

THE BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST OF
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
WELCOME YOU TO THE DIVINE SERVICE!

THE 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 28, 2024 – 8:00 A.M.



Christ the King Lutheran Church

A member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

Declaring new life in Jesus Christ & encouraging all to take their next step of faith with Jesus!

205-988-5004 -- www.ctkbham.org

611 Riverchase Parkway West
Birmingham, Alabama 35244

***Our vision:** All people will know God personally through Jesus Christ.*

***Our mission:** Inward searching, outward seeking, forward together with Jesus Christ.*

Psalm 139:23--Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

Luke 19:10 -- For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Matthew 4:19 -- "Come, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024 - 8:00 a.m.

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Welcome! We're glad you're here....

OUR INVITATION: Our family of faith invites you to participate in our mission to share the Gospel (which means “good news”) of Jesus Christ, as we gather to hear the word of God and share the presence of Christ in Holy Communion and Christian fellowship. The Gospel is that Almighty God is for us and with us, and we know this with certainty through Jesus Christ. With your participation, our God-given mission to spread this good news to the world and the surrounding community can only be strengthened. Our pastor and members are here for you!

Sunday School Classes and Rooms (all classes meet at 9:20 a.m.):

Jesus's Questions in The Gospel of John, Led by Pastor Chris in the Luther Room

Oasis with Martha Green & Maizie Nelson, in the Luther Room foyer.

The Life of Christ, Led by Tim Champion, in Fellowship 2.

Children's Sunday Education - NURSERY IS available for infants & children 3 years of age during each worship service, and education time. Following are where everyone will meet:

Nursery (infant - 3 years old) ~ Main blg Nursery

4th – 5th grade ~ Disciple Room

3K & K ~ John Room

Jr. High ~ Jr High Room

1st – 3rd grade ~ Matthew & Mark Room

Sr. High ~ Youth Room

TODAY'S BIBLE READINGS NOTES: *This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PASTOR: Christ is risen!

Congregation: He is risen indeed!

PASTOR: Christ is alive!

Congregation: He is alive indeed!

PASTOR: Christ is with us!

Congregation: He is with us indeed!

CALL TO WORSHIP & APRIL MEMORY VERSE :

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13

♪ **THE HYMN OF JOY: "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"** (LBW #535, green book)

1. Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all,
we bow before you. All on earth your scepter
claim, All in heav'n above adore you. Infinite
your vast domain, Everlasting is your reign.

2. Hark! the glad celestial hymn Angel choirs
above are raising; Cherubim and seraphim, In
unceasing chorus praising, Fill the heav'ns
with sweet accord: "Holy, holy, holy Lord!"

3. Lo, the apostolic train Join your sacred name
to hallow; Prophets swell the glad refrain, And
the white-robed martyrs follow; And from
morn to set of sun Through the Church the
song goes on.

4. Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we
name you, Though in essence only one;
Undivided God we claim you And, adoring,
bend the knee While we own the mystery.

THE 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 HYMN OF PRAISE:**

pg.60-61 in Green Book for music

All: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Women: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of
God.

All: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Men: Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

All: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Women: Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor,
glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

All: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Men: For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

All: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY: *(Spoken by all)* O 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME: Trust and follow Jesus. He gives you power, love, and self-control.

♪ **ANTHEM: "Gift of Love"**

Adult Choir

arr Hal Hopson

*Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, And have not love; my words are
vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love
profess, But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin. Come, Spirit, come, our
hearts control Our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship and
are freed. Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 8:26-40

The Introduction: *Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

The Reading:

²⁶ But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot." ³⁰ Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: "He was led as a sheep to slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He does not open His mouth. ³³ "In humiliation His judgment was taken away; Who will relate His generation? For His

life is removed from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch answered Philip and said, "Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. ³⁶ As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁷ And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." ³⁸ And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

(Lector: "This is the word of the Lord!" then, **all**, "Thanks be to God!")

♪ THE PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31

(Congregation has verses in **bold**)

The Introduction: *All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD.*

From you comes my praise in the ' great assembly;*

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who ' fear the LORD.

²⁶ **The poor shall eat ' and be satisfied.***

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts ' live forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn ' to the LORD;*

all the families of nations shall bow ' before God.

²⁸ **For dominion belongs ' to the LORD,***

who rules o- ' ver the nations.

²⁹ Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow ' down in worship;*

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- ' fore the LORD.

³⁰ **Their descendants shall ‘serve the LORD,***

whom they shall proclaim to genera- ‘tions to come.

³¹ They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people ‘yet unborn,*
saying to them, “The ‘LORD has acted!”

♪ THE ALLELUIA VERSE:

C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

The Introduction: *On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.*

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

(sung) **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel:

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; he

who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

(sung) **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE PASTORAL PRAYER and SERMON:

♪ HYMN of the DAY: "Beautiful Savior"*(LBW #518, green book)*

1. Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

3. Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky.

2. Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, Praise, adoration, Now and forevermore be thine!

THE NICENE CREED

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

After each petition, the leader says, "Lord, in your mercy" and all respond, "Hear our prayer."

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE:

Greetings celebrate God bringing us peace together with Himself through Christ.

MINUTE for MISSION:

& GIVING THANKS to God with His tithes (*first 10% income*) & our offerings (*beyond 10%*).

Our Mercy Ministry basket today supports SOS (Summer of Service) Camps

Prayer requests can be written on prayer cards and turned in here and/or sent to office@ctkbham.org.

*Offerings are appreciated: plates are at the back of the sanctuary or give at www.ctkbham.org, or mail a check to:
Christ the King Lutheran Church, 611 Riverchase Parkway West, Birmingham, AL 35244.*

♪ **THE OFFERTORY VERSE:** Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open our eyes; breaking our bread, giving us glory; Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

THE OFFERING OF PRAYER: P: Let us pray. Merciful Father,
C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CELEBRATING & SHARING CHRIST'S PROMISED PRESENCE IN HOLY COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER: 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. Amen.

♪ **COMMUNION HYMN:**
Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT: *All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present as he promised are invited to Commune. Pastor will speak a blessing in Christ for children who have not received First Communion instruction and all others who ARE NOT baptized.*

♪ **At Distribution:** Congregation sings both 1) #501 in LBW, green book &
2) #524 in LBW, green book

THE BLESSING, PRAYER, AND BENEDICTION

♪ **HYMN to the WORLD: "Give To Our God Immortal Praise"** (LBW #520, green book)

1. Give to our God immortal praise!	Wonders of grace to God belong;
Mercy and truth are all his ways;	Repeat his mercies in your song.
Wonders of grace to God belong;	
Repeat his mercies in your song.	3. Give to the Lord of lords renown;
	The King of kings with glory crown.
2. He sent his Son with pow'r to save	His mercies ever shall endure
From guilt and darkness and the grave.	When lords and kings are known no more!

THE DISMISSAL:

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

EASTER POSTLUDE CHORUS: “Because He Lives” William J. Gaither

Because He lives I can face tomorrow; Because He lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living just because He lives.

The altar flowers & eternal candle are sponsored by Dick & Cheryl O'Brien in celebration of Victoria's 21st birthday.

If you'd like to sponsor altar flowers or candle, please sign up outside the library door or contact the church office.

THE SCRIPTURE TO CONSIDER FOR NEXT SUNDAY'S (5/5) WORSHIP:

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; John 15:9-17

THE SCRIPTURE TO CONSIDER FOR THIS WEDNESDAY'S WORSHIP:
1 John 5:1-6

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and

this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

⁵Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

Disciplemaker's Prayer

from Deut. 6:1-9; Mark 3:13-14; 12:30-31; Matt. 28:18-20; John 17:20; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 4:16-17

Heavenly Father, Thank you for giving me a discipling way of life in Christ Jesus. **As I go through every part of this day, help me to love you and love the people who cross my path -- starting with my family.** Don't let me miss the adventures you are sending my way to live or the exciting opportunities to speak the Good News about Jesus today. Draw my heart to you and to specific people you want me to pull close for Jesus-like discipling friendships. By your Word and Spirit, transform me into a follower of Jesus who loves you, loves people, and makes disciples who make more disciples, ad infinitum. In Jesus' name, Amen.