

Christ the Rock Lutheran Church  
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**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 2, 2021**

WELCOME TO CHRIST THE ROCK!

**SERIES THEME: Ministry Basics**

In this series of teachings from the Gospel according to John, Jesus opens the Scriptures to help us to take his teaching to heart. We realize what it means to be his disciples and concentrate on our calling to serve Him in loving response.

**SERVICE THEME: Produce Fruit!**

Through faith, we are connected to Christ as a branch is connected to a grape vine. The result of being connected to Jesus is that we will now bear fruit. The fruit of a Christian is a life of love. Out of thanks for God's love, we now seek to love our fellow man by sharing God's message of love with him. As believers we seek to show love not only in what we say, but also in what we do.

**Our Practice for Holy Communion**

The Lord's Supper is a means by which Christ strengthens our faith as we receive His body and blood together with the bread and wine. Receiving the Sacrament is a public confession of faith. Therefore, Christ the Rock observes the Biblical principle of "Close Communion." We invite those persons who are members of this congregation or another Wisconsin Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) congregation to commune today. Other guests are asked to speak with our pastor if they desire to join our confessional fellowship. Thank you!

**MORNING PRAISE**

*Matins*

*Morning Praise or Matins is an order of service that takes powerful biblical texts and combines them with fresh, energetic melodies. This service has been in use among Christian communities as a way to usher in a new day with God's blessing, recalling the biblical mandate to "watch and pray."*

Minister: O Lord, open my lips.

**Congregation: And my mouth shall declare your praise.**

M: Hasten to save me, O God.

**C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.**

M: Give glory to God, our light and our life.

**C: Come, oh, come, let us worship.**

# COME, OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD *Venite*

*Psalm 95*

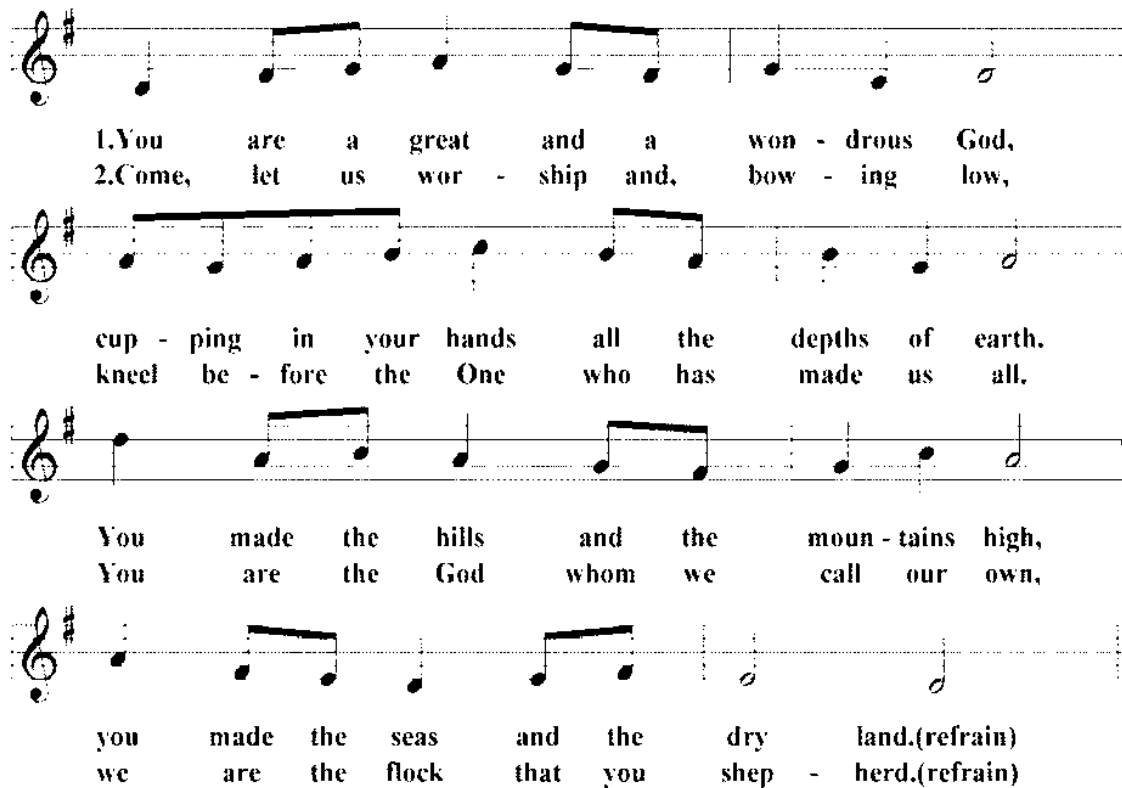
*This song, the Venite, Latin for "come," allows worshipers to come and make a joyful noise in praise of the maker of heaven and earth using the words of Psalm 95*

## **Refrain:**



Come, oh, come let us sing to the Lord,  
let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;  
come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,  
come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

## **Verses:**



1. You are a great and a won - drous God,  
2. Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,  
cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.  
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.  
You made the hills and the moun - tains high,  
You are the God whom we call our own,  
you made the seas and the dry land.(refrain)  
we are the flock that you shep - herd.(refrain)

*Refrain*

Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.

Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Minister: May God be gracious to us and bless us  
 Congregation: **and make his face shine upon us;**

may your ways be known on earth,  
**your salvation among all nations.**

May the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
**for you rule the peoples justly  
 and guide the nations of the earth.**

*Refrain*

Then the land will yield its harvest,  
**and God, our God, will bless us.**

God will bless us,  
**and all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

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

*Refrain*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

Phillip's interaction with the man from Ethiopia leads to fruits of faith: teaching and baptizing that man.

**26** Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."

**27** So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, **28** and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.

**29** The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

**30** Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

**31** "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

**32** This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. **33** In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth."

**34** The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?"

**35** Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

**36** As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?"

**38** And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

**39** When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

**40** Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 John 3:18-24

God is with us in every situation. As we do what pleases him, we produce fruits of faith for the Lord.

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 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.

## RESPONSE:

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia

## HYMN

### "Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go"

*Christian Worship #456*

1 Forth in your name, O Lord, I go,  
My daily labor to pursue,  
Determined only you to know  
In all I think or speak or do.

2 Oh, let me cheerfully fulfill  
The task your wisdom has assigned  
And do your good and perfect will—  
In all my works your presence find!

3 May I find you at my right hand;  
Your eyes see truly what I do.  
I labor on at your command  
And offer all my works to you.

4 Give me to bear your easy yoke  
And ev'ry moment watch and pray  
And still to things eternal look  
And hasten to your glorious day.

5 For you I joyously employ  
Whatever you in grace have giv'n;  
I run my daily course with joy  
And closely walk with you to heav'n.

**Resurrection Christians Produce Fruit**

**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 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.

1. We are connected to Jesus as a branch to a tree
2. As connected branches we want to produce fruits of faith

*Please stand*



# YOU ARE GOD, WE PRAISE YOU *Te Deum*

## Refrain



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.

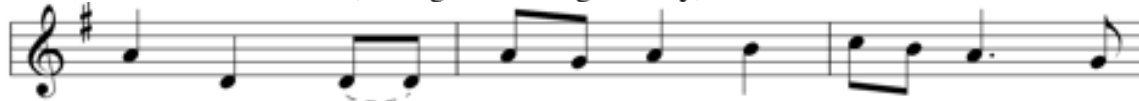


To you, O Fa-ther ho - ly, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise.

## Verses



1. With the an - gels in heav - en,  
2. Cre - a - tor of all things, **We praise you, we**  
3. O Christ, King of glo - ry,



praise you! With the cher - u - bim and ser - a-phem,  
O Je - sus Christ, the Son of God, **We**  
You be - came a man to set us free;



praise you, we praise you! With a - pos - tles and proph - ets,  
O Spir - it, most ho - ly, **We**  
You have ris - en to free us;



praise you, we praise you! With the mar - tyrs and your  
To the Trin - i - ty most  
And with all your saints in



ho - ly Church,  
bless - ed, **We sing in end - less** *to Refrain*  
glo - ry, **praise!** *to Refrain*  
*to Final Refrain*

## **LORD, HAVE MERCY (Kyrie)**

*(Psalm 27:7)*

*Spoken*

M: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

**C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

M: In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden.

**C: Amen.**

M: O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy, and in your faithfulness, come to my relief. Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you.

**C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart. I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.**

M: Jesus says to his people, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

**C: Yes, I believe.**

M: Because of the promise of our dear Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.



## THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is good and right to give him thanks.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join the glorious song:

**C: Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Matthew 26:26-28, I Corinthians 11:24, 25*

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION

*The Lord's Supper is a means by which Christ strengthens our faith as we receive His body and blood together with the bread and wine. Receiving the Sacrament is a public confession of faith. Therefore, Beautiful Savior observes the Biblical principle of "Close Communion." We invite those persons who are members of this congregation or another Wisconsin Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) congregation to commune today. Other guests are asked to speak with our pastor if they desire to join our confessional fellowship. Thank you!*

## THANKSGIVING

**M:** O Lord, our God, govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world so that your Church may worship you in peace and joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**M:** Let us praise the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## BLESSING

*Spoken*

*Numbers 6:24-27*

**M:** The Lord bless and keep you.

**C: Amen.**

**M:** The Lord's face ever shine upon you.

**C: Amen.**

**M:** The Lord grant you peace for all your days.

**C: Amen.**

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CLOSING HYMN

“This Is the Threefold Truth”

Christian Worship #406



1 This is the three - fold truth on which our  
 2 Made sa - cred by long use, new - mint - ed  
 3 On this we fix our minds as, kneel - ing  
 4 By this we are up - held when doubt or  
 5 This is the three - fold truth which, if we



faith de - pends; And with this joy - ful  
 for our time, Our lit - ur - gies sum  
 side by side, We take the bread and  
 grief as - sails Our Chris - tian faith and  
 hold it fast, Chang - es the world and



cry wor - ship be - gins and ends:  
 up the hope we have in him:  
 wine, take him, the Cru - ci - fied:  
 love, and on - ly grace a - vails:  
 us and brings us home at last:

*Refrain*



Christ has died! Christ is ris - en! Christ will come a - gain!