

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Fifth Sunday of Easter ~ April 28, 2024

Color of the Day: White - the festival color of the Church. It is reserved for celebrations that reflect themes of purity, light, innocence, holiness, and redemption, including special events in Jesus' life as His Birth, Baptism, Transfiguration, and Resurrection.

Opening Hymn #697 - *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death*

Confession and Absolution Page 151

✠ ✠ ✠ *Service of the Word* ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit Page 152

Ps. 145:1-2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16

A little while, and you will see me no | longer;*
and again a little while, and you will | see me.

I will extol you, my | God and King,*
and bless your name forever and | ever.

Every day I will | bless you*
and praise your name forever and | ever.

The LORD is gracious and | merciful,*
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

All your works shall give thanks to you, | O LORD,*
and all your saints shall | bless you!

My mouth will speak the praise | of the LORD,*
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and | ever.

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.

A little while, and you will see me no | longer;*
and again a little while, and you will | see me.

Kyrie Page 152

Hymn of Praise (This Is the Feast) Page 155

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 156

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading Page 156

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Gradual Page 156

adapt. From Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6

Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor,
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*
he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle Reading Page 156

1 John 4:1-21

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not

