

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 29, 2018

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

In one of His several “I am” statements, Jesus says, “I am the vine. You are the branches.” Inviting His hearers to a place of rest and refuge, He says, “Abide in Me.” In the Epistle, John correlates confessing that Jesus is the Son of God with experiencing and coming to trust in the love God has for us. Abiding in Jesus means abiding in God’s love. And God Himself abides in us. This relationship of abiding in Jesus, who Himself is love, was experienced by the Ethiopian eunuch when Philip told him the Good News about Jesus and the Ethiopian was baptized.

PRELUDE

“Hail, thee Festival Day”

setting by Charles Callahan

The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence of God.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Please stand

ENTRANCE HYMN

700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us come before God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden, and confess our sins in the name of Him who died and rose again to give us forgiveness and life.

People: **I confess that I have sometimes lived as if You did not matter and as if I mattered most. Your name, O Lord, I have not honored as I ought; my worship and prayer have faltered. I have not always allowed Your love to move me and so my love for others has failed. There are many whom I have hurt and many whom I failed to help. My thoughts and desires are soiled with sin against You and against my brothers and sisters. For the sake of Jesus Christ I ask You to forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Suffering the full weight of your sin on the cross, our Lord Christ has risen in victory with forgiveness and redemption to all who receive Him. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

484 Make Songs of Joy



1 Make songs of joy to Christ, our head; Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Our life was pur - chased by His loss; Al - le - lu - ia!



He lives a - gain who once was dead! Al - le - lu - ia!
He died our death up - on the cross. Al - le - lu - ia!

**6 For this be praised the Son who rose, Alleluia!
The Father, and the Holy Ghost! Alleluia!**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Risen Lord, You are the vine and we are the branches. Apart from You there is no life. By Baptism You have grafted us into Your gracious life. Cause Your Word to abide in us and make us fruitful to the glory of Your Father, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

WELCOME

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26–40

(Philip is sent to meet the Ethiopian eunuch to tell him the Good News about Jesus.)

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.

(continued on next page)

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 traveled 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 traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 150

Leader: Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.

People: **Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.**

Leader: Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,

People: **praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute,**

Leader: praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

People: **Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.**

EPISTLE

1 John 4:1–11

(Test the spirits. God is love.)

¹ Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

11:00 "Oh, What A Love"

Graham Kendrick and Stuart Townend

Please stand

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1–8

(Jesus is the vine. We are the branches. Abide in Him and abide in love.)

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.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE WORD

542 When I Behold Jesus Christ

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Please stand

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

8:30 "Christ Is Arisen"

11:00 "Come As You Are"

setting by Lee Dengler
Crowder/Redman/Glover

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

+ + + Special Intercessions + + +

Each concluding: **Leader:** Lord, in Your mercy, **People:** hear our prayer.

Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

In the Lord's Supper we receive Christ's body and blood in and with the bread and wine. The two great blessings of the Lord's Supper are the forgiveness of sins and strength to live an improved Christian life. In response to the Lord's command we are to examine ourselves privately prior to partaking of the Sacrament. There are three basic questions on which we should examine ourselves, all of which we should be able to answer in the affirmative if we are to partake of the Sacrament worthily: 1) Am I truly sorry for my sins? 2) Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior? 3) Do I promise with God's help to live a Christian life? If you agree with the above statement, we invite you to the Sacrament.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

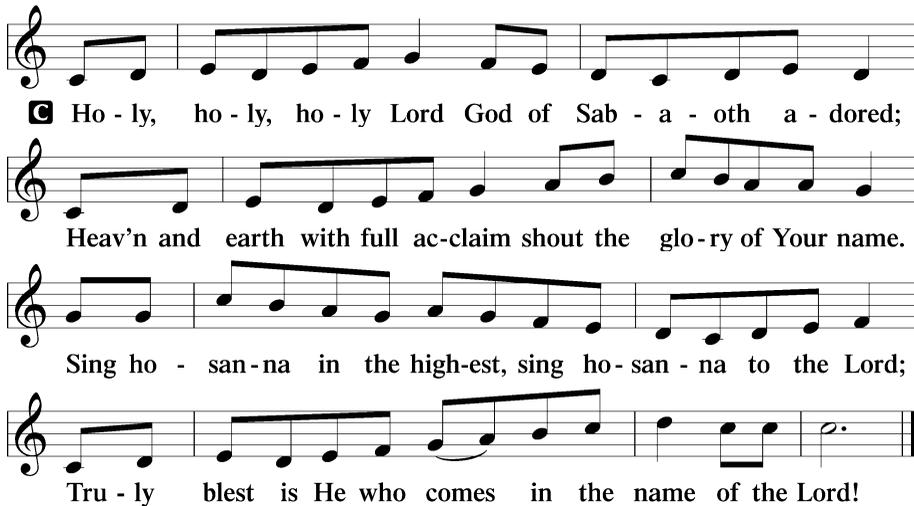
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

AGNUS DEI

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

If you wish to take communion in the pew, please raise your hand when the communion assistant comes down the aisle.

When the wine is distributed, individual glasses will be offered first, then the common cup. Communicants may take whichever is preferred. If taking the individual glass, please keep the glass visible so that the communion assistant with the common cup will know who has already communed.

Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the communion tray for those who have a sensitivity to the alcohol in wine.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

595 O Blessed Spring

Please stand

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please turn towards the cross as it is carried out of the church, and remain facing it until the hymn is completed. This symbolizes our following Christ into the world as we leave.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

540 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate

POSTLUDE

“Rondo in G Major”

John Bull

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Acts 10:34-48; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-17

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Orval Mueller
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m. Jake Bellinghausen 8:30 a.m. Theodore Laesch 11:00 a.m. Theodore Laesch
Lectors:	8:30 a.m. Denise Koch 11:00 a.m. Tonja Cleveland
Acolytes:	5:00 p.m. Nate Laesch 8:30 a.m. Caitlin Manno 11:00 a.m. Cassie Dunn
Choir:	11:00 a.m. Joyful Noise
Instrumentalists:	Matt McEuen & Ellory Glenn, guitars Glenn Lackey, percussion
Director:	Carolyn Rusnak
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer
Radio Announcer:	Steve Brutlag
Elder of the Week:	Jonathan Bellmann