



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 28, 2024
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

P Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Musical Prelude

8:00 a.m. “Prelude in C Major” by David N. Johnson Eric Dickey

10:00 a.m. “Blow Spirit Blow” The Band

WE REMEMBER OUR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Life, and our Joy. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep, and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden’s verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom’s land. In a desert pool, the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river, your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus’ death and resurrection, you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Greeting

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

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



Refrain
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



Prayer of the Day

PO God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

Anthem (10:00 a.m.)

“Loose in the World”

The Band

THE READINGS

The First Reading: ACTS 8:26-40

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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.

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

The Second Reading: 1 John: 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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.

¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

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

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

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

The Holy Gospel: John 15:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according... **C** Glory to you, O Lord!

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P The Gospel of the Lord! **C** Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

“A Million Reasons to Say No”

Pastor Steve Bond



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
 2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
 3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
 4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
 free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
 shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
 wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
 that they nev - er have a rea - son to
 May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
 As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
 doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
 love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
 join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

Refrain



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



Text: David Lohman, b. 1961

Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lohman

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Nicene Creed

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him, all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

P Rejoicing that Jesus is risen, and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

AM We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers, and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering; **Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O’Konski, Kim Mockensturm, Larry Geer, Troy Bernhard, Kevin Stiles, Susie Donnal, Harold Shoup Jr, Bernie Mank, Cory Kaczor...** and all others whom we remember in silence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

THE MEAL

All Christians are welcome to commune at our Altar. You do not have to be a member of this congregation to receive Communion. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it. A “gluten-free” host option is available upon request as well.

Sharing of the Peace

P The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C And also with you!**

Share an expression of peace with your neighbor, please.

Our Tithes and Offerings *Bring your gifts to the Altar or you may offer gifts in the tray located at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

Offertory Hymn (10:00 a.m.) "I Will Not Let You Go"

The Band

(Music and lyrics by Joel and Aimee Pakan, "Tangled Blue;"
See <https://www.tangledblue.com/music/>.)

Offering Prayer

AM Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical score for "The Great Thanksgiving" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features two parts: a Presider and a Congregation. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 God thanks and praise." The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff is for the Presider, and the second through fifth staves are for the Congregation. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding musical notes.

Presider: Congregation:

The Lord be with you. And al - so with

you. Lift up your hearts. We

lift them to the *ritard.* Lord. Let us give

thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

****The Eucharistic Prayer Continues.....**

HOLY

Congregation:

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff begins with a 6/8 time signature. The second staff changes to 3/8 time, and the third staff returns to 6/8. The fourth and fifth staves continue in 6/8 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

The Words of Institution

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. Jesus said, 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. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Communion Hymns

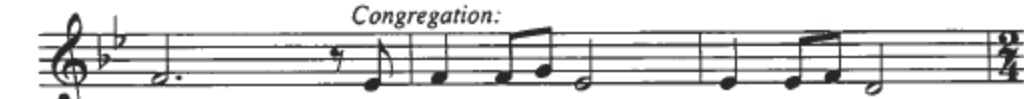
“Lamb of God”

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

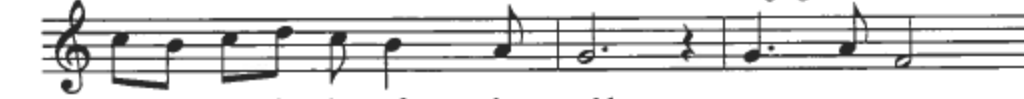
Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:




mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymn

“By Your Hand You Feed Your People”
“As the Grains of Wheat”

ELW 469
ELW 465

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

Prayer at the Sending of Communion

Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are *sick/homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The Blessing

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Let All Things Now Living”

ELW 881

Dismissal

AM Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

AM And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

Postlude (10:00 a.m.)

“Trumpet & Angels”

The Band

Making Jesus Known”

He Is Risen! Welcome to the Easter Season! The presence of the Risen Jesus welcomes us every Sunday we gather in the Lord’s house! We are glad you are here! May the good news of life, hope, peace, and joy bless you and yours! Thanks for choosing to worship with Community of Christ!

Join US!! Each Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. in person or at 10:00 a.m. on Facebook Live!!! Don’t forget to BRING a FRIEND!!!

Thank you to The Band for sharing your wonderful musical talent with us today at our 10:00 a.m. service! Josh Kohntopp, Drums, Jill Kohntopp, Cello, Jacob Proctor, Guitar, Pastor Steve Bond, Guitar, and Eric Dickey, Piano.

JOIN US! TODAY! Sunday, April 28, between services, we’ll have a representative from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who will be able to share more about ways that Thrivent members can direct resources for use here at Community of Christ. Thrivent members can direct money to a recipient of their choice through a program called "Thrivent Choice Dollars," and that can be a way to support Community of Christ additionally beyond our regular giving. We can also apply for monies in micro-grant style projects through "Thrivent Action Teams" (as we did recently for fleece for the Bed Build tie blankets) to be used in specific one-time events or projects, and our Thrivent presenter will share more about how to make the most of these opportunities. We’ll also have light refreshments throughout the presentation in the fellowship hall, starting at 9:00 a.m. Join us there!



Altar
Flowers
Ministry Opportunity

Altar Flowers are given in the promise to Donna Thorne that Kevin would always give Michelle flowers from her in Celebration of Michelle’s Birthday! ❤️

Mark Your Calendars for **Saturday, June 8th**! Calling all walkers! Everyone LOVES a parade and our community is no exception. The Outreach Committee is organizing a group of spirited members to participate in the annual Whitehouse Cherry Fest parade this year on Saturday, June 8th. Line up begins around noon and the parade kicks off at 1 pm – candy for tossing to the crowd will be provided. Come help support our community and extend the celebration of Community of Christ’s 50 year anniversary. Sign up sheet is on the kiosk.

Adult Forum in April and May 2024: Scenes from a Movement

Throughout the weeks of Eastertide, our first lessons in worship each Sunday will be stories from the Book of Acts, which chronicles the early church and the spread of the first followers of Jesus into the world. And yet, many of us are not very familiar with this part of the Bible or the meaning it holds for our lives today as the church. So, join us in the Adult Forum for the spring to take a closer look at these stories and the way the Christian community developed from a fearful band of former fishermen and tax collectors to a budding movement across the Roman Empire, and now to the whole world. Join us for “Scenes from a Movement: Stories from Acts” this April and May at 9:00 a.m. in the library for our Sunday morning Adult Forum class! Everybody is welcome!

TODAY!!! Piano Concert here at Community of Christ!

Bryce Jennings will be performing here at Community of Christ on Sunday, April 28 at 3:00 p.m. Bryce is an alumnus of Maumee HS and knows our very own Eric Dickey! Bryce shared with me; “I was in good company during my high school days! Eric was one of my initial influences and exposures to the jazz music world! When he would come accompany us for our classes, I couldn't fathom the sounds he was producing from the keys! I'm beyond excited to be back!” Please join us and invite a friend! To learn more about Bryce, please see his bio on the kiosk! Program Order: 1. Amazing Grace 2. Tis so Sweet 3. My Jesus, I Love Thee 4. Great is Thy Faithfulness 5. Hold to God's Unchanging Hand 6. Medley, It is Well/How Great Thou Art 7. Holy Holy Holy 8. Jesus Paid it All 9. I Surrender All 10. Turn your Eyes Upon Jesus 11. The Benediction

50th Anniversary Dinner! We look forward to celebrating and sharing memories with those who have signed up for our 50th Anniversary dinner on Saturday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the Anthony Wayne HS Commons.

50th Anniversary Service! We will gather as **ONE** church for a single service in person and Facebook Live on **Sunday, May 5th at 9:00 a.m.** with a special guest, NW Ohio Synod Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, preaching. See you there and don't forget to bring a friend!!



More than an hour of beautiful music and lots of fond memories. Order your copy now! Envelopes are available in the Gathering Space.

Worship Services

Available on the net
at

www.commofchrist.org

Ladies Bible Study
Tuesday, April 30 - May 7, & 14
LWR Quilt Ministry
Tuesday, May 7
Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 14
Choir Practice
Wednesday, May 1
Worship & Music Meeting
Thursday, May 2
Thursday Bible Study
May 2, 1:00 p.m.
50th Anniversary Dinner
Saturday, May 4
50th Anniversary Service
Sunday, May 5 th , 9:00 only
Visitation Ministry
Monday, May 6 th

**Join us on Facebook Live at
10:00 a.m.**

or

in person!

Worship & Sacrament

Sunday 8 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

AA Meeting

Wednesdays 8 p.m.

Midweek Bible Study

Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.

Caregivers Support Meeting

First Monday of every month

6:30 p.m.

Clean & Feed Weekend

4th Sunday of Every Month



Did one of our Bible readings capture your attention today? Was there a story you could picture in your mind? Did a phrase from a hymn or a thought from the sermon start some new ideas or inspire some reflection? Did a Scripture passage spark a question for you to think about? Use this space here as an open canvas for your faithful imagination: you can draw a picture of something you pictured, write a question,

take notes from the message or scriptures, or doodle your faith into a visible form here. Then, either take it with you or leave your thoughts and images here to be shared in an ongoing collection here at Community of Christ!