



Online Worship
May 2, 2021 at 10 am
5th Sunday of Easter Sunday

Christ Lutheran Church . Woodcliff Lake, NJ

www.clc4u.com

201-391-4224

All text in *italics* is spoken by the leader.
Text in **bold** is your invitation to join in. Please speak those words as you are able.

OPENING & WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Let us remember God's promise of forgiveness in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ: Holy Jesus, it is by your gracious sacrifice upon the cross that we receive the mercy of salvation. It is in your resurrection that we find eternal life. Yet we are an obstinate people; a prideful people. Many times we forget we are yours. We behave as if we are not a people of the resurrection. So, in this silence, we ask you to show us the brokenness of our lives.

[A moment of silence.]

Gracious God,
we ask for your forgiveness and the renewal of our lives. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, have mercy on us.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

SONG - Beautiful Savior

[played and sung by Argine Safari and David Scance.]

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

[continue next column ->]

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray. 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.***

A MESSAGE FOR ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

[By Pastor Marc.]

A READING FROM 1 John 4:7-21

[Read by Kate S.]

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So 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.

Love 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. There 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. We love because he first loved us. Those 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

**A READING FROM THE THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
JOHN 15:1-8**

[Read by Kate S.]

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON - Be a Branch

[By Pastor Marc.]

SONG - Indescribable

[played and sung by Argine Safari and David Scance.]

*From the highest of heights to
the depths of the sea,
Creation's revealing your
majesty.*

*From the colors of Fall to the
fragrance of Spring,
Ev'ry creature unique in the
song that it sings.*

All exclaiming:

*Indescribable, uncontainable;
You placed the stars in the sky,
and You know them by name.
You are amazing, God.*

*All powerful, untamable;
Awestruck, we fall to our knees
as we humbly proclaim
You are amazing, God.*

*Who has told ev'ry lightning
bolt where it should go,
Or seen heavenly storehouses
laden with snow?*

*Who imagined the sun and
give source to its light,*

[song continues next column ->]

*Yet conceals it to bring us the
coolness of night?
None can fathom.*

*Indescribable, uncontainable;
You placed the stars in the sky,
and You know them by name.*

*You are amazing, God.
All powerful, untamable;
Awestruck, we fall to our knees
as we humbly proclaim
You are amazing, God.
You are amazing, God.*

*Indescribable, uncontainable;
You placed the stars in the sky,
and You know them by name.
You are amazing, God.*

*Incomp'able, unchangeable;
You see the depths of my heart
and You love me the same.
You are amazing, God.*

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

OFFERING

[Based on work by Rev. Deborah Roof.]

Our God's generosity has no boundaries. We receive so much from our loving Creator. This is the time for us to step up and give back a portion of the overwhelming treasure we have received so that our meager generosity shouts good news to all the world.

CLC is grateful for your generosity so that we can be generous to others with our ministry. If you would like to support this ministry you can do so on our website or by writing a check and dropping it in the mail to us. We will use your generous gift to generously offer the word of God to all people and serve our neighbors in need. Thank you for the ways your generosity offers hope to the wider community.

*And finally, let us thank our generous God. The abundance you give us is a wonder for us to ponder. We have searched our hearts and now offer these gifts. Bless them we pray, so that they may reach far and wide into the world with joy and good news!
Amen.*

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THE DAY

[modified from work published by the ELCA Worship blog]

*On this fifth Sunday of Easter, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all in any need. When you hear the words “Hear our prayer, O loving God:” please respond with, “**Make us one in you.**”*

God of triune mystery, as you have formed your church to be one fruitful vine, strengthen our churches and our ecumenical connections with Christians across the street and around the globe. Guide our bishops, Elizabeth and Tracie, and our entire synod as they gather for our annual synod assembly this week.

*Hear our prayer, O loving God:
Make us one in you.*

As you blessed Philip the evangelist, nurture our missionaries and theologians, our seminaries, our Sunday schools, and all adult discussions of the faith.

*Hear our prayer, O loving God:
Make us one in you.*

As you brought the Ethiopian eunuch to baptism, lead all Christian communities to welcome people of each sexual identity, every skin color, and all national backgrounds.

Hear our prayer, O loving God:
Make us one in you.

As you created an earth with countless forms of plant and animal life, train us to honor and maintain the bountiful earth that you intend for us and future generations.

Hear our prayer, O loving God:
Make us one in you.

As you have provided food and drink for humankind, give to all persons wisdom in their use of wine, and strengthen recovering alcoholics in maintaining their sobriety.

Hear our prayer, O loving God:
Make us one in you.

As you call humankind to live in love with one another, bring peace to nations, to neighborhoods, and to homes. Grant wisdom to our elected leaders, especially Joseph, the President; Philip, New Jersey's Governor; James, the Bergen County Executive; and all the mayors and councilpersons of the towns we call home. Protect the oppressed and the vulnerable in every land, show us the path to nonviolence in all things.

Hear our prayer, O loving God:
Make us one in you.

As you have promised to hear the cries of all the needy, listen now to the countless people around the world who are suffering from sickness, from the coronavirus, from injustice, from abuse, from starvation. Hear our pleas for India. We pray especially for: Camp Koinonia, Richard Acito, Dolores Albert, Alyssia, Anthony, Sue Bachstetter, Kristy Bauer, Sharon Bongard, Eric Bongard, Mark Buckley, Tina Casamento, Jim Christensen, Jackson Fehr, Jean Helom, Mae Hulburt, Jerry, Ruben Moreno, Neil, Faye Rekosik, Joyce Rudie, Lorraine Sadlon, Lata Sharma, Alice Sheer, Miriam and Earl Valder, Billy Webb and those we hold in our hearts during this moment of silence:

[a moment of silence]

Hear our prayer, O loving God:

Make us one in you.

We remember those who have died in the faith, especially those we name in our hearts. As you have promised to bring your people into your strong and tender embrace, preserve us until we enter with all the saints into your everlasting mercy.

Hear our prayer, O loving God:

Make us one in you.

Into your hands, O living God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE PEACE

I invite you to take a look at everyone who surrounds you in your sacred space. If you are currently by yourself, know that the entire church is, through Jesus, always with you. Send a blessing to those physically closest to you or send a text/type out a DM/or make a plan to call someone you care about - and wish that the peace of Christ may be with them.

Let us now think about all who are worshipping with us online, via conference call or in-person. In our hearts, let's send to your entire faith community a blessing and wish that the peace of Christ may be with them.

Finally, let the blessing we offer each other go out to our families, friends, neighbors, and to the entire world. With God's help, our hearts are big enough to extend peace that far. Let us embody the peace of Christ after we leave worship today.

HOLY COMMUNION

[We invited you to gather a bit of bread (or similar item), drink (wine or grape juice). The elements used during communion remind us of a substantial meal we would eat during a celebration.]

The Lord be with you.

And also 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 our thanks and praise.

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. 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. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit across phone lines, social media, and the internet - let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

You are here, not because you are perfect, but because, through Christ Jesus, you are welcomed and loved.

This is the body of Christ, given for you.

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

[After consuming the elements.]

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray. Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG - Starry Night

[played and sung by Argine Safari and David Scance.]

*From the birds that sing
in the tallest trees,
To the human life of you and
me;
From the desert sands
To the place we stand,
He is God of all,
He is ev'rything. (Whoa.)*

*I'm giving my life to the only
one
Who makes the moon reflect
the sun.
Ev'ry starry night,
That was His design.
I'm giving my life to the only
Son
Who was and is and yet to
come.
Let the praises ring
Cause He is ev'rything.*

[song continues in next column ->]

*From the autumn leaves
That will ride the breeze,
To the faith it takes
To pray and see;
From the painted sky
To my plank filled eye,
He is God of all,
He is ev'rything. (Whoa.)*

*I'm giving my life to the only
Son
Who was and is and yet to
come.
Let the praises ring
Cause He is ev'rything.*

*I'm giving my life to the only
one
Who makes the moon reflect
the sun.
I'm giving my life to the only
Son
Who makes the moon reflect
the sun.*

[song continues on next page ->]

*Ev'ry starry night,
That was His design.
I'm giving my life to the only
Son
Who was and is and yet to
come.
Let the angels sing
That He is heavenly.*
[song continues in next column ->]

*I'm giving my life to the only
one
Who makes the moon reflect
the sun.
Ev'ry starry night,
That was His design.
Let the praises ring
Cause He is ev'rything.*

BLESSING

[by Rev. John Ballenger]

*May we, our God,
in the wake of Easter,
ride a wave of irrepressible hope—
rising from the deep
following the trajectory of love
over the turbulences of our living
and through the currents.*

*So within joy,
may we sense Your presence
hovering ever with us—
ever speaking
new creation—
ever calling us into possibility.*

*May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.***

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!” Our Prayer Chain is available for daily prayer for anyone. Contact the church office with concerns/celebrations.

COVID VACCINATIONS A small group of volunteers has been busy trying to get you a COVID vaccine! If you're having difficulties navigating the many online sign-ups - or have limited internet access - contact Kate Stutzel at kate.stutzel@gmail.com or contact the church office.

RIP MEDICAL DEBT is an organization that helps families and individuals at the poverty level recover from crushing debt caused by medical expenses. They act like a collection agency - buying up debt that hasn't been paid back - but instead of seeking repayment, they use money from donors to forgive that debt instead. In that process, they remove that burden from the lives of families while helping to repair their credit history at the same time. Together, we're hoping to raise at least \$15,000. I know that sounds like a lot but that amount of money will be able to forgive \$1.5 million dollars of Medical Debt in Northern New Jersey. Learn more and make a donation by visiting <https://ripmedicaldebt.org/campaign/north-new-jersey/>

DO YOU GET OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER? It is sent out every Thursday. Please contact Pastor Marc to sign-up!

TODAY'S ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Musicians Argine Safari & David Scance

Reader

THIS WEEK:

Sunday, May 2	9:00 am Sunday School
	10:00 am Worship (Online & Outdoors)
	6:30 pm Confirmation Class
Tuesday, May 4	8:00 pm Worship Committee
Wednesday, May 5	7:00 pm Midweek Worship (Online)
	8:00 pm Chancel (Adult) Choir
Sunday, May 9	10:00 am Worship (Online & Outdoors)