

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 25 & 28, 2024

The Living Lord Produces Active Faith

Opening Hymn 697, “May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill”

Order of Service..... Setting One, Page 154

Prayer of the Day: 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.

FIRST READING

Psalms of the Day (*On Insert*)..... Psalm 33A

SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation Page 161

Gospel Acclamation Verse: *I am the vine; you are the branches. * / If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.*

GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day 767, “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

SERMON..... “**Remain in Jesus**” John 15:1-8

Offering Hymn 750 v. 1, “We Give Thee but Thine Own”

Apostles’ Creed Page 163

Hymn 578, “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

Closing Liturgy Page 171

Closing Hymn 924 vv. 1, 2 & 6, “Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-37

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

The whole group of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they held everything in common. The apostles continued to testify about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great power, and abundant grace was on all of them. There was not a needy person among them. For from time to time those who were owners of lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds received from what was sold, and laid it at the apostles’ feet. It was distributed to each one according to what anyone needed.

Joseph, who was called Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated “son of encouragement”), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him. He brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:18-24

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

Dear children, let us love not only with word or with our tongue, but also in action and truth.

This is how we know that we are of the truth and how we will set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God. We also receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight. This then is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another just as he commanded us. The one who keeps his commands remains in God and God in him. This is how we know that he remains in us: We know it from the Spirit, whom he has given to us.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

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

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he is going to cut off. And he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will bear more fruit.

“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I am going to remain in you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Likewise, you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him is the one who bears much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this: that you continue to bear much fruit and prove to be my disciples.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEAD USHERS: Ross Schultz/Wayne Schultz; next Sunday: Dean Ebert/Rob Stern

ORGANISTS: The **May** schedule is hanging on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board. Please look at your calendars in the near future and sign up for the date(s) you are willing to play for us. Thank you!

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY: Today is Fellowship Sunday! All are invited to stay for the refreshments being served immediately following Sunday's worship service. We thank the Dean & Suanne Ebert Family for hosting this fellowship hour!

SERVICE GROUP MEETING: The next meeting of the Service Group will be held immediately following the fellowship hour on **Sunday (TODAY), April 28**. All confirmed members are invited to join us!

PROFESSION OF FAITH: On **Sunday, April 21**, Tim & Emily Tietz (Jase, Liam, Harper), professed their faith in Jesus Christ and were recognized as new members of our congregation. Please take whatever opportunity you may have to meet them and make them feel welcome at our church!

SPRING RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE: St. Matthew's PTL will be holding its second annual Rummage and Bake Sale on: **Saturday, May 4, from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM**. We hope you have been setting aside items which you would like to donate to this sale. **You may bring your items anytime starting Sunday (TODAY), April 28. All items need to be here by early Friday evening, May 3**, so we can get everything organized for the following day.

In addition, we are looking for donations of baked goods to sell. **The more baked goods we can get the better!** Last year we sold out of our baked goods in a very short period of time. If you would be willing to donate something, please sign up on the sheet located on the church bulletin board. We are looking for: bars, cookies, pies, and muffins/quick bread. These baked goods should be brought to the school on **Friday, May 3**, at any time during the school day or in the early evening. This event is being coordinated by **Mrs. Ruth Callies**, so if you have any questions about it, please feel free to speak to her!

ANNUAL GROUNDS INSPECTION: All church council members are reminded that our annual grounds inspection will take place at the **Wednesday (May 8)** council meeting. This meeting will begin at **6:30 PM!**

*****ELDERS—**Please be reminded that your meeting will begin at **6:00 PM** that evening.

AREA ASCENSION SERVICE: This year's Area Ascension worship service will be held on **Thursday, May 9**, at **6:30 PM** at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Brownsville**. Pastor Mose will be delivering this year's sermon. Everyone is welcome and invited to attend this special worship service. Because of this service, there will be **NO** Thursday evening worship service at St. Matthew's that night.

WALL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT: Our school will be hosting this year's WALL Softball Tournament on **Friday-Saturday, May 17-18**, at the Iron Ridge Firemen's Park. All are invited and encouraged to come down and cheer our team on as well as enjoy the concessions which will be served throughout the tournament. If you would be willing to help in any way (i.e. concessions, grilling, providing donations, setting up, cleaning up), please speak with **Kevin Lorge** as soon as possible. We need all the help we can get with this big of an endeavor! There will be 11 teams involved and all their families in attendance!

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: 18; Sunday: 84

Offerings: \$15,773.70

Tuition: \$1,391.79; **4K Tuition:** \$382.50

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,239.00)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$100.00; Church Refurbishment: \$4,000.00;
Elevator Fund: \$100.00; Christian Aid & Relief: \$325.00

Memorials: In Memory of Rollie Justman: \$100.00 *(Elevator Fund)*



We invite you to support this ministry through financial offerings out of thanksgiving for the Gospel you have received here. Offerings may be placed in the plates located on the tables at the back of church, or you may scan the QR code to give electronically.

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday:	Worship Service (Fellowship Sunday).....9:00 AM <i>Service Group Meeting – Immediately following fellowship hour</i>
Mon. – Fri.:	DROP OFF RUMMAGE SALE DONATIONS!
Thursday:	Communion Worship Service7:00 PM Adult Choir.....8:00 PM
Saturday:	RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE (in St. Matthew's Gym).....8:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Sunday:	Communion Worship Service9:00 AM Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School 10:15 AM

33A LORD, Let Your Mercy Be on Us

Psalm 33A

Refrain

LORD, let your mer - cy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

Tone

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you / righteous;
it is fitting for the upright to / praise him.
For the word of the LORD is / right and true;
he is faithful in / all he does.
By the word of the LORD the / heav'ns were made,
their starry host by the breath / of his mouth.
For he spoke, and it / came to be;
he commanded, and / it stood firm. *Refrain*

The LORD foils the plans of the / nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the / peoples.
But the plans of the LORD stand firm for- / ever,
the purposes of his heart through all gener- / ations.
We wait in hope / for the LORD;
he is our help / and our shield.
In him our / hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his / holy name.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,**
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*