



Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 8, 2022

All members and guests, please fill out the Welcome Form found at the end of your row and pass it on to your neighbor. The pastoral and spiritual care of the members of Christ Church is very important to us. In order to care for all of you, we need to know who is present and who is not. So, please take a moment to sign the pad. The Welcome Forms will be picked up by the ushers at the end of the service.

CALL TO WORSHIP & PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

Our lives are often taken over by noise and distraction. This time allows us to sit in the silence God has granted so that we might center ourselves on God.

P Our Lord is the Good Shepherd. In his goodness he supplies our every need. C The Lord is our Shepherd, and he takes perfect care of us.

P Our Lord is the Good Shepherd. He leads us into safety and gives us strength for the journey. C The Lord is our Shepherd, who grants us rest and restores our souls.

P Our Lord is the Good Shepherd. He sought us out when we were lost, calling us by our names. C The Lord is our Shepherd, and he has carried us home. Amen.

~ posted on Literature & Liturgy

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P 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. C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God.

C we confess that we are captive 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.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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 \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C Amen.

GATHERING SONG

The Day of Resurrection!



Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche, 1833

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Please be seated.

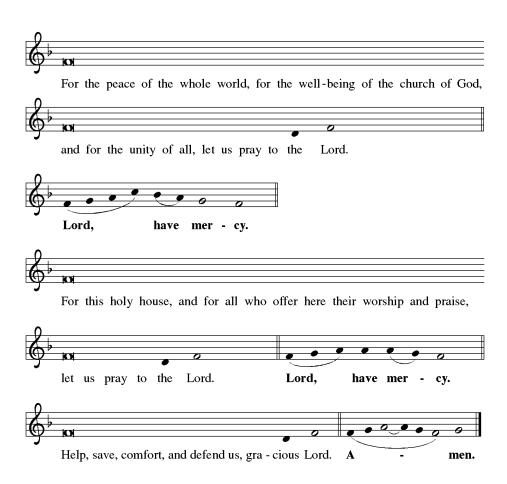
GREETING

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

C And also with you.

KYRIE









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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray:

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST LESSON Acts 9:36-43

L A reading from Acts.

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

- L The Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God

PSALM 23 Spoken responsively.

- L ¹The Lord is my shepherd;
 - I shall not be in want.
- C ²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
- L ³You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

- C ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- L ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- C ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND LESSON Revelation 7:9-17

L A reading from Revelation.

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom

and thanksgiving and honor and power and might

be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me,

"These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;

the sun will not strike them,

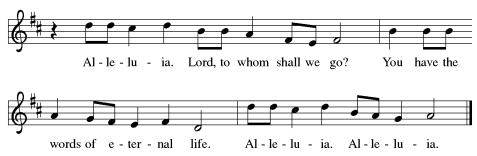
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

- L The Word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God

Please stand for the reading of the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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GOSPEL John 10:22-30

- P The holy gospel according to John.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

- P The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Ciara Jones

SERMON Rev. Wes Smith

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Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, alt. Music: AMERICAN HYMN, Matthias Keller, 1813–1875

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APOSTLES' CREED

P Gathered together by the power of the Holy Spirit we confess our common faith: C I believe in God, the Father almighty,

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creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come 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.

^{*}Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use. ** meaning the church universal

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation

A brief silence.

Gentle Shepherd, enable your church to respond to the voice of Jesus. Give us unfailing trust, unafraid to join in Jesus' work of renewing all things. God, in your mercy, C hear our prayer.

P Feed your people at the table of creation. Prepare a safe place for those whose environments are dangerous or unhealthy, especially those making difficult journeys. Prosper your creation for the sake of every living thing. God, in your mercy, C hear our prayer.

P Warm the hearts of all who celebrate and all who mourn on Mother's Day. Accompany those yearning to be mothers. Help us to heal from broken family relationships and open us to receive your nurturing love from all who serve mothering roles in our lives. God, in your mercy, C hear our prayer.

P We pray for those in need—those who hunger or are homeless.

We pray for those in pain—the abused, brokenhearted and lonely.

We pray for the sick in body and in mind, and for those who grieve.

For the life of this community and all those who put their trust in you

for all their todays and all their tomorrows,

we pray that your lovingkindness to the world would be offered

through our hands, our words, our deeds, our hearts. On this day we pray especially for Victoria, Bob, Anne, Aline and Norm, Terry and family, Brie, LeeAnn, Linda, The Eugenio Family, LCFS, Martin, Candice, and Dorothy, and for all those we now name in our hearts or in the presence of this assembly. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Inspire the words of our congregants as they go forth bearing the Good News of Jesus Christ. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Enfold us in the great multitude of saints from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. Wash us in your saving grace every day, guiding us to your waters of life. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE

P The peace of Christ is with you always.

C And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The Lord of love my Shepherd is; He doth me feed.

While He is mine and I am His, what can I want or need?

He leads me to the tender grass, there I shall rest;

Then to the streams that gently pass: In both I have the best.

Yea, in death's shady, dark abode I shall not fear;

For thou art with me; and thy rod shall guide, thy staff shall bear.

Then thou dost make me sit and dine before my foes.

My head with oil, my cup with wine is full, yea overflows.

And lo, thy full, amazing love shall fill my days;

And ever in thy house above, I'll sing thy wondrous praise.

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OFFERING

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. C Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

P The Lord is with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,

the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;

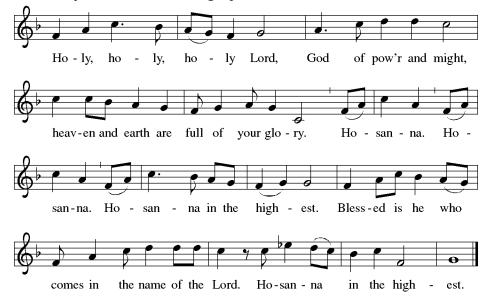
who in dying has destroyed death,

and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness

to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord's passover from death to life

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth.

burning with justice, peace, and love.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C 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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

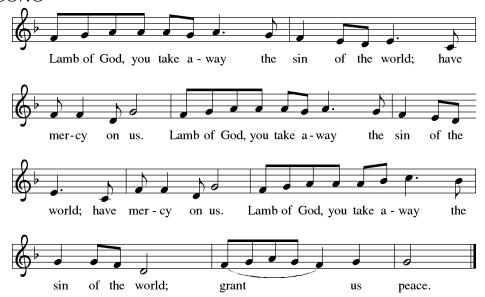
COMMUNION

All are welcome to participate in the Lord's Meal. If it's been years, or just a week, the bread and wine/juice and Jesus' presence in, with, and around them are for all. If you have questions about taking your first communion don't hesitate to speak with Pastor Wes.

Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. When you come forward you will receive a wafer from Pastor Wes and you will hear the words **the body of Christ, given for you**. Once you eat the wafer you are invited to take either wine or juice from the communion assistant and you will hear the words, **the blood of Christ, shed for you**. Once you've communed there is a small receptacle where the used communion cup can be placed.

P The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

COMMUNION SONG



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. C Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and give you peace. C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

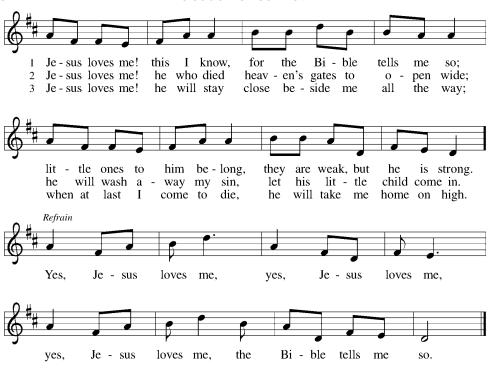
BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. C Amen.

Please stand as you are able.



Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt. Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

DISMISSAL

P You are the body of Christ risen up for the sake of the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

An Exhortation to Praise

Smith

Upcoming Commemorations

Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416 Sunday, May 8, 2022

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303 (TFF) Sunday, May 8, 2022

Also known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan.

Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760 Monday, May 9, 2022

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

Matthias, Apostle Saturday, May 14, 2022

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.



SERVING US AT WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Pastor: Rev. Wesley Smith, III Organist: Rhonda Blacklock

Lector: Paul Schmidt

Usher: Bob Behrend

Greeter: Sue Haughton

Financial Assistants: Cindy Cannedy, Dawn Firmani

A/V Assistant:

Altar Guild: Connie Niessink, Barb Starkey, Chris Emsley

CONTACT INFORMATION

600 North Ford Road, Zionsville, IN 46077 | clczionsville.org | 317-873-3242

Wes Smith

Pastor

pastor@clczionsville.org

Rhonda Blacklock

Music Director musicdirector@clczionsville.org

Julia Goldberg

Communications Administrator juliag@clczionsville.org

Laura Hartman

Office Administrator laurah@clczionsville.org

Ciara Jones

Director of Children and Family Ministries dcfm@clczionsville.org

Melissa Woldman

Preschool Director preschool@clczionsville.org, 317-873-3232

Governance Board

gb@clczionsville.org