



I am the  
**True**  
vine

## *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

April 28, 2024  
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

*ELW Setting 10*

*“Living God’s Love”*

**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

400 North Broadway Street † Medina, Ohio 44256

330-725-8885 † [office@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:office@stmatthewmedina.org)

[www.stmatthewmedina.org](http://www.stmatthewmedina.org)

## St. Matthew invites you to join us in celebration of Holy Communion!

The Lord's table is open to all who believe and are baptized.

Please join us as we receive the means of grace, where Jesus promises to meet us in the bread and the wine.

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"Pages" are in the front of the hymnal.  
"Hymns" are located toward the back of the hymnal.

\*Please stand as you are able.

## GATHERING

### Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing*

J.F. Dandrieu

### \*Thanksgiving for Baptism

D: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**C: Amen.**

D: Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

D: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

D: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

D: Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

\***Gathering Song:**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!*

Hymn 385

### \*Greeting

D: 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.**

\*Kyrie

*Have Mercy on Us*

Page 203

\*Hymn of Praise

*Glory Be To God in Heaven*

Page 204

\*Prayer of the Day

**C: 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 Sermon

Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach

## WORD

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

<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.

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>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 before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

<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.

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## \*Gospel

John 15:1-8

P: The holy gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

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

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.**

## Sermon

Pastor Steven Mahaffey

## Hymn of the Day:

*Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

Hymn 389

## \*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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.**

### **\*Prayers of Intercession**

D: 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.*

D: 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.**

D: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

D: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

D: 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 Ron, Una Mae, Catherine, Diane, Sylvia, Richard, Karen, Ken, Karen, June, Steve, Tom, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Jerry, Todd, Logan, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

D: 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.**

D: With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. 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.**

D: 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.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Sharing of the Peace**

D: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**MEAL**

**Offertory**                      *Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You* (11:00)                      Luther Choir

**Offertory Response**        *We Give Thee but Thine Own* (vs. 1)                      Hymn 686

**\*Offertory Prayer**

P: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Great Thanksgiving**

Page 206

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.**

**\*Proper Preface**

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy**

Page 207

**\*Eucharistic Prayer**

**\*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.

**\*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.

**\*Lamb of God**

Page 208

**Communion Hymns**

*Come, Let Us Eat  
One Bread, One Body*

Hymn 491

Hymn 496

**\*Prayer after Communion**

P: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*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:**

*Let All Things Now Living*

Hymn 881

**\*Dismissal:**

D: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

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

**\*Postlude**

*Alleluia! Christ is Risen*

W. Hutson

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## PRAYERS

**Altar Flowers This Morning** are given to the glory of God with blessings and thanks to all for your welcome, love, and acceptance, by Becky and Jim Matyas.

**Prayers for Healing:** Ron Umscheid, Una Mae Gill, Catherine Forsythe, Diane Stahl, Sylvia, Richard, Karen Rupert, Ken Ault, Karen Strange, June Trenty, Steve Combs, Tom Thornton, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Jerry Jakovcic, Todd Costello, Logan, and Sandi.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

**Sunday, Fifth Sunday of Easter**, we worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with ELW 10 and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30.

**Sunday School** for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

**Hat Making** - 9:45 a.m. in the Library.

## NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 5, AT ST. MATTHEW

**Next Sunday, Sixth Sunday of Easter**, we will worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with Now the Feast and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30.

**Sunday School** for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

**Hat Making** - 9:45 a.m. in the Library.

**Youth Gathering Prep**, 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	8:30 - James Walker	11:00 - Andrew Hogan
Reader:	8:30 - Judy McLaughlin	11:00 - Jen Knaggs
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Carol Elkins Delores Ivan	11:00 - Peg Huber Jen Knaggs
Ushers:	8:30 - Jeff, Linda, & Faith Taraschke	11:00 - Jen & Sophie Hogan
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 - Owen Blakslee	
Altar Guild:	Kelly Obermeier	

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Needed for two small girls** - two twin bed frames, and small dresser. Please contact Brenda Disbrow, Parish Nurse at 330-461-6750 for details. Thank you.

**Collection for Birthcare of Medina** - The Evangelism and Communication team will be collecting items to donate to Birthcare of Medina County throughout the month of May. Please see lists of their needs by the collection box in the narthex. Also look for the article in the Shout-Out for more information about this collection ministry.

**Vacation Bible School registration is open** for all children who have completed Preschool through 5th grade. VBS will take place at St. Matthew June 24-28, 9-11:30 a.m. All registrations must be received by Sunday, June 2. Register at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe4cdM9dzJV7xUcce1sXgDD\\_YrHtQXmHmpAZc8OdO8Xxyo9mw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe4cdM9dzJV7xUcce1sXgDD_YrHtQXmHmpAZc8OdO8Xxyo9mw/viewform) or by using the link through the Shout-Out. **Volunteers needed!**

**Blood Pressure Screenings** - May 5, before and between services in Brenda's office.

**First Communion** - On Sunday, May 5, six youth will be welcomed to the communion table for the first time at the 11:00 service. Join us for a cake and punch reception in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m.

**Silent Book Club!** A big THANK YOU to everyone that came to our first Silent Book Club Meeting! Upcoming dates are 5/6, 5/20, 6/3, and 6/17 @6:30pm at Faith House. Mark your calendars! B. Y. O. Book and hope to see you there!

**Annual Spring Clean Up** - Saturday, May 11, beginning at 9:00 a.m. We will be mulching, cutting back trees/bushes around the parking lot, cleaning up around the church, cleaning up the yard at Faith House, cleaning up around the creek. Please bring yard tools, chainsaws, wheelbarrows, etc. Please contact Bill Knaggs with any questions or to volunteer. *Rain Date: May 18.*

**Potluck** - The Fun Fellowship group has planned an old fashioned potluck Saturday, May 11 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you can join us! Feel free to bring a friend and offer a ride to someone who needs transportation. Beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish from the list below, based on the first letter of your last name Please make sure to sign-up using the Sign-Up Genius link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084EAEA728A2F49-49237793-may11potluck/38499969#/>

**A-F** Main dish; **K-N** Side dish; **O-S** Finger food/appetizer; **T-W** Dessert

**Nursery Notice:** There will not be an attendant in the nursery on May 12. Parents, you may use the nursery to supervise your own child. We are still in need of a list of people to call to fill the nursery on these occasional times. Also, for the safety of the children and of the attendants, there should be two attendants every Sunday. If you are interested in assisting in the nursery, please let the office know.

**Bike Ride**, May 25, followed by a cookout at Pastor Steve's house. Watch for additional details to come.

**The Pierstorf College Fund** was established in 1994 and is a one-of-a-kind Lutheran financial aid program for all Lutheran students pursuing a higher education who live in Ohio. We have awarded over \$13 million in loans to more than 4,000 students since 1994. First time borrowers may be new or returning college students. We do not ask for family income information. The pastor of the applicant is their sole reference.

For more information, please visit [www.Pierstorf.org](http://www.Pierstorf.org) to complete the online application. Applications are open from April 15 through June 30, 2024. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for further updates. We are here to answer your questions. Please contact us at [Pierstorf@messiahfp.org](mailto:Pierstorf@messiahfp.org) or call 440-665-3653.

**“Getting to Know You”** - The *Getting to Know You* segment in the Shout-Out has been received very positively! Please take a couple minutes to respond to the few questions through the link in the Shout-Out or you can find the form in the Narthex. We would love to *Get to Know You* better!



Cross pennies remind us that Jesus was the One sent (cent) to set us free (liberty) from our sins. He rose from the dead so that we could be saved when “In God We Trust”. Please take and share cross pennies which can be found in the narthex.

## St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach	Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Cindy Piovarchy	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Maintenance Supervisor
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Rachel Knaggs	Kids of the Kingdom Director
Kaitlyn Taraschke	Nursery Attendant

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Hearing Loop  
System available.