

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 2, 2021

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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,

like rains to our thirsting earth,

like streams that revive our souls,

like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.

Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God,

now and forever.

Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

"We Know That Christ Is Raised" ELW #449
(Vs. 1 & 4)

***GREETING**

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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.
Amen.

GNH/GIGG TEACHER RECOGNITION

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Klaire Hudson

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING—Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

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." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So 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 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.

Word of God. Word of Life

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING—1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Alleluia” ELW page#102

The holy gospel according to the fifteenth chapter of John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL—John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[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.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE

Rev. Carl Bruihler

***THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

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

***THE PRAYERS**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation especially in the midst of springtime in southern Minnesota, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of all nations assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all, especially those struggling with poor health, those facing or recovering from surgery, for all suffering from COVID-19 and those going through treatment for disease. We pray especially for Allan Krattley, brother-in-law of Rosalind Neal, Fred Wentzlaff, Brenda Liebhard-Johnson, Pr. Dave Aaker and those that we name silently in our hearts.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit and you keep us connected through Jesus who is the true vine. With those who have gone before us, may our hearts live forever in your keeping.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray:

God of love,

you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.

Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.

**Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

DIAGLOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***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

The risen Christ invites us to this table.

Come, eat and be satisfied.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Let us Break Bread Together" ELW #471
(Vs. 1 & 2)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***BLESSING**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Shout to the Lord" ELW #821
(Vs. 1 & 2)

***DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

***POSTLUDE**

BLESSING OF THE WHEELS (OUTSIDE)

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship services can be viewed through our website www.firstlutheranlesueur.org or through You Tube at www.youtube.com and search First Lutheran Church Le Sueur MN.

Christ In Our Home devotional and *Living Lutheran* magazine are available at church. Please call and a copy can be mailed out to you.

Your offering to the church can be mail, dropped in the mailbox outside of church or through an upcoming link on our website.

Please call or email if you have pastoral care needs.

First Communion will be celebrated today at a 1:30 service. The fifth grade students this year are: Isaac Dieball, Callie Greisen, Evelyn Haemig, Evan Hoffman, Elena Meger, Elsie Meger, Sallie Nesbit, Ellie Schultz and Caleb Sullivan

GNH/GiGG Recognition

THANK YOU to each and every one of our Good News Hour Leaders and GiGG Guides. In the midst of uncertainty this year, you each remained active in your own Faith and the formation of that for our Youth. We couldn't have done the programming we have, without each of you!

Today these individuals will be recognized for their service:

Tiffany Vanden Eide (GNH)	Marsha Sullivan (GNH)	
Sami Pollock (GNH)	Mia Schwarz (GNH)	Aaron Libra (GiGG)
Dave Greisen (GiGG)	Mike Johnson (GiGG)	Bonnie Davig (GiGG)
Heather Haemig (GiGG)	Peggy Tagatz (GiGG)	Maria Flores (GiGG)
Ashley Schultz (GiGG)		

Mother's Day Bake Sale—Fundraising for the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering continues! On May 9th, our Youth will be holding a Mother's Day Bake Sale before and after church. Free Will Donations will be accepted. Thank you all for your continued support to our Youth!

The ***Children Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator*** position has been posted on Indeed.com. We are seeking an individual with a strong Christian faith, outgoing personality, and an eager desire to engage in faith formation activities with children, youth and families. The position is for up to 25 hours per week. If you, or someone you know is interested, apply at [indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com), or speak to Pastor Bruihler. A more complete job description is available upon request. Start date is negotiable, but ideally we would like someone to overlap a week or two with Klaire for orientation purposes.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress.

All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103321—4/30/2022

One License—#A-716694

All rights reserved

CCLI—[ccli.com](https://www.ccli.com)

Copyright License #2540397—Expires 7/31/2021

Streaming License #20643840—Expires 6/30/2021

Songselect Basic—Expires 7/31/21