

# **ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Sunday, April 28, 2024**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**9:30am Holy Communion Worship Service**



**3900 Freemansburg Ave., Easton PA 18045**

**(610) 252-2258**

**Zoom link for Live Broadcast:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82677651018?pwd=d1NSZ2V4NTVtMnFJaGp0Mm5GdTZrQT09>

By phone: +1 646-558-8656 (New York) or +1-312-626-6799 (Chicago) TOLL CHARGES MAY APPLY.

Meeting ID: 826 7765 1018

Passcode: 454700

**TODAY IN WORSHIP**

**Worship Leader:** Pastor Thomas Neel

**Worship Assistant:** Debbie Ealer

**Organist:** Mark Jonkman

**Audio-Video Production:** John Costanzo

**Usher:** Linda Trigiani

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING SONG**

**All Are Welcome**

Hymnal #641

**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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**A** 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.

**C** **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST READING**

**L** A reading from Acts, Chapter 8.

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L Word of God, word of life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

L A reading from First John, Chapter 4.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### **GOSPEL: John 15:1-8**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**P** [Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

#### **SERMON**

*Please stand as you are able.*

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Give Thanks*

See bulletin page 11.

#### **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.**

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**P** Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *A brief silence.*

A We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering especially (\_\_\_\_\_, and) those we now name silently in our hearts. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors especially (\_\_\_\_\_, and) those we now name silently in our hearts. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A We pray for St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Bethlehem and the Rev. Paul Braden, Designated Pastor. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A We pray for all who are in need of long-term prayers, especially Jessica, Elaine, Rodney, John, Lisa, Crystal, Michael, Debbie, Niklas, Lori, David, Laura, David, Paul, Barbara, Ethel, Jim, Melissa, John, Doug, and those we now name aloud or silently in our hearts. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Peaceful God, we plead for an end to the violence in the Ukraine and Gaza. Comfort those who have lost or are separated from their loved ones due to these conflicts. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## **OFFERING**

**ANTHEM** *I'm So Blessed*

Chancel Choir

Words to sing along on Bulletin Page 12.

**OFFERING SONG**    *Create in Me a Clean Heart*



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

*Please stand as you are able.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**A** Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

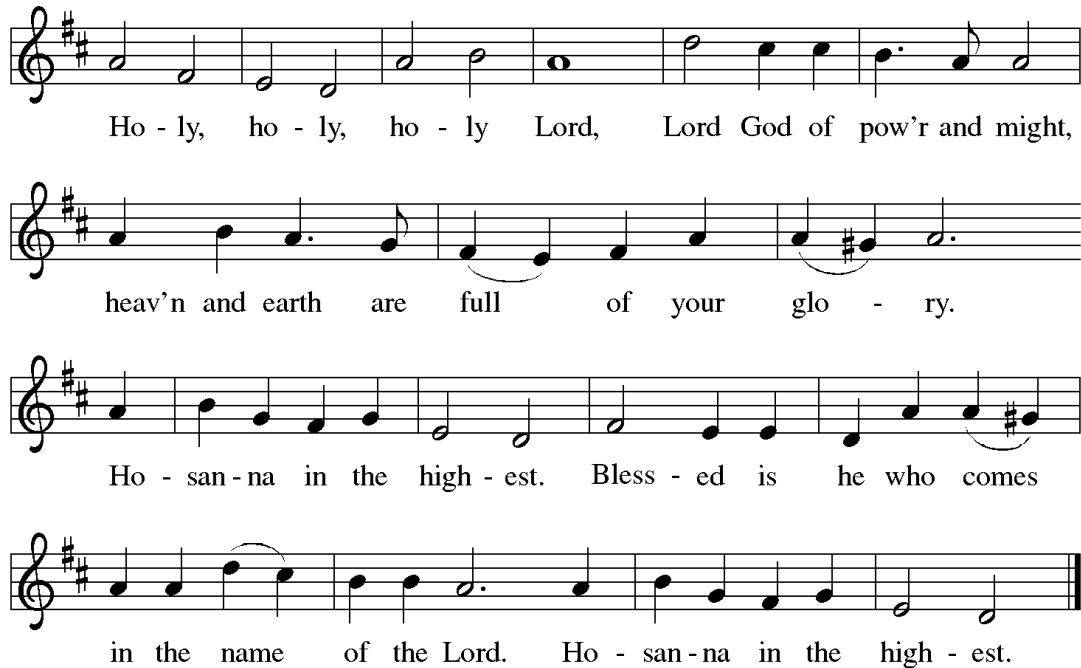
**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

**P** Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

*Please be seated.*

## 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.

## Hymns during distribution:

You Are Holy	Hymnal #525
Let Us Go Now to the Banquet	Hymnal #523
O Living Bread from Heaven	Hymnal #542

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*Holy Communion will be celebrated at the base of the steps this day or at your seats. All are welcome to receive the bread and the wine. Gluten free wafers are available for those who want them. Please stand as you are able.*

*When all have received Communion:*

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**



### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝  
bless you now and always.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**     *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!*

Hymnal #385

### **DISMISSAL**

A Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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The **ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God by Kathy Brandt in honor of Charles Brandt's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**BIRTHDAYS...** Brynlee Forik, John George, Letitia Hill, Ryan Himmelreich, Jean Pleiss, Kristen Reese, Sean Reese, Grayson Rodriguez, and Marty Schaeffer.

**Immediate Prayers\*:** Tricia Cappello, Marilyn Cappello, Charlie, Carol Ehler, Niklas Enblom, Rolf Enblom, Maj-Britt Enblom, Pam Garity, Jim, Craig Koons, Rebecca and Mike Lepkowski, Lorenzo, Chris Lynn, Corey Mashintonio, C. David Massey, Ron Parks, Rachel, Diane Shaw.

\*As of April 19, 2024

**Members Homebound/Nursing Home:** Margaret Bennett, Shirley Curto, Lisa Detweiler, Carl Fisher, Theresa Lawhead, Shirley Messenlehner, Irene Neel, Doris Neumeyer, Jim Slater, Ruth Snyder, and Doris Wanamaker.

**Long Term Prayers:** Jessica Arnoldi, Elaine Bobeck, Rodney Burda, John Clay, Lisa Detweiler, Crystal DiLonardo, Michael DiLonardo, Debbie DiLonardo, Niklas Enblom, Lori Gilbert, David Jackson, Laura Lee Laustsen, David Laustsen, Paul Laustsen, Barbara Lindner, Ethel Shive, Melissa Steckel, John Velekei, and Doug VonNessen.

**Service Members:** MSgt Courtney Baskwell, Lt. Matthew Baskwell, Airman Levi Birchfield, Staff Sgt. Kyle Callantine, PV Anthony Duginski, Captain Vince Franchino, Lt. Elizabeth Gordon, Captain Derek Hartman, Major Kristina Himmelreich, Sgt. Rhiannon Perry, CPO Dennis Shive, Corporal Mark Pollard, and Seaman Recruit Joseph Suhr.

**THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S**

<b>Sunday, April 28</b>	<b>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> 9:30pm *Holy Communion Worship Service No Confirmation Class
<b>Monday, April 29</b>	7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group
<b>Tuesday, April 30</b>	7:00pm Easton Musical Arts
<b>Wednesday, May 1</b>	7:00pm Bible Study
<b>Thursday, May 2</b>	7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<b>Friday, May 3</b>	7:30pm Crossroads AA
<b>Saturday, May 4</b>	Confirmation Rehearsal
<b>Sunday, May 5</b>	<b>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> 9:30pm *Holy Communion Worship Service/Confirmation

\*This service is live broadcast and recorded.

# Give Thanks



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And



now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Text: Henry Smith  
Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

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## I'm So Blessed

About the Song:

*"I'm So Blessed" is a song originally performed by American Christian country band Cain . The song impacted Christian radio in the United States on July 15, 2022, as the fourth single from their debut studio album, Rise Up (2021). The song was written by Jonathan Smith, Logan Cain, Madison Cain, Matthew West , and Taylor Cain.*

*"I'm So Blessed" peaked at number three on the US Hot Christian Songs chart 'I'm So Blessed' reminds each of us that we can always be thankful for God no matter our circumstances.*

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The Lyrics:

I'm so blessed (I'm so blessed)  
Hallelujah, I'm blessed  
I'm so blessed (I'm so blessed)  
Hallelujah, I'm blessed

Trouble knocking at my door today  
I ain't gonna let it in  
Worry wanna steal my joy away  
But I ain't gonna let it win  
Cause on my best day, I'm a child of God  
On my worst day, I'm a child of God  
Oh, everyday is a good day  
And You're the reason why

I'm so blessed, I'm so blessed  
Got this heartbeat in my chest  
No, it doesn't matter about the rest  
If I got You Lord, I'm so blessed  
I'm so blessed (I'm so blessed)  
Hallelujah, I'm blessed  
I'm so blessed (I'm so blessed) (Okay)  
Hallelujah, I'm blessed

And when I count the problems that I see  
Hope looks all but gone  
But when I count the ways  
You're good to me  
You got me counting all day long  
Oh, yeah!  
I'm so blessed , I'm so blessed  
Got this heartbeat in my chest

No, it doesn't matter about the rest  
If I got You Lord, I'm so blessed

Hey I'm so blessed, I'm so blessed  
Got this heartbeat in my chest  
No, it doesn't matter about the rest  
If I got You Lord, I'm so blessed

Cause on my best day, I'm a child of God  
On my worst day, I'm a child of God  
Oh, everyday is a good day  
And You're the reason why  
Cause on my best day, I'm a child of God  
On my worst day, I'm a child of God  
Oh, everyday is a good day (Everyday is a good day)  
And You're the reason why

I'm so blessed , I'm so blessed  
Got this heartbeat in my chest  
No, it doesn't matter about the rest  
If I got You Lord, I'm so blessed (Sing it again)  
I'm so blessed , I'm so blessed  
Got this heartbeat in my chest  
No, it doesn't matter about the rest  
If I got You Lord, I'm so blessed (Hey, yeah)

Cause on my best day, I'm a child of God  
On my worst day, I'm a child of God (Oh)  
Oh, everyday is a good day  
And You're the reason why  
Cause on my best day, I'm a child of God  
On my worst day, I'm a child of God  
Oh, everyday is a good day  
And You're the reason why

I'm so blessed (I'm so blessed)(I'm so blessed)  
Hallelujah, I'm blessed I'm so blessed (I'm so  
blessed)  
Hallelujah, I'm blessed I'm so blessed (I'm so  
blessed)  
(No, it doesn't matter about the rest)  
Hallelujah, I'm blessed  
I'm so blessed (I'm so blessed) (If I got You  
Lord) Hallelujah, I'm blessed.