



**Community of Christ Lutheran Church**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**April 27, 2025, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**  
**Pastor Stephen C. Bond**



**THE GATHERING**

**Welcome**

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

“Alleluia” by Mozart

Pam Stover

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

“Confession and Forgiveness”

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of ✝ the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving*

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit’s power. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our everyday is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

“The Day of Resurrection!”

**ELW 361**

## 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.

## The congregation will sing the refrain only

*Refrain*

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

## The Pastor will sing the verses

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the

u-ni-ty of all; for  
hun-gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam-i-ly; for  
wa-ter and the word; that you

this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus-tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,

*Refrain*

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## **Prayer of the Day**

**P** O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath, revive our faith in your mercy and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Childrens Sermon**

### **THE READINGS**

#### **The First Reading: ACTS 5:27-32**

<sup>27</sup> When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup> saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

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

#### **The Second Reading: Revelation 1:4-8**

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

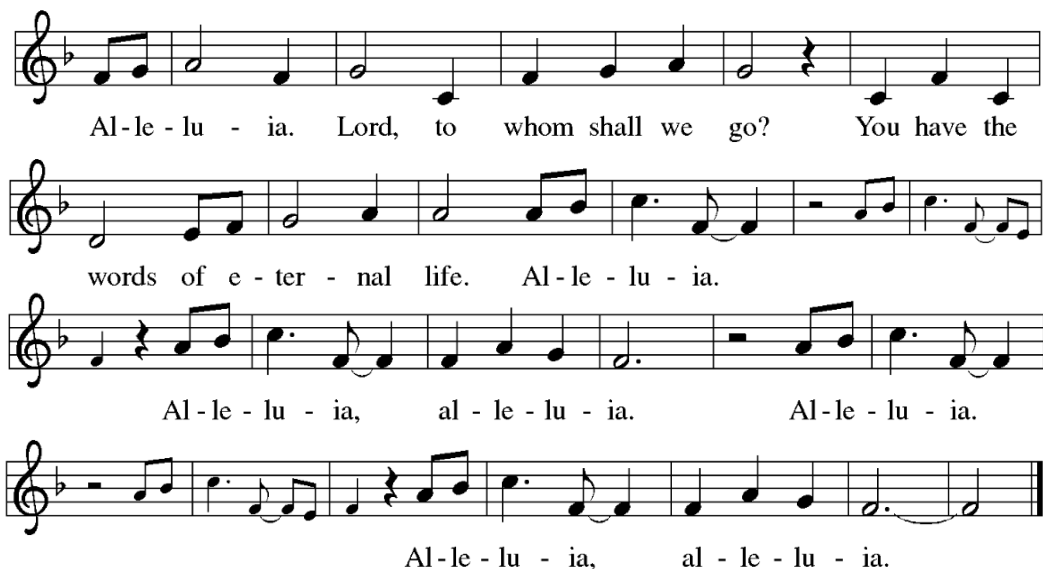
To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup> Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;  
and on his account, all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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



## The Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

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

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that

Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

**Sermon**

"Behind Closed Doors... and then Beyond"

*Pastor Stephen Bond*

**Hymn**

"We Walk by Faith"

**ELW 635**

**10:00 a.m.**

***Holy Baptism of Christopher Nowak***

(Please refer to your hymnal, page 227)

**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** God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

**AM** Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders, and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**AM** Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and

make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**AM** Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**AM** Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way; *especially* **Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O’Konski, Luke Holtz, Lisa Boltz, Susie Donnal, Ron Hetherwick, Jake Cope, Debbie Carman, Virginia Dillon, Sam Kenney, Warren Kingsley, Staci, Josie Heilmann, LuAnn Shuman, Martina Benton, Linda Baker, Carol Mason, Carolyn, Rich Rison....** and all that we remember in silence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**AM** Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**AM** We remember the faithful departed from all times and places, especially Marie Sheets. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**P** We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us, in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **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.*

***The congregation continues to stand during Tithes and Offerings if you are able.***

**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.*

## Offering Prayer

**AM** Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

**P** The Lord be 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 Him thanks and praise.

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## The Words of Institution

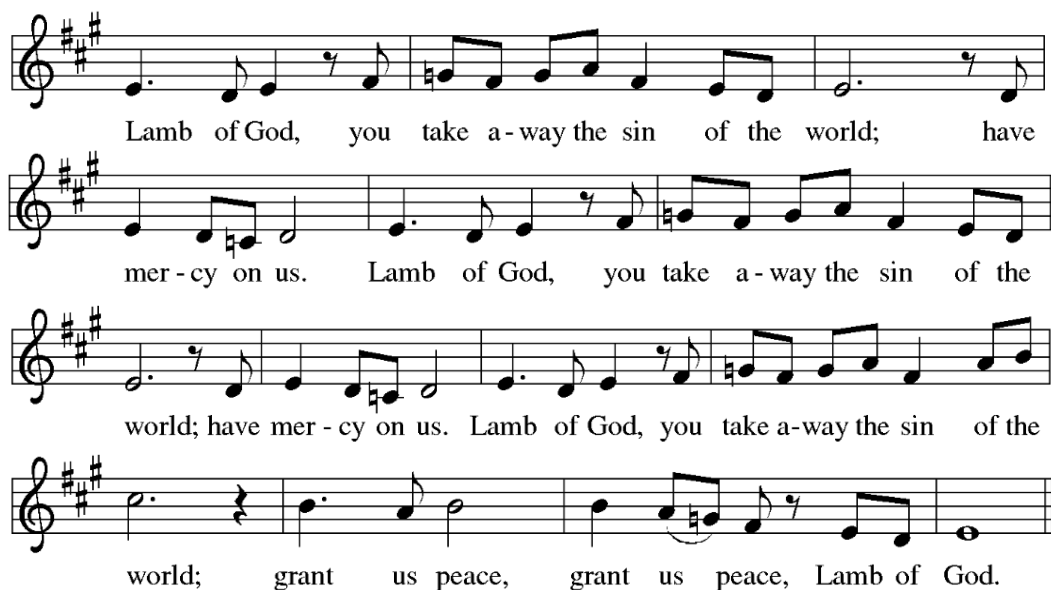
*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, 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”



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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Hymn

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”  
Sung 3 x’s

ELW 752

Post Communion Blessing



### **Prayer after Communion**

**AM** Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

## **THE SENDING**

### ***Milestones & Announcements:***

#### **The Blessing**

**P** The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

#### **Sending Hymn**

“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”

**ELW 534**

#### **Dismissal**

**AM** Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**AM** Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

#### **Postlude**

“Reprise on E’en Lord Jesus Quickly Come” by Paul Manz Pam Stover

# Making Jesus Known”

**You're invited to join us for worship** at one of our TWO services, either at 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. You can attend in person or tune in via Facebook Live. We can't wait to see you – and feel free to BRING A FRIEND! Interested in becoming a member? Please fill out the information in the friendship pads or call the church office at 419-877-0607. We would love to welcome you into our church family!

**New Thursday Bible Study Series:** Join us for our Thursday Afternoon Bible Study, The Book of Judges, with a look at the Old Testament book we call “Judges.” This interesting book explores the time in Israel’s history between the settling down in the land after the wilderness wanderings and the rise of kings like Saul and David, and it offers a window into what happens in a community when everyone is left to their own devices. The book of Judges also reminds us of God’s patient, enduring love even in the face of our persistent sin, so there is a word of hope and grace even through the worst periods of history, too! If this sounds like something you would like to learn more about, join us in the Council Room (where the Thursday Bible Study usually meets) at 1:00 p.m. to dig into the Word together!

**Adult Forum this April: Imaging the Word** Join us for our Sunday morning Adult Forum, *Imaging the Word: Symbols, Icons, and Art Connecting with Faith* from about 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. We’ll explore some of the central symbols of the Christian faith, what they signify, where they come from, and how they have been used over the course of the last 2,000 years. We’ll also explore how traditions like the Eastern Orthodox churches make use of a particular stylized form of artistic depictions of biblical figures and stories in *icons*, and how to understand the way they use imagery to convey meaning. And we’ll also stick our toes in the world of art history and see how artists, sculptors, and painters have used visual media to connect to our faith, both in some familiar ways and some surprising ways.

**Visitation Ministry Hosts End-of-Life Questions Workshop**—May 3 at 9:00 a.m. It can be scary or anxious to have conversations about death and dying, especially when we are talking with loved ones or think about details like our wishes for arrangements, choices for funerals, or even questions about organ donation, cremation, and traditional burial. But as the good Mister Rogers used to say, “When something is mentionable, it becomes manageable.” In other words, when we create a time and space to talk, even difficult subjects can become easier to engage with, especially when we know we are not alone. That’s why the Visitation Ministry is hosting a workshop open to all on the morning of Saturday, May 3, to explore questions and topics related to the end of life, including planning for funerals, frequently asked questions, and how we address this subject with family members. Join us at

Community of Christ from 9:00-11:30 a.m. for a chance to learn, discuss, and bring your questions. We'll also be able to share details about our usual practices for funeral services and meals here at Community of Christ, and we'll offer a chance for any who want to think through their own wishes for service details to do so. Maybe this is a subject you've been putting off thinking about, or maybe you've just needed a reason to finally sit down with loved ones and talk through your wishes. But we hope that this workshop can be helpful for you, and we'd invite you to join us on May 3 to find out more. You can sign up at the kiosk in the Gathering Space.

### **Conversations and More - Save the Dates!**

Join us for engaging conversations and more on the following dates:

- Monday, May 5 & Friday, May 30 **Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

We'll be taking a summer break, but we'll be back with a lunch gathering on Tuesday, September 9th! Feel free to bring a friend along!

### **Youth Pool Project**

The Outreach Committee, together with Social Action Ministry, is partnering with Genacross Family and Youth Services to provide pool supplies to the youth center located in Liberty Center. Family and Youth Services works with children and youth ages 6-17 by providing programs that offer a structured daily routine, including teaching social skills, coping skills, and independent living skills. Their goal is to create behavioral changes in children and youth that enable them to function productively and appropriately within their communities. They currently serve 30 children and youth at the Liberty Center location.

The center is renovating the outside pool for the kids to use this summer and is in need of the following items: Goggles -Outdoor play equipment (basketballs, soccer balls, frisbee, sidewalk chalk) -Pool toys and games (no pool noodles) - Arm Floats - Life Jackets - Diving sticks - Pool towels.

The committees will be accepting items from Easter Sunday (April 20th) until Mother's Day (May 11th). You may also make monetary donations to Community of Christ Lutheran Church and show "Liberty Center Youth Pool Project" in the memo line. If you have any questions, please reach out to any member of the Outreach Committee. You may also contact Michael George, Executive Director of Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation, at [MiGeorge@Genacross.org](mailto:MiGeorge@Genacross.org).

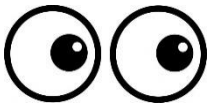
**Adult Cinco de Mayo Party** May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6 p.m. Nofzinger's, 6637 Blue Prairie, Whitehouse. Join us for a fun-filled evening! There will be games, a Margarita Contest, a taco bar, and a piñata. Sign up at the kiosk with what you would like to bring. Any questions, contact Susan at 419-654-9227.

## JOIN US FOR FUN AND LAUGHTER ON MULCH DAY

A layer of mulch will be added to the landscaping around the church. We are looking for volunteers to help with this on **Saturday, May 10, at 10:00 a.m.** Please bring your wheelbarrows, shovels, and rakes. Thank you from the property committee.



**Altar Flowers are given by the Gebhart Family in  
Celebration of Michelle's Birthday! ♥♥**



<b>Sidewalk Repair April 28, 29 &amp; 30</b>
<b>Stewardship</b>
Tuesday, April 29, 6:00 p.m.
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>
Thursday, May 1, 10:30 a.m.
<b>Thursday Bible Study</b>
Thursday, May 1, 1:00 p.m.
<b>End of Life Workshop</b>
Saturday, May 3, 9:00 a.m.
<b>Christian Education Youth Workshop</b>
Saturday, May 3, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
<b>Confirmation @ CoC</b>
Sunday, May 4, 12:30-2:00 p.m.