Park, pavilion #5. Maps are available if needed. Please bring your own place settings, tablecloth, a dish to share and a lawn chair if you desire more comfortable seating. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for volunteers, needed items and to indicate what food item you plan to bring. Hot dogs and beverages to be provided.

MANY THANKS to all who volunteered, donated soup and baked goods, and supported the spring book/bake/soup sale. It was a great success!

NEXT SUNDAY is our 5th Sunday offering. In order to help prevent a budget deficit from occurring, members are encouraged to give an extra offering, if you are able.

VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED to stain the repurposed/rebuilt shed doors installed thanks to Phil Szymanowski. Please see Steve Gruver if you can help. Thank you.

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

TO OUR CHRIST LUTHERAN FAMILY, a sincere thank you for the Easter goody bag. What fun and much appreciated! A special thank you to those who put it together and to Delana for delivering it. Peace be with you all!

- Bill & Carolyn Michener

LET'S HELP CELEBRATE by sending a card. Charles and Bev Maddux will be celebrating their 61st wedding anniversary on May 23rd. Their mailing address is 6445 Ferry Road East, Doylestown, PA 18902.

The Week of May 18th at a Glance

Sun. 5/18 The 5th Sunday of Easter
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship
10:30AM Fellowship Period
3-5PM Girl Scouts
Happy Birthday, TJ Ziegler!

Mon. 5/19 Happy Birthday, Rebecca Harmon!

Wed. 5/21 11AM Ensemble

Thur. 5/22 8:30AM Morning Prayer; 9:00AM Bible Study
Happy Birthday, Kristian Trauger!
Happy Anniversary, David and Diane Allison!

Fri. 5/23 Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off
Happy 61st Anniversary, Charles & Bev Maddux!

Sun. 5/25 The 6th Sunday of Easter
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship
10:30AM Fellowship Period
Happy Birthday, Kelly Szymanowski!