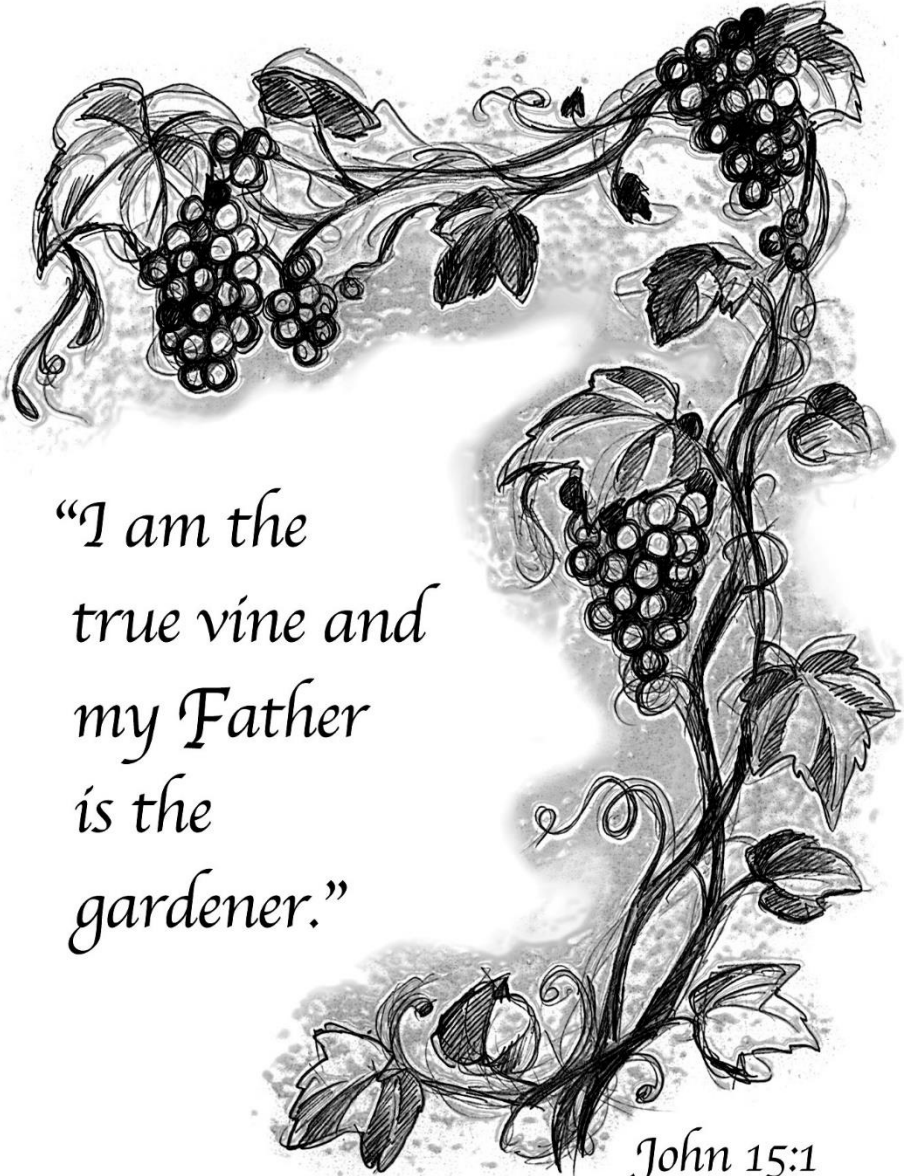


Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church
419 Bossardsville Road
Stroudsburg, PA

Celebrating the 5th Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024



*“I am the
true vine and
my Father
is the
gardener.”*

John 15:1

Welcome to Christ Hamilton! Thank you for joining with us in worship in whatever manner you can. This service is also available anytime on Facebook or our website along with a bulletin at www.christhamilton.org. Please share in the responses, sing the hymns, and pray the prayers. Call us and connect with us whenever you need. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please know that all are welcome at Christ Hamilton! Life is difficult enough and shouldn't be when you come to church. Regardless of how you got here, we are glad you did. **All are welcome here.** If you are a visitor please feel free to take the welcome folder home with you. We invite you to fill out the card found inside and place it in the plate at the time of the offering.

Today's service: *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.*

Altar flowers are given in loving memory of Pauline Hunt, mother of Joan Eilenberger.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry;
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

GREETING

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you

HYMN OF PRAISE



Ⓐ 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

Minister: 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.

All: Amen.

READING

ACTS 8:26-40

Reader: A reading from the 8th chapter of Acts.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Kandake, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the

prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?”

³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.


³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**


The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

JOHN 15:1-8

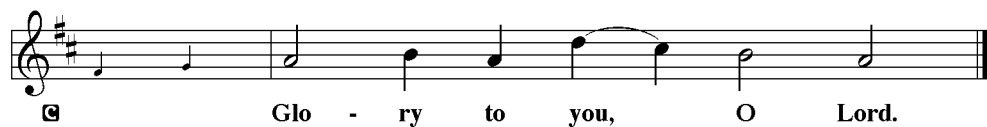


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



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

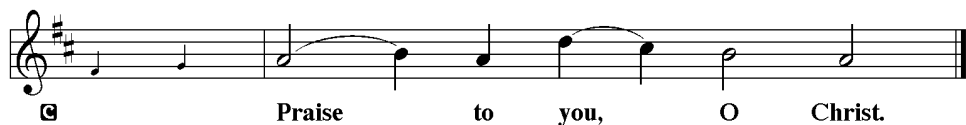
Minister: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.



[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the Vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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.

⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.



Message

Please stand.

HYMN

To Christ Belong, in Christ Behold



1 To Christ be - long, in Christ be - hold God's
2 The brood - ing Spir - it moves un - seen as
3 Re - joic - ing in God's prom - ise strong, our



won - ders still un - fold: the bur - ied
liv - ing wa - ters stream to quench all
treas - ure and our song, in faith we



grain springs forth a - gain with fruit one hun - dred - fold.
thirst and bring to birth a new com - mu - ni - ty.
cling, and glad - ly sing: to Christ we now be - long.



Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, with
The bind - ing shroud is here re - leased, the
In Christ a - bide, in Christ be - hold the



Christ from death we rise, drawn through the
veil of sin and grief, and in their
world be - loved and whole. In love re -



night by dawn - ing light in - to a - bun - dant
place a wreath of grace and robes of joy and
main, by love pro - claim God's won - ders still un -



life, in - to a - bun - dant life.
peace, and robes of joy and peace.
told, God's won - ders still un - told.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

PRESENTATION

Minister: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors: We present Cassidy Eloise Karasiewicz for baptism.

The minister addresses the parents and/or sponsors:

Minister: Called by the Holy Spirit and trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Cassidy baptized into Christ?

Parents and sponsors: We do.

Minister: As you bring Cassidy to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with her among God's faithful people,
to bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
to teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, to place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and to nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that she may learn to trust God,
to proclaim Christ through word and deed,
to care for others and the world God made,
and to work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Cassidy grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and sponsors: We do.

Minister: People of God, do you promise to support Cassidy and pray
for her in her new life in Christ?

All: We will.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Minister: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin,
and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil
and all the forces that defy God?

All: I renounce them.

Minister: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against
God?

All: I renounce them.

Minister: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

All: I renounce them.

Minister: Do you believe in God the Father?

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Minister: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Minister: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Minister: Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things.

Your voice thundered over the waters at creation.

You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to
refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to
safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from
slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them
with water from the rock, and you brought them across the
river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus
has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not
overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for
Christ has brought us over to the land of promise.

**All: He sends us to be disciples in the world, baptizing in the name of
the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

Minister: At this font, Holy God, we praise you for the water of baptism
and for your Word that saves us in this water. Pour out
your Holy Spirit and breathe new life into all who are
gathered here. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry
our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil
around us.

We pray this through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

BAPTISM

Water is poured on the child's head, as the pastor says:

Minister: Cassidy Eloise, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

*Water is poured on the child's head a second time:
and of the Son,*

*Water is poured on the child's head a third time:
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Minister: Let us pray. . . We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give Cassidy new birth, cleanse her from sin, and raise her to eternal life.

Laying hands on the head of the newly baptized child:

Sustain Cassidy with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

All: Amen.

The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the child's forehead.

Minister: Cassidy, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

All: Amen.

Blessing of mother. Family gathered are invited to place a hand back/shoulder.

Minister: The Lord God Almighty bring joy to Megan as the hope of eternal life shines forth upon children. May God graciously bless her so that as we now give thanks for the gift of children she may always remain united with them in thanksgiving, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

Blessing of father. Family gathered are invited to place a hand back/shoulder.

Minister: May the Lord God Almighty, the giver of life both in heaven and on earth bless Robert, so that together with Megan they may follow Jesus and prove to be the first witnesses of the faith to their children in Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

WELCOME (*A lighted candle is presented*).

Minister: Jesus said, 'I am the Light of the world.'

All: Let our lights so shine before others that we might do good works and glorify our God in Heaven.

Minister: Let us welcome Cassidy, the newly baptized.

All: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share.

May God be with you and always bless you! Amen.

Baptismal Hymn

Lift High the Cross

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Prayers

Assisting Minister: 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.

We pray for the church around the world. Keep all the newly baptized especially Cassidy and newly confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, and streams. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment and for all who are ill or suffering especially those in need of prayer that we lift to you now from our hearts and from our lips . . . God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

For our congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

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.

All: Amen.

The Peace is shared with one another.

PEACE

Leader/s: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Offering

You are the Branches

Offertory

Let the Vineyards



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



bles-sing. 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

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . . Blessed are you,

All: Lord our God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness

you have blessed us with these gifts.

With them we offer ourselves to your service

**and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that
you have made,**

for the sake of him who gave himself for us,

Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

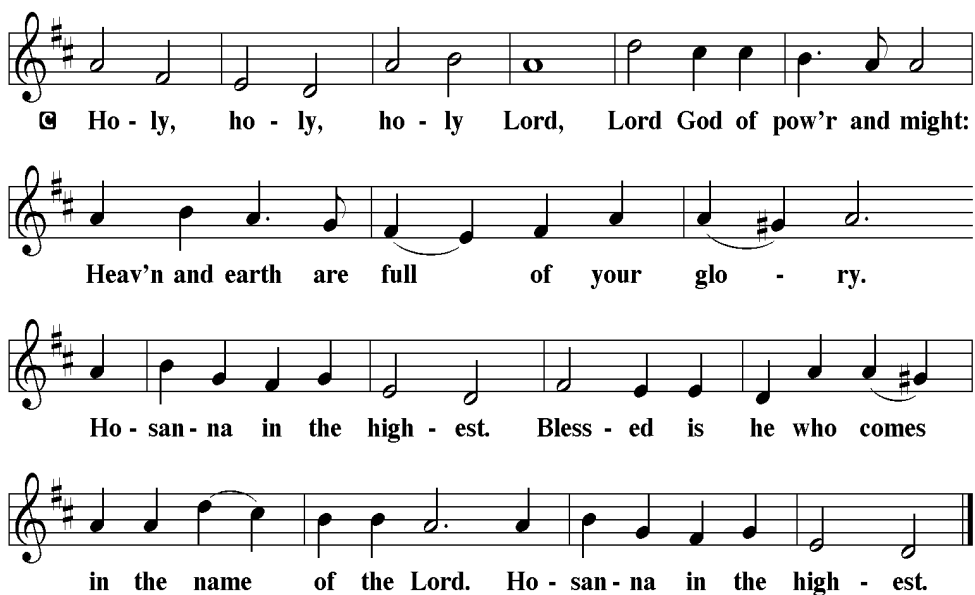
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Minister: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times
and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O
Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and Everliving God.

But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious
resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who
gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has
destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the
witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their
creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and
seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

Minister: In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.**

Communion

We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Those not communing are invited to come forward for a blessing. For those who would prefer not to have wine, pre-filled glasses of grape juice are available in the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the Pastor.

Please come forward by way of the right hand side and receive the bread from the pastor and the wine from the assistant.

Minister: The body of Christ given for you.

Assistant: The blood of Christ shed for you.



☐ 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.

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778
Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

All: Amen.

PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Almighty God, you provide the true bread from
heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who
have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may
abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the
power of his endless life, now and forever.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the
days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy
angels accompany you; and the blessing of Almighty God,
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you
now and forever.

All: Amen

We Know That Christ Is Raised



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!

Dismissal:

Assisting Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Share the good news.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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Worship Leaders

Minister:	Rev. Steven C. Claycomb
Organist:	Beth McElroy
Lector:	Janet Catina
Lay Assistant:	Janet Catina
Greeters:	Sandy Lee & Cathy Peechatka
Pianist:	Gail Derrer
Choir Director:	Tassy Gilbert
Announcements:	Amanda Balas, Office Administrator
Videographer:	Steve Metzgar, Craig & Anson Cassidy

We welcome the newly baptized Cassidy today at Christ Hamilton and celebrate with her parents, Robert and Megan Karasiewicz, her sponsors Joshua and Jaimie Rosentel and Elizabeth Camardella, her family and friends.

Prayer at the Rail - Stephen Ministers will be available for prayer at the altar after the service for any concerns that you might have.

Please Remember in Prayer: Sandy, Jim, Gloria, Jackie and Dumitru.
If you, or someone you know has been hospitalized or needs a pastoral visit please let the office know 570-992-4085.

Did You Know—Our Social Ministry team served 60 people at the Stroudsburg Methodist Soup kitchen on 4/14, the community meal team last Sunday served 80 people and raised \$131 for Street to Feet. We also are now bringing monthly meals to Street to Feet and any excess food from our community meals. Thanks to all who participate in these important ministries!

Happy May Birthdays: Crystal Paynter 5/8, Angie Rupprecht 5/16 Rhonda Bonser 5/20, Ed Hagy & Paula Hallock 5/21, Joe Marshall 5/23, Sue Hedgelon 5/28.