

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church ***FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER***

April 28, 2024

"Loving People to Christ"

Welcome to God's Holy House!

**May this worship service be an uplifting and
spiritual blessing for you and your family.**

Prayer Before Worship: *Gracious Father, you alone deserve our worship and praise. We thank you for the opportunities you provide for us to hear your Word and for bringing people into our lives to give voice to your promise in Christ. Help us look to you and not to ourselves as the source of grace and strength to live each day; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.*

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING

Lutheran Service Book p. 260

**Opening Hymn *"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*
LSB 700**

**P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of
the Holy Spirit.**

C Amen.

Opening Versicles

P This is the day which the Lord has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

P Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

C **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

P Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

C **Teach me Your paths.**

P Sanctify us in Your truth.

C **Your Word is truth.**

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

C **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.**

Old Testament Canticle 

LSB 261

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE



First Reading

Acts 8:26–40 ESV

²⁶Now 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. ²⁷And 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 ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot."
³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 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."*

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And 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?" ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And 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. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 John 4:1-11 ESV

¹Beloved, 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. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and 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.

⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We 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.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In 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. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 150

¹Praise the LORD!

Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens!

²**Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his excellent greatness!**

³Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!

⁴**Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!**

⁵Praise him with sounding cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

⁶**Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!***
Praise the LORD!

Gospel Reading  John 15:1-8 ESV

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

C **Glory be to you O Lord**

¹[Jesus said:] *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.*

²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶If 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. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Common Responsory

LSB 263

P Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

P Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.


C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the + Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 264

SERMON HYMN  "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" (rise on the last verse) LSB 633



(clipart-library.com)

SERMON "Ouch! I Need to Prune My Rose Bush"
John 15: 1-8

Offering We ask all members and visitors to please sign our "Friendship Folder" located at the center aisle end of each pew in the red vinyl folder. As you sign it, make sure everyone in your pew has a chance to sign it.

PRAYER 



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

Brief silence

P Let us pray to the Lord: C Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 264

COLLECT FOR FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

P 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.

C Amen.

New Testament Canticle  **LSB 266**

Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn **“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”**
LSB 469

Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Pastor: Pastor John Richy
Elder: Mike Winters
Lector: Rick Zimmerman
Ushers: Ron Ostrowski and Duane Schultz
Music Director: Sue Olson
Organist: Kyle Castillo

DATES TO REMEMBER

Basketball Group using gym Mon-Thurs. for April - May

May 2

6:00-7:30 pm Confirmation
6:00 pm Chimes Practice
7:00 pm Choir Practice

May 5 Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:15 am Adult Bible Study
9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

Loving Hands SOUP SALE after church 4/28/ and 5/5
VOTERS' MEETING after worship TODAY April 28

Loving Hands is having a BAKE SALE after worship on Mother's Day (May 12) in the church basement.

Plans are in the works for a CHRISTMAS BAZAAR to be held here at St. John's just before Thanksgiving.

CHURCH STATISTICS: April 21, 2024:

Attendance: 68; Communion: 52; Bible Study: 23
Total Offerings: 2591.00; Memorials: \$25.00
Auction: \$10,000; Bricks: \$125; Easter Appeal: \$100.00
Grand Total: \$10,225.00

PRAYERS FOR OUR ST. JOHN'S FAMILY

(*Homebound)

Andy Banas Jr. Irma Deichen* Lynn Erke John Linn
Sandra Luecke* Larry Mueller Lori Nommensen
Shirley Odegaard* Sandy Swanson Norma Vierk*
Shirley Weiss* Margaret Zoellick**

CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK

Nicholas Paunovich, Apr 28 Jay Hollowell, May 5

CELEBRATING A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Eric and Nicole Kleidon, Apr 30

THE APRIL CHURCH NEWSLETTER The **MAY 2024 newsletters** and the April - June "**PORTALS OF PRAYER**" are available at either church entrance.

RESOURCE ROOM POSITION OPEN: Lutheran Special Education Ministries is looking for a full-time resource room teacher position at Trinity Lutheran School in Tinley Park, IL in the fall. Applicants must hold a current Illinois Teaching License and have a special education certification/endorsement. Interested applicants looking for more information or wishing to submit a resume are asked to contact Richard Schumacher at (734) 748-5253 or email him at rschumacher@luthsped.org.

REVISED - RAISE RIGHT CARDS: Greetings. If you did not know, we are excited to be offering the gift card program again. Raise Right cards (formerly known as Scrip) can be purchased online. There is a new option for direct shipment on many cards, so no waiting for a bulk order each month.

Need it now, there are lots of E-cards you can pay and purchase online. Some favorites are Instacart, Dunkin and Panera just to name a few. Many are reloadable on the Raise Right website so no waiting for a new card. (Great for college students away.)

St. John's Church places one bulk order a month, which is the last Sunday of the month, and cards are available the following Sunday after Church.

Don't have an account? Sign up at <https://www.raiseright.com/> Once you do, call Tina or the office for the code number.

This is a great way to support St. John's Church while you purchase items you would normally.

Let me know if you have any questions, Tina Funchion, Raise Right Coordinator for St. John's

CHURCH BRICKS If you wish to make an order, order forms (“Legacy Project”) are available at either entrance. See Ray Nommensen for more info.

LANSING FOOD PANTRY MONTH DRIVE: Don't forget that our Lansing Food Pantry donation collections go on each month. Items may be placed on the table inside the inner school doors. Last Monday of each month is the delivery.



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to you. ⁴Abide 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”. John 15: 2-3

²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken

St. Johns' Ev. Lutheran Church

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CHURCH OFFICE *The office is open Tues - Fri, 9:00 – 2:00 pm*