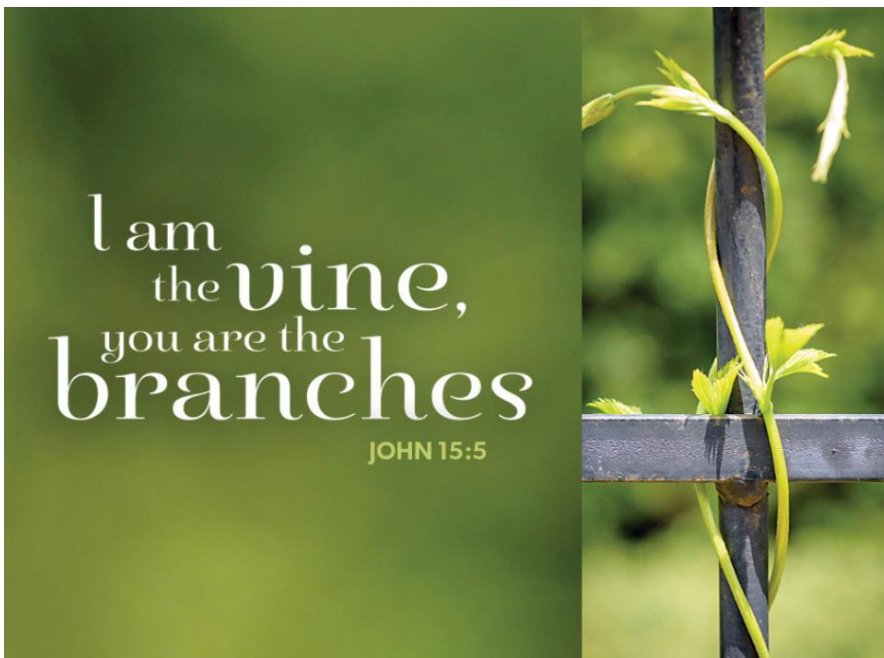


WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Today Is April 28, 2024

+ + +

The Fifth Sunday of Easter



ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

12351 All Saints Place

Woodbridge, Virginia 22192

GATHERING

PRELUDE

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

arr. Charles Callahan

WELCOME

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

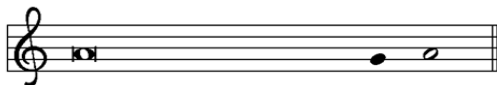
We Know That Christ Is Raised

page 15

APOSTOLIC 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.**

KYRIE – *Pastor leads and the assembly responds.*



P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.



P: For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.



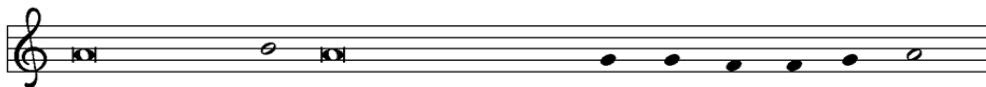
P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord have mer - cy.

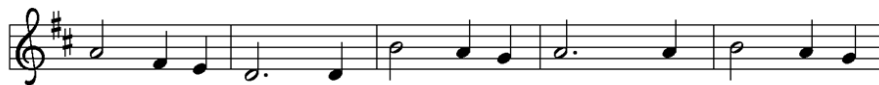


P: Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. C: A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE – *sung in unison*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

TEMPLE TALK

GIFT Sunday

Chuck Moler

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

L: A reading from Acts.

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.) 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 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.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 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?” He commanded the chariot to stop,

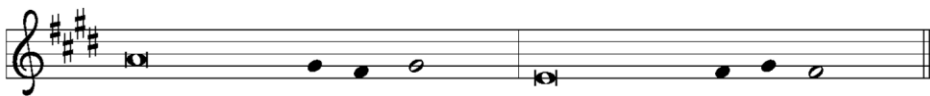
and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 22



From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

For dominion belongs | to the LORD, who rules o- | ver the nations.

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 be- | fore the LORD.

Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,

whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

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

L: A reading from the First Letter of John.

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Stephen Bohannon

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song*

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NICENE CREED

C: 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

The pastor invites the assembly into prayer.

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 is kept; each petition ends with the response.)

L: God of grace, **C: Hear our prayer.**

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.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*You are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say,
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

I Am the Vine, You Are the Branches
Choir

Natalie Sleeth

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. 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.

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: The Lord be with you. C: And al - so with you.



P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.



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

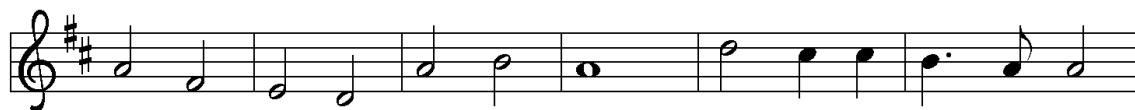


C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor begins, "It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise..." Here the pastor continues with the preface for the day, "...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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

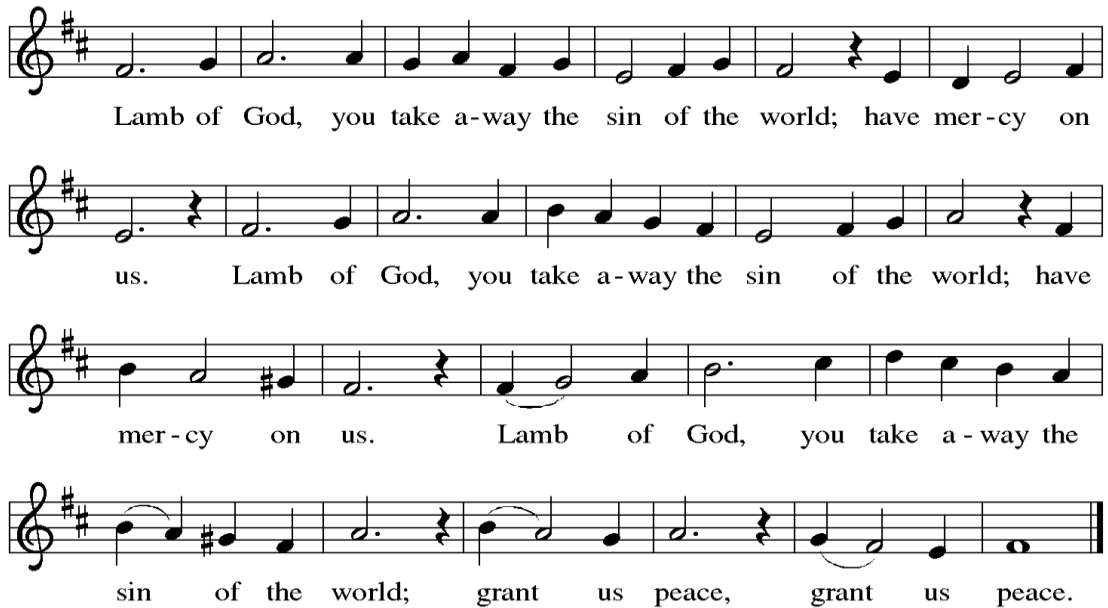
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table. The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

C: Amen.

The assembly is 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.

*All who believe Jesus is present in this sacrament are invited to receive the bread and wine. Communion will be distributed at the altar rail; when invited by an usher, please come forward and kneel at the altar to receive the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. Whether you are receiving communion at in-person worship or if you are receiving communion at home, we extend to you:
The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

***Here is Bread**
Where Charity and Love Prevail*

page 17

page 18

The assembly stands.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. 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

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

On Our Way Rejoicing

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DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

David Johnson

The Eternal Candle for the month of April
is sponsored by Jenni Rigot
In loving memory of her father, Joe Webb...

The Altar Flowers are given by the Meiers,
In celebration of Tom and Kathy Meier's 26th anniversary...

We Know That Christ Is Raised, ELW 449



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Return to page 2

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song, ELW 403



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Here Is Bread, ELW 483

C G/B Am E⁷ F/A C/G G

1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us,
 2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us,
 3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us,

F/A Am G/B C G/B Am E⁷

he is with us. Break the bread, taste the wine,
 he is with us. Know his grace, find his peace,
 he is with us. We'll pro-claim till he comes

F/A C/G G ¹ C Fm/C ^{2,3} C Gm⁷ Bb/C

Christ is with us here.
 feast on Je - sus here.
 Je - sus cru - ci - fied.

Refrain

FM⁷ F⁶ Em⁷ Am⁷ Dm⁷ Gm⁷

In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is

Bb/C C Bb/D C/E FM⁷ F#dim⁷

life for - ev - er. In this mo - ment,

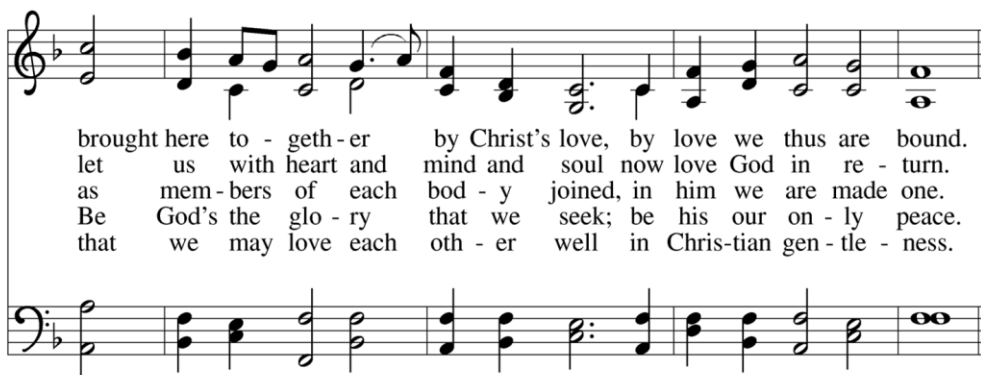
Em⁷ A⁷aug Dm⁷ G⁷ C

by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

Where Charity and Love Prevail, ELW 359

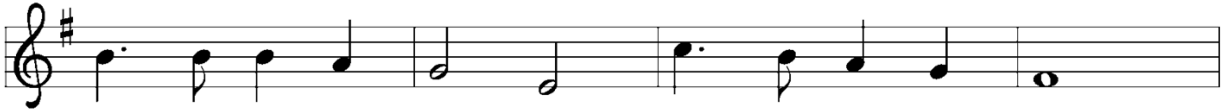


1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

On Our Way Rejoicing, ELW 537



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

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INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY ~

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

Ministers: ALL the People of St. Matthew's

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen Bohannon | sbohannon@stmatthewsva.org |
| Director of Music: Kathy Lundgren | klundgren@stmatthewsva.org |
| Organist: Melvin Goodwyn | organist@stmatthewsva.org |
| Administrative Assistant: Patti Hinson | stmatthews@stmatthewsva.org |
| Congregation Council President: Dave Strand | councilpresident@stmatthewsva.org |
| Lector: Peggy Heffernan | |
| Tech Volunteers: Mike Mazzucchi, Chris Moessner, Tom Meier, Joyce Forbes | |
| Ushers: Dave Carr, Mike Fink, Mark Victorson | |

Church Council Members:

| | |
|--|---|
| Dave Strand – President | Angela Allen – Secretary, Evangelism Chair |
| Hal Deadman –Property Chair | Gaye DeCesare – Finance & Stewardship Chair |
| Dick Gullickson –Fellowship Chair | Emily Hess – Christian Education Chair |
| Denise Riley – Worship & Music Chair | Cindy Schmitt – Day School Chair |
| Mark Victorson – Vice President, Social Ministry Chair | |
| Pat Hartline – Financial Secretary | |
| Darryl Lundgren – Treasurer | |

**For more announcements and upcoming events,
please visit www.stmatthewsva.org**

TODAY – Sunday School classes will meet following our worship service. A Thrivent representative will be here after the worship service to talk about alternative giving.

May 19-25 – We'll be providing meal service at the Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center May 19-25. You'll find instructions and the signup to contribute on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius.

Sunday, May 19 – Our annual fellowship golf outing will be held at Forest Greens Golf Course on Sunday May 19th with proceeds to benefit the Hilda Barg Center for Homeless Prevention. Sign up on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius by May 12th. Talk to Rob Dowling if you have questions.