



Munster, Indiana 2024

Welcome

divine service |



WORSHIP FOLDER

LCMS

Members and Guests:

Please silence cell phones

Before the service begins, some people choose to pray and meditate in the sanctuary, while others choose to catch up with their church family and friends in the narthex. Please respect both options by keeping food, drink, and conversation in the narthex, so the joyful noise of Christian conversation can coexist with the contemplative silence and sacred music prior to the service.

Our sanctuary is equipped with receivers for **hearing assistance**. Please speak with an usher if you would like to use one. We also have **large print hymnals** available in the narthex.

We appreciate **infants and young children in worship** and encourage parents to keep their children in the pew despite occasional distracting behavior as they learn and grow. Feel free to borrow a book or Quiet Bag from the racks by the sanctuary doors. If, however, you decide you need a quiet place, you may use our Quiet Room located in the rear left of the sanctuary.

Holy Communion:

In accordance with the historic practice of the Christian Church, our congregation practices closed communion, meaning that normally our members and members of our sister (LCMS) congregations commune here. Please speak to one of the pastors about exceptions to this general practice. This practice in no way intends to comment on the state of anyone else's faith; we simply believe our communing together is also a public profession of what we as a congregation teach and confess.

April 27 • April 28

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Pastor Donald Stock Retirement Service

Prelude 5:30 and 9:30 "Prelude in F" (J.S. Bach)
8:00 Senior Choir Men "Christ Is Our Cornerstone" (Darwall)

(Those who wish may bookmark hymns prior to the service.
Hymns for this service are: 578, 633, 488, 468, 643 and 837)

Welcome & Ringing of the Bell

Processional Hymn—578 Thy Strong Word

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Exhortation

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **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 ON GOD'S WORD AND FOR SELF-EXAMINATION.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Psalm 150 (sung together)

9:30 Service Gospel Lights Choir "God Loves Life" (Dittmer)



Praise the LORD!
Praise God in his sanctu- | ary;*
praise him in his mighty | heavens!
Praise him for his | mighty deeds;*
praise him according to his excellent | greatness!
Praise him with | trumpet sound;*
praise him with | lute and harp!
Praise him with tambou- | rine and dance;*
praise him with | strings and pipe!
Praise him with sounding | cymbals;*
praise him with loud clashing | cymbals!
Let everything that has breath | praise the LORD!*
Praise | the LORD!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

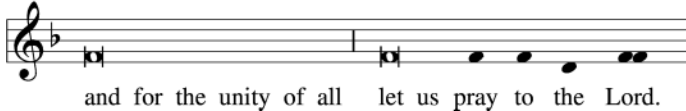
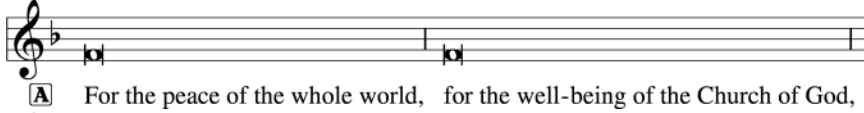
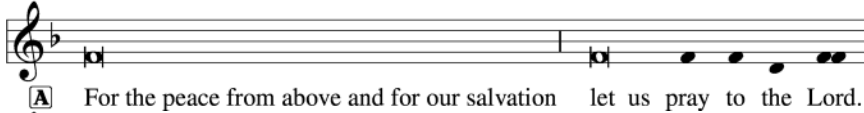
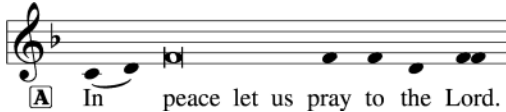
Gospel Lights Choir
"God Loves Life"

(Dittmer) Lyrics:

God loves life
 from the moment of first
 conception.
 God loves life.
 And His love is without
 exception.
 Rich or poor.
 Big or small.
 God loves life, Yes, he
 loves us all
 Because, Because God
 loves life.

God loves life
 and in water and Word
 He claims us.
 God loves life.
 By the Spirit's power,
 He names us.
 Shy or bold.
 Girl or boy.
 God loves life and He
 gives us joy!
 Because, Because God
 loves life.

Kyrie



Although the oldest surviving manuscript dates to the 9th Century, this first known use of this chanted prayer dates all the way back to the 4th Century, soon after Christianity was legalized in the Roman Empire. It may reflect the form of the worship already happening long before the 4th Century. The same wording of this sung prayer, taken from that ancient liturgy, has been carried on to the present day in Lutheran, Orthodox, Catholic, and some other churches.

C Lord, have mer - cy.
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise
 let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mer - cy.
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.
C A - men.

As we celebrate the resurrection in the Year of Lord 2024, it is comforting that we sing along with people all over the world in every language, using words that have remained unchanged over many, many centuries.

We join the heavenly choir as described in Revelation 5:11-13, which says:

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

The wedding feast imagery comes from Revelation 19.

Hymn of Praise

Refrain
C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -
 blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*
Final Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



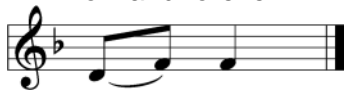
P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

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 A - men.

First Reading: Acts 8: 26 - 40

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. And 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 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 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 before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The congregation is seated for the first two Scripture readings. The pastor will indicate when to sit and when to stand throughout the service, but those who prefer to remain seated may do so. Whether you use the insert, the pew Bible, or simply prefer to listen to God's Word, please also "hold it sacred, and gladly hear and learn it."

The Ethiopian becomes (possibly) the first Gentile to convert to Christianity. The account shows how seamlessly the written Word of Scripture, the proclamation of Christ, the Sacraments (in this case, Holy Baptism), and the power of the Holy Spirit to create faith all belong together.

Gradual *(sung together)*

9:30 Gospel Lights Choir "The Lord God Is My Strength & My Song" (Prayer & Preaching)



Christ has risen | from the dead.*
[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*
he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle: 1 John 4: 1 - 21

Beloved, 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. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and 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. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We 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.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In 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. In 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

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



The song sung by the Gospel Lights (grades 2-4) comes from the Service of Prayer and Preaching, which is our main chapel liturgy.

"Love" is a word that gets used many ways, but here St. John shows that the ultimate meaning of "Love" is the self-sacrificial work of Jesus Christ, whose connects us to God who IS love.

Holy Gospel: John 15: 1 - 8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the fifteenth chapter.

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every 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. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide 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. I 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. If 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. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By 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.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

Back Cover of Hymnal or LSB 158

Sermon Hymn—633 At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing (stanzas 1-4)

8:00 Senior Choir sings stanza 4

Sermon: Reverend Dr. D. Richard Stuckwisch

Offertory—5:30 and 9:30 Hymn 488 He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

8:00 Senior Choir “Jesus Thy Boundless Love to Me” (Cocker)

Farewell and Godspeed to Reverend Donald E. Stock

Prayer of the Church

EACH PETITION OF THE PRAYER ENDS WITH “LORD, IN YOUR MERCY...” TO WHICH ALL RESPOND “HEAR OUR PRAYER.” THE PRAYERS CONCLUDE...

P Holy Father, You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Hear and answer our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, and Your saints shall bless You; for You live and reign with the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

P The Lord be with you.

G And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

G We lift them to the Lord.

As the branch receives life via the sap flowing through the vine, so we receive spiritual life only by faith via our connection to Jesus Christ in the Word and Sacraments.

At the 9:30 service, as the sermon hymn begins, children ages preschool through 4th grade are welcome to be dismissed for Sunday School. Pickup is at the end of the worship service.

Those wishing to make an offering can find the collection plate on the table in the narthex before and after the service. Donations can also be made securely online at our website.

*God’s continued blessings to **Barbara & Leonard Holajter** who celebrate 50 years of marriage this week.*

May God also bless our call processes for next school year, our Confirmands who will be confirmed next week, and Pastor Stock and Beth as they look forward to retirement.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

LSB 162

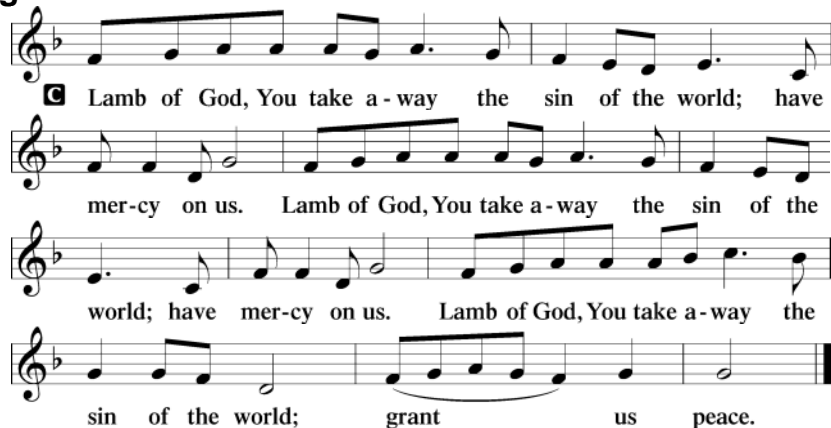
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P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C A - men.

Acknowledgments
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Agnus Dei



☐ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

8:00 Senior Choir "The God of Peace" (Behnke)

9:30 Soloist "The God of Peace" (Behnke)

9:30 Piano and Cello Duet "Arioso" (J.S. Bach)

Distribution Hymn—633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
(stanzas 5-7)

Distribution Hymn—468 I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives

Post Communion Canticle

Hymn—643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Post Communion Collect

☐ We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☐ Amen.

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.



☐ A - men.

Recessional Hymn—837 Lift High the Cross

Postlude "Lift High the Cross" (Leavitt)

Serving this Week:

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Richard Stuckwisch

Organ: Karen Foote

Piano: Christina Lee

Cello: Titus Chou

Vocal Solo and Flute: Lisa Smith

Greeters:

Sam and Kathy Martino (8:00)

Cassy Melendez (9:30)

Altar flowers today are dedicated:

In Memory of:

James Simons on his heavenly birthday by
Mary Ellen Simons

In Honor of:

the wedding anniversary of Julie Hylek's
parents, Chester & Judy Walther by
Julie & Michael Hylek

&

To the Glory of God

for 22 years at St. Paul's by
Pastor & Beth Stock

Last Week at St. Paul's

Attendance: 300

Communed: 233

Hartsfield/Cedarhurst: 29

Plate Offering: \$10,814

Online Offering: \$5,452

Total: \$16,266

Weekly Budget: \$16,538

This Week at St. Paul's

Sunday, April 28

Pastor Stock Retirement Luncheon following
the 9:30 Service

Monday, April 29

7:00 pm Basketball Clinic

Tuesday, April 30

8:30 am Garden Crew

9:30 am Cedarhurst Worship Service

10:45 am Hartsfield Worship Service

7:00 pm Men's Basketball

Wednesday, May 1

8:30 am Chapel

10:00 am Bible Study

Thursday, May 2

National Day of Prayer

10:00 am Bible Study

6:30 pm Senior Choir Practice

7:30 pm Master's Rings Rehearsal

Friday, May 3

Church Office Closed

Pastor Krebs on call (812) 498-2161

Saturday, May 4

8:00 am AA Meeting

9:00 am Confirmation Practice & Photos

10:30 am AA, Al-anon & Al-ateen

Next Week's Readings:

Acts 10:34-48, Psalm 98,

1 John 5:1-8, John 15:9-17