

Christ The King Evangelical Lutheran Church

"To know... To teach... To share Christ"

Pastor Alan W. Gumm

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*"How can I (understand),
unless someone explains it to me?"*

Acts 8:31 NIV

**Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 29, 2018**

Our Worship Today

Welcome! We pray that your worship here will draw you closer to your savior and equip you for a continuing life of Christian discipleship. For your spiritual needs we offer you the Word of Him who can supply all our needs - Jesus Christ, our Savior. Rejoice in His love for you. He cares for you. You are His own dear child.

Prayer Before Worship 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. Amen.

Worship Guide For Today's Service

Service of the Word, pages 38-44

Our Songs CW 282 "Lord, Open My Heart to Hear"
CW 576 "Spread, Oh, Spread the Mighty Word"
CW 575 "How Shall They Hear the Word of God"
CW 293 "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"

Psalm CW 91 Psalm 67

Our Stewardship Last Week

Sunday Worship: 47 Communion: 41 Sunday Bible Class: 21
Sunday Offering: General Fund \$2,593.77
Midweek Bible Study: 7

Serving In Worship Today

Minister
Organist
Videographer

Pastor Alan W. Gumm
Jonette Jordan
Larry Martin

Opening Hymn

CW 282 “Lord, Open My Heart to Hear“

Guide For Worship

CW Page 38 Service of the Word

The First Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” ³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. ³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants For his life was taken from the earth.” ³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?” ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea. (NIV1984)

*Acts 8:37 is not included because it is not found in the oldest and best translations of Acts.

The Psalm

CW Page 91, Psalm 67

Congregation sings refrain and speaks the second half of each verse.

The Second Lesson

I John 3:18-24

¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. ¹⁹ This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.
(NIV1984)

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia.

The Gospel

Please Stand

John 15:1-8

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. (NIV1984)

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Sermon Hymn

CW 576 “Spread, Oh, Spread the Mighty Word“

Sermon

“How Can I Understand?“

Acts 8:26-39

Apostles’ Creed

CW Page 41

Offering

Our Offerings to the Lord are freewill. Let your offerings be a joyful response to God's Grace to you.

Prayers of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

CW Page 43

Hymn

CW 575 "How Shall They Hear the Word of God"

Prayer and Benediction

CW Page 43

Closing Hymn

CW 293 "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"

Announcements

Christ The King Evangelical Lutheran Church

Today, April 29:	Bible Class, 9:30 AM Worship Service, 10:30 AM
Tuesday, May 1:	Bible Class, 9:30 AM Membership Class, 10:30 AM Mary/Martha, 10:30 AM Barefoot Bookies Book Club, 11:30 AM
Thursday, May 3:	Membership Class, 10:00 AM
Sunday, May 6:	Bible Class, 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion, 10:30 AM
Pastor in the Office:	Thursday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM & 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Barefoot Bookies- All ladies are welcome to come to our Barefoot Bookies reading club. It is fun and very casual. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 11:30. Right now, we are reading "Ordinary Grace" by William Kent Krueger, to be discussed at our May 1, 2018 meeting. After May 1st, we will be reading "Don't Go" by Lisa Scottoline to be discussed at the June 5, 2018 meeting. We get our books from the libraries, used book stores or online discount sites like "thrift books". Looking forward to seeing you here.

Serving our congregation:

Church Council; President-Larry Martin, Secretary-Bill Halberg, Finance Chairman-John Smith, Head Elder-Robby Robinson, Worship Chairman-Marlyn Rische, Education Chairman-Ron Gorske, Outreach Chairman-Don Schoening, Properties Chairman-Wally Jordan

Mary/Martha; President-EyVonne Robinson, Vice President-Gloria Rische, Secretary-Jodi Roberts, Treasurer-Jan Boyle, Sunshine Chairman-Stephanie Stromberg, LWMS Reporter-Jonette Jordan

April Birthdays: Samantha Hultgren-7th, Nancy Cravens-10th, Jim Brusehaver-15th, Carolyn Gumm-20th, Sharon Martin-25th

April Anniversaries: John & Rebecca Pueschel-6th,

Prayer List: Ellen Laurencell, Mary Emery, Fran Stecher, Keith Haslam, Marge Krueger, Barb Wiese, Linda Martin, Gloria Rische, Marilyn Yelland



GOD'S WORD FOR THIS WEEK

The intimate connection to our risen Lord wrought by the gospel means of grace has rich consequences for our life with him even now.

First Lesson: Acts 8:26-40

Here are a couple of really excellent fruits from the connection of the branch to the vine. This Phillip was not one of the apostles; he was a dedicated layman, a deacon whom the Lord used in the spreading of the gospel. How did that come about? First and foremost Phillip loved the Scriptures. He knew them well. He thought about them and delighted in the Old Testament pictures of his Savior. Knowing the Scriptures and loving them was a fruit that in its turn and at the time of God's own choosing bore still more fruit: he had the honor of sharing his love of the Scriptures and of his Lord with a total stranger. Who knows what use God may put to the Word that we have come to know and love? He is delighted by our use of the Word through which he lives in us and gives us everything he has. He will find ways for us to produce fruit in season, with family, with friends and members of our church, with strangers, too, as he arranges the opportunity for us to give the reason for the hope and the joy which is ours in Christ the pure vine.

Second Lesson: I John 3:18-24

Here is more fruit whose source is in the vine: an awareness that Christ is alive in us by his Word and when our conscience wants to drive us to despair he is there to assure us of our forgiveness. That assurance is renewed week in and week out as we hear his Word. Then there comes bursting forth the fruit of love. That love is not mere sentiment; it is in the will, not the emotion. It is love that is determined to seek the best interests of those around us, even those who may hate us or not appreciate our eagerness to be of service. Some of the grapes have to be crushed in order to make wine.

The Gospel: John 15:1-8

Could the relationship be a closer one? There has to be a certain correspondence between the two parts, the vine and the branches. That correspondence is accomplished by the gospel that make us branches pure like the vine. Now the fruit from the good vine can be good fruit, pure because of its source in the vine. The rotten and the corrupt is pruned away. The process that may indeed be painful, but it is a process that is necessary. We might note in passing that it takes a while to determine that a branch is really dead and will never bear fruit; the Lord who sees everything is patient; we who see little need to be patient too. The branches pruned once were alive, once were connected to the vine. How tragic that they have chosen to die! Look for fruit that proves there is life in the branch. What is the fruit? It is a life that delights to receive all its strength from the vine. The Confessions often define the best worship of God as that worship which delights in receiving everything from him. Luther's chief complaint against the monks was that they did not want to receive anything from God without earning it first. Then it is the life we live with our family, at work and school, in service done as precious and good fruit that please him. It is the life of stewardship of all the energy and impulse that comes from the vine. What in you can you now appreciate as fruit that comes from him, even unconsciously? It all brings glory to his Father and is therefore precious to him. Your life therefore has infinite value, no matter how insignificant or lowly it may seem to you and to the world.