

April 25 & 28, 2024 5th Sunday of Easter



The Living Lord Produces Active Faith

Generally, our actions are shaped by our beliefs. People who eat low-carb diets do so, probably not because they hate pasta, but because they believe it healthiest. If a man buys stock in a company, it probably is because he believes in their business plan. Our beliefs shape our behavior. This is true of Christians' belief in the resurrection. We believe that Christ's resurrection means our resurrection to a glorious eternal life is guaranteed. That inevitably shapes how we will act now.

However, it is not simply the facts of the resurrection that shape our behavior. It is the person of the resurrection. Jesus is not some wise, dead sage whose advice is contained in dusty books. Jesus lives! Therefore, through his Word, he is able to work on our minds and hearts, molding them to his perfect will. Here is a resurrection reality. Jesus fills us with his Spirit, not only so that we have faith, but also so that we produce the fruits of faith he seeks.

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) and warns there are dangers in taking communion in an improper way (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), we practice close communion. WELS, ELS, and members of other churches around the world who are in fellowship with WELS are welcome to commune with us. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and communing with us in the future, please speak to pastor or an usher.

Opening Hymn

Welcome Happy Morning CW 163



Tune: SEI DU MIR GEGRÜSSET (65 65 D with Refrain) Enchiridion Geistlike Lede und Psalmen, Lübeck, 1545.

Stand

M: Christ is risen! C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

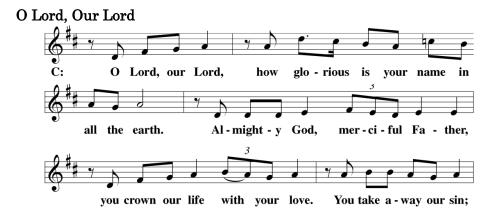
- M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.
- C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, For sins of habit and sins of choice, For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins, Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

Absolution (pronouncement of forgiveness)

- M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.





Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Choir (10:30 am) I am the vine, you are the branches I am the vine, you are the branches and if in Myself you will abide, and My words I have given unto you; You shall bear much fruit and My Father glorify. If you abide in Me and My words abide in you. And will prove to the world that you are Mine. You may ask what you will and it shall be. Refrain Refrain Abide in me, and I in you: I am the vine, you are the branches for the branches cannot live without the vine. And these things I have spoken unto you; Neither can you without Me. That in Me you might find full joy and love divine. As you wholly live your life in Me. Refrain By Annette Seaton

THE WORD

First Lesson

Acts 4:32-37

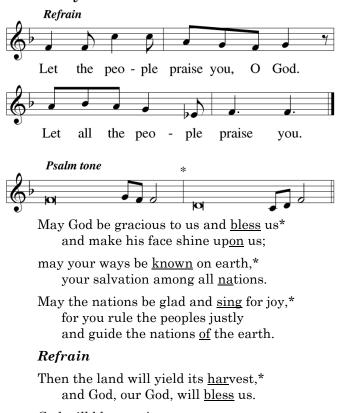
In the early church, as the apostles preached the resurrection of Christ, the living Lord produced the fruits or unity and generosity.

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet. (NIV)

Ahide

Psalm of the Day



God will <u>bless</u> us,* and all the ends of the earth will <u>fear</u> him.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son* and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it, as it was in the be<u>gin</u>ning,* is now, and will be forever. <u>A</u>men.

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Dale Wood. From Seasonal Psalms. © 1978 Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

Second Lesson

St. John encourages us to demonstrate living faith in loving words and actions.

¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we

1 John 3:18-24

have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia. (John 14:6 cf. NIV)

Stand

Gospel

John 15:1-8

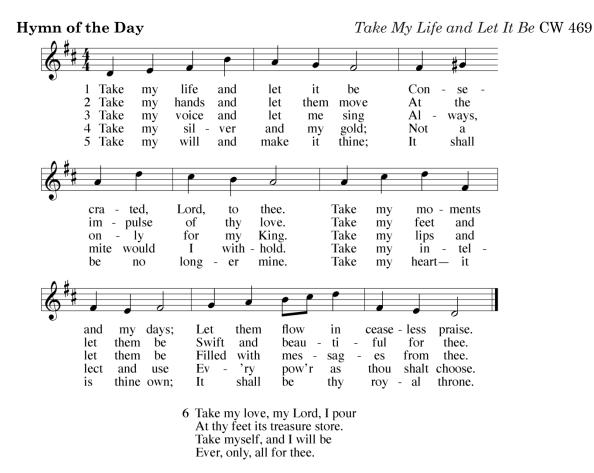
Jesus is the vine who gives us, his branches, the ability to produce fruits of faith.

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!



Text:Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79.Tune:PATMOS (77 77) William H. Havergal, 1793–1870.

Sermon

Stand

1 John 3:18-24

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Be Seated

Offering

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Stand

Prayer of the Church

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 and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

- C: We lift them up to the Lord.
- M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
- C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the church. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.



Holy, Holy, Holy

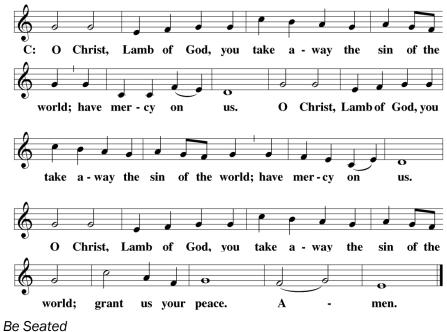
Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

- M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God



Distribution

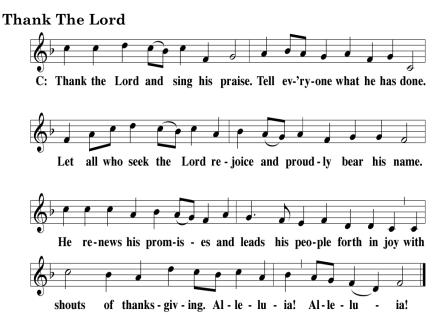
Distribution Hymn



Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. J. Adam Rimbach, 1871–1941, alt.

Tune: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN (87 87 877 877) Georg G. Boltze, 18th century, alt.

Stand



M: Hear the prayers of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son, may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

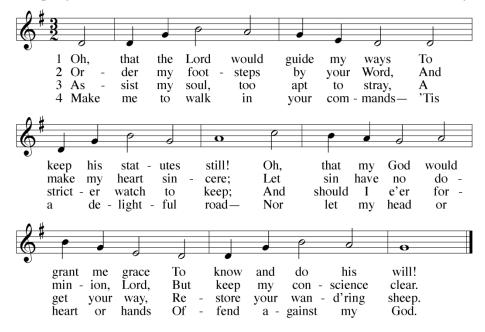
M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

Closing Hymn



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, abr., alt.

Tune: EVAN (CM) William H. Havergal, 1793-1870, adapt.

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Pancake Porky Breakfast

Everyone is invited to join us in the school gym today, Sunday, April 28 from 7:30 am to noon for a pancake and porky breakfast hosted by the Morrison Zion Youth Group. Donations go to support their trip to the International Youth Rally. Morrison Zion Knights Maple Syrup made from trees on our campus will be available. Donations given for this maple syrup will go to the Youth Group.

Annual Voters Meeting

The annual voters meeting will be held today, Sunday, April 28 after the 10:30 am service in the school commons. All voting members of Morrison Zion are invited to attend. We will vote on the new Leadership Team, if we should proceed to Merge for Mission-Phase 2, and the 2024-2025 budget along with discussing ministry from this past year and looking into the future. We thank God for the many blessings God has given this year and look forward to how we can share the Gospel in the future. You will have time to have brunch/lunch at the Pancake Porky Breakfast before we begin.

