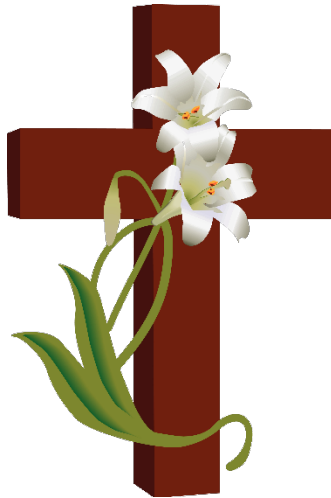


May 2, 2021

The Fifth Sunday of Easter



If you are an online guest today, please leave a record of your visit, below. Thank you!

[Online Guest Form](#)

Messiah Lutheran Church

7740 Hwy 72 West, Madison, AL 35758
(256)721-0041 / www.mlutheran.org

SERVICE of WORSHIP
*Setting 2 from **Lutheran Book of Worship***

THE PRELUDE: *Invention No. 1* by J.S. Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

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

Amen

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

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 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 and self examination)

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

We Know That Christ Is Raised

1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows

Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the Church of God.
 As Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.

And our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 As liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and

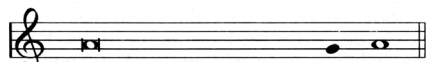
Hal - le - lu - jah!
 Hal - le - lu - jah!
 Hal - le - lu - jah!
 whole will sing: Hal - le - lu - jah!

THE GREETING

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

And also with you.

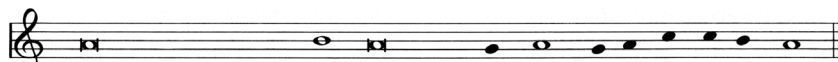
THE KYRIE



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



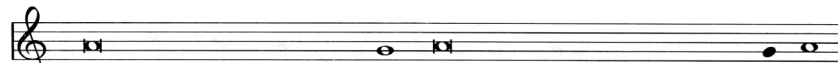
G Lord, have mer - cy.



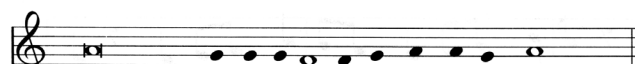
A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



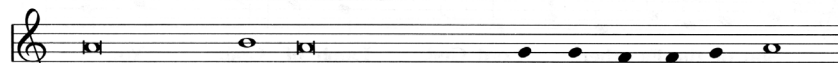
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



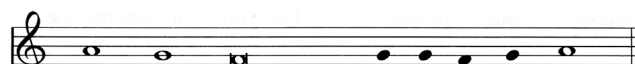
A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



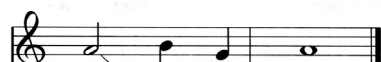
let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



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



G A - men

THE HYMN OF PRAISE



A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and



Fa-ther: We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo-ry. Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly



Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You



take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the



Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer. For you a-lone are the



Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-



lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

THE SALUTATION



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE: *In Christ Alone*

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Then an 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.) ²⁷ So 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 ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer,
so he does not open 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 The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the

good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As 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?” ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When 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. ⁴⁰ But 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 PSALM

Psalm 22:25-31

- ²⁴ My praise is of him in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows
in the presence of those who worship him.
- ²⁵ **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him:
“May your heart live forever!”**
- ²⁶ All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall bow before him.
- ²⁷ **For kingship belongs to the LORD;
he rules over the nations.**
- ²⁸ To him alone all who sleep in the earth
bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust
fall before him.
- ²⁹ **My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the LORD’s forever.**
- ³⁰ They shall come and make known
to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done.

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

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So 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. ¹⁷ Love 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. ¹⁸ There 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. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those 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. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

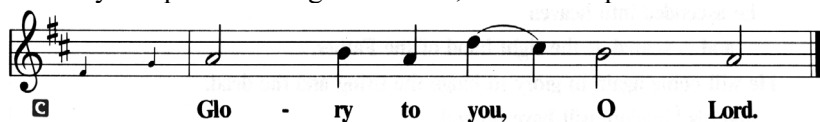
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go"

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.



THE GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide 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. ⁵ I 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. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned

The Gospel of the Lord.



272

Abide with Me

1 A - bid with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 3 Swift to its close ebbs out life's at lit - tle day;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bid.
 What but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 Ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?

Help of the help - less, oh, a - bid with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bid with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bid with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bid with me!

- 5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,
 Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
 Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
 In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
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

THE OFFERTORY: "Create in Me"

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 7/8 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "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." The score ends with a double bar line.

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.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

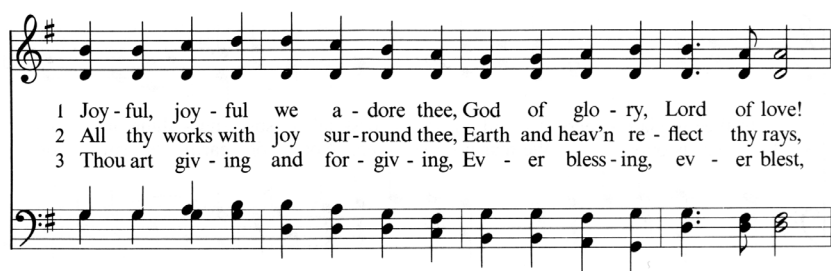
THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

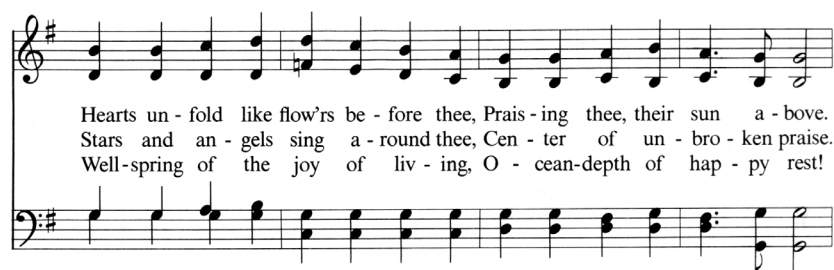
THE BENEDICTION

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

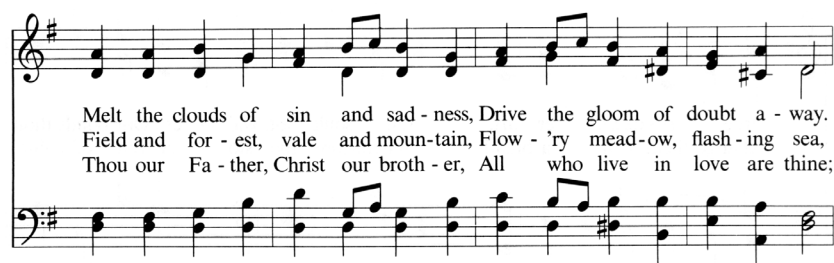
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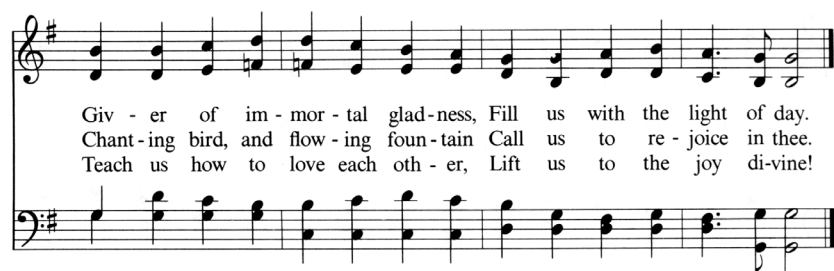
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, Prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, All who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
 Chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain Call us to re - joice in thee.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di - vine!

THE DISMISSAL

THE POSTLUDE: *Alleluia* from *Exsultate, Jubilate* by Mozart