



***St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran
Church & School***

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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www.stmatthewsjanesville.org

Worship for the 5th Sunday of Easter

April 30 & May 3, 2026

Opening Hymn: Christ the Eternal Lord *CW 521 st.1-3*

**1 Christ the eternal Lord,
whose promise here we claim,
whose gifts of grace are freely poured
on all who name your name;
with thankfulness and praise
we stand before your throne,
intent to serve you all our days
and make your glory known.**

**2 Christ the unchanging Word
to ev'ry passing age,
whose timeless teachings still are heard
set forth on Scripture's page;
transform our thought and mind,
enlighten all who read,
within your Word by faith to find
the bread of life indeed.**

**3 Christ the redeeming Son
who shares our human birth,
and by his death salvation won
for ev'ry child of earth;
inspire our hearts, we pray,
to tell your love abroad,
that all may honor Christ today
and follow him as Lord.**

Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession of Sins

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Song of Praise

CW 521 st.5

♪ Christ the ascended King

exalted high above,

whose praise unending ages sing,

whom yet unseen we love;

when mortal life is past

your voice from heaven's throne

shall call your children home at last

to know as we are known.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, in your great love you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to live and die for the entire sinful world. You raised him to life again to declare him to be the only Savior and the only way to heaven. Help us by your Spirit to cling to Jesus in true faith and to confess his name to others that they too may come to everlasting life through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament: Isaiah 45:16-25

¹⁶ All the makers of idols will be put to shame and disgraced;
they will go off into disgrace together.

¹⁷ But Israel will be saved by the LORD
with an everlasting salvation;
you will never be put to shame or disgraced,
to ages everlasting.

¹⁸ For this is what the LORD says—he who created the heavens,
he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it;
he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited—
he says: “I am the LORD, and there is no other.

¹⁹ I have not spoken in secret,
from somewhere in a land of darkness;
I have not said to Jacob’s descendants,
‘Seek me in vain.’

I, the LORD, speak the truth;
I declare what is right.

²⁰ “Gather together and come;
assemble, you fugitives from the nations.

Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood,
who pray to gods that cannot save.

²¹ Declare what is to be, present it—let them take counsel together.
Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past?

Was it not I, the LORD?

And there is no God apart from me,
a righteous God and a Savior;
there is none but me.

22 "Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth;
for I am God, and there is no other.

23 By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity
a word that will not be revoked:

Before me every knee will bow;
by me every tongue will swear.

24 They will say of me, 'In the LORD alone
are righteousness and strength.' "

All who have raged against him
will come to him and be put to shame.

25 But in the LORD all the descendants of Israel
will be found righteous and will exult.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day CW 521 st.5

♪ **Christ the unfading Light**
of everlasting day,
our Morning Star in splendor bright,
the Life, the Truth, the Way;
that light of truth you give
to servants as to friends,
your way to walk, your life to live,
till earth's brief journey ends.

Gospel: John 14:1-6

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ²
In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have
told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and
prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me
that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place
where I am going."

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going,
so how can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one
comes to the Father except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn: In Christ Alone

CW 510

1 In Christ alone my hope is found;
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all;
here in the love of Christ I stand.

2 In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe;
this gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied;
for ev'ry sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

3 There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am his and he is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Sermon: Acts 4:1-12

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ² They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³ They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴ But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

⁵ The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ He is
" 'the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the capstone.'

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Jesus Is The Only Way

I. For anyone to get to heaven

II. For everyone to get to heaven

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Offering

Prayer of the Church

O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In your compassion you sent your Son, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life and took it up again to rescue the lost.

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth, and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and praise.”

Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news...who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With joyful hearts we come before you and say:

Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

The 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.

Hymn: How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds CW 541

1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!

It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away all fear.

2 It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the heart's unrest;
'tis manna to the hungry soul
and to the weary, rest.

3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding place,
my never-failing treasury filled
with boundless stores of grace.

4 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.

5 How weak the effort of my heart,
how cold my warmest thought,
but when I see you as you are,
I'll praise you as I ought!

6 Till then I would your love proclaim
with ev'ry fleeting breath;
and may the music of your name
refresh my soul in death.

Closing Prayer

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn: Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love *CW 496 sts. 1, 3, 5-6*

**1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love, name all other names above,
unto which must ev'ry knee bow in deep humility.**

**3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth to the fallen here on earth
for the promise that it gave, Jesus shall his people save."**

**5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n under all the mighty heav'n
whereby those to sin enslaved burst their fetters and are saved.**

**6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love, human name of God above;
pleading only this, we flee helpless, O our God, to thee.**

* * * * *

Members, Visitors & Guests—Welcome to St. Matthew's!

Let us cling to the truth that Jesus is the only way for anyone to be saved and confess that truth since God wants everyone to be saved. If you are visiting our service, please sign a "care card" in the church pew or our guest book and come back to visit again soon.

Attendance Last Week— 323 (35, 155, 133) Bible Class— 13

Offering Last Week—\$13,381.50 Sunday School— 26

(Meeting our 2026 Ministry Plan requires weekly offerings of \$16,090.00.)

"Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds...May the whole earth be filled with his glory"

Psalm 72:18,19.

Announcements:

1. **The flowers on the altar** are given by Charlie Bothum.
2. **Sunday School** We will meet in the library for opening devotion at 9:15 a.m.. The children may be picked up in their classrooms at 10:15 am.
3. **Sunday Morning Bible Class** will continue today at 9:15 with Colossians, as we book through the Bible. We hope you can join us for the study.
4. **The Women's Bible Study** The women's Bible class will use the nature lesson swallows at the beginning of class. (In the Earth Psalms Book.) They have finished the book of Jonah, will have a lesson on Apologetics, and will start a new book entitled " A Guide to Mental and Emotional Wellness: Biblical Wisdom, Practical Principles, Clinical Insight" by Dr. Jennifer Londgren. Feel free to join the group on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. all year long!
5. **Evening Guild Meeting Reminder** for the May 4th meeting. **Time changes to 6:00 p.m.**, and if your last name starts with letters A through J it is your turn to bring a dish to pass. You can bring whatever you want!! It is also CREATE AND SHARE NIGHT silent auction (optional). Please bring, if you so desire, ONE and no more than THREE items that you have created... Drink and utensils will be provided for the potluck. Again, note the TIME CHANGE!!!! 6:00 p.m. A very fun time and a great social event (no meeting!!!) Remember that all proceeds go to LWMS!!! See you there.
6. **Job Opportunities at St. Matthew's School** we are looking to hire people in the following positions. (1) Preschool aide position (Tuesday and Thursdays) from 7:45-11:15 (2) Morning Care (Any days 6:30-7:45AM) (3) After Care (Any days 3:00-6:00pm). (4) Principal release teacher (approximately 7 hours/week). If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Joel Sonntag at 414-460-8305.
7. **Church Directory** To all who have signed up, thank you for the tremendous response! Registration times for our new church directory are filling up. There are limited times left on May, 7, 8, 9,

and 19. **Due to the great response we have added another day for pictures, May 20 from 2:00 – 8:30 p.m.** Online registrations are available from Monday through Saturday by going to www.ucdir.com , username: wi453, password: Smile2day. Online registration will continue through May 9. Please note that both username and password are case sensitive. You may also go to St. Matthew’s website where there is a direct link to Universal Church Directories website. When using the online registration, please fill out the registration form completely, an email address is a must as both a confirmation of your registration and a reminder of your reservation time will be sent prior to the photo day. If you do not have an email address, please provide a working phone number so that a reminder call may be made. If you are unable to utilize the online registration, we will accept in-person registrations on Sunday, May 3 and 10. We also need some volunteers to assist with photo day registrations and for Sunday in-person registrations. Sign-up sheets are on the lower narthex bulletin board.

8. **Meditations** (daily devotions) for May 31 – August 29, 2026 are located on the back counter. The cost is \$4.00.

Assisting with Worship

Organists:

Kathi Hendee & Meredith Moeller

Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – Doug McIlvain, Dane McIlvain, Jeff Burandt, Nathan Wagner

10:30 a.m. – Tom May, Ben May, Eddie May

Next Week Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – Mark Schulz, Mike Lenser, Kevin Paasch

10:30 a.m. – Steve Sage & Collin Hilding

CODS:

Thursday, April 30, 6:30 p.m. – Briton Peterson

Sunday, May 3, 8:00 a.m. – Kyle Stade

Sunday, May 3, 10:30 a.m. – Jim Daley

Next Week CODS:

Thursday, May 7, 6:30 p.m. – Tim Graffin

Sunday, May 10, 8:00 a.m. – Tim Stirmel

Sunday, May 10, 10:30 a.m. – Karl Kroening

Greeters

Sunday, May 3, 8:00 a.m. – Kyle & Meghan Stade

Sunday, May 3, 10:30 a.m. – Pam Beres

Next Week Greeters

Sunday, May 10, 8:00 a.m. – Mike & Bethann Borchardt

Sunday, May 10, 10:30 a.m. – Art & Linda Hilker

Church Cleaning:

May 2, 2026 – Evie Burkholder & Rick Burnside families

May 9, 2026 – Mark Butzow & Jeff Christianson families

This Week at St. Matthew's

Sunday

Worship 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Monday

Evening Guild 6:00 p.m. Create and Share Fundraiser / Potluck

Wednesday

Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Preschool – 2nd Grade Play 6:00 p.m.

Choir Practice 5:45 – 6:45 p.m.

Thursday

Worship with Communion 6:30 p.m.

Church Directory Pictures Being Taken

Friday

Grades 3-8 Entertainment Night 6:00 p.m.

Church Directory Pictures Being Taken

Saturday

Men's Bible Study 9:00 a.m. at the Citrus Café

Ardie Wentzel Visitation 9:30 /Funeral 11:00 a.m.

Sunday

Worship with Communion 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:15 a.m. (Last Sunday for Sunday School until Fall.)

Bible Class 9:15 a.m.



♪ Baptized into your name most holy,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,
Among your saints, your chosen host,
Buried with Christ and dead to sin.
Your Spirit now shall live within. (CW 680)

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God

C: unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

P: Flesh gives birth to flesh,

C: but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

P: Surely we were sinful at birth,

C: sinful from the time our mothers conceived us.

P: But we were washed, we were sanctified,

C: we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

♪ My loving Father, there you took me
To be henceforth your child and heir.
My faithful Savior, there you let me
The fruit of all your sorrows share.
O Holy Spirit, comfort me
When threat'ning clouds around I see. (CW 680)

P: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

♪ My faithful God, you fail me never;

**Your promise surely will endure.
Oh, cast me not away forever
If words and deeds become impure.
Have mercy when I come defiled;
Forgive, lift up, restore your child. (CW 680)**

P: Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

♪ **All that I am and love most dearly—
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Let me confess my faith sincerely,
And help me your own child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own
Serve any will but yours alone. (CW 680)**

Prayer of the Day

P: Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

♪ **Lord, I will tell while I am living,
Your love and grace with every breath
And greet each morning with thanksgiving
Until my heart is still in death,
And, when at last my lips grow cold,
Your praise shall in my sighs be told. (CW 680)**

Old Testament: Isaiah 45:16-25

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they will go off into disgrace together.

¹⁷ But Israel will be saved by the LORD

with an everlasting salvation;

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he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it;

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¹⁹ I have not spoken in secret,

from somewhere in a land of darkness;

I have not said to Jacob’s descendants,

‘Seek me in vain.’

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will come to him and be put to shame.

²⁵ But in the LORD all the descendants of Israel

will be found righteous and will exult.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day

♪ Glory and praise, still onward reaching,
Be yours, O Spirit of all grace,
Whose holy pow'r and faithful teaching
Give me among your saints a place.
Whatever good by me is done
Is worked by grace divine alone. *(tune of CW 680)*

