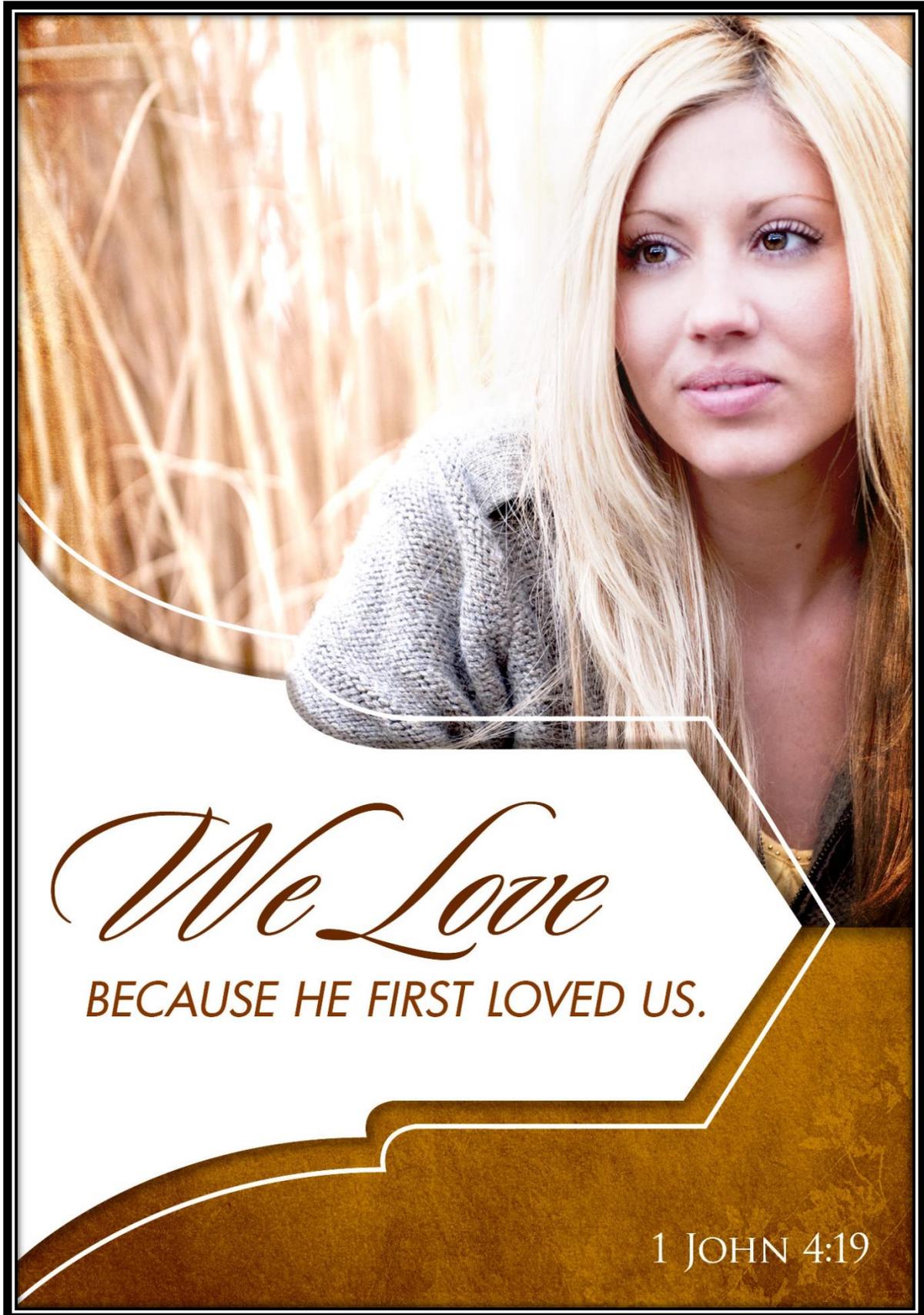


ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



Easter 5

May 2, 2021



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany ◆ Immanuel ◆ Lunder ◆ Silver Lake ◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

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web page - <http://www.wctatel.net/web/oneinchrist>

Easter 5

May 2, 2021

CHRIST IS RISEN!

We joyfully welcome all who gather here this morning to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. A special welcome to all guests and visitors. From our sin we expected judgment, from the cross we expected death, but on this morning we celebrate the empty tomb, the risen Lord,

and the gift of God's grace – forgiveness, salvation, and life everlasting.

HALLELUJAH!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let our praise for all that God has done
resound within and beyond these walls.

When all people worship God,
the poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and justice and peace
will embrace present and future generations.

We cry out in praise and thanksgiving in response to God's eternal loving-kindness, holding us, guiding us, enfolding us with grace. And, as we gather here as people of God, we pray that our worship will reflect that divine love. We offer our worship today with the remembrance of Easter still filling us with joy, and with the anticipation of Pentecost firing our devotion. Let our praise for all that God has done, is doing and will do, truly resound within our hearts and our homes, within these walls and beyond.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Let us pray: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. In these words, we learn that our human love becomes possible because of God's love for us. Jesus came so that we might catch a glimpse of that love and learn to love one another as he loves us.

It is so easy to say that since God loves us so much, we also ought to love one another, but we confess that it is not always so easy to do.

We know in our hearts that the love we have for one another should make God's love visible to the world, but we confess that even in the church, our words and actions are not always grounded in love.

We squabble over things which in the light of God's love for us are insignificant and petty.

We get caught up in power-struggles and the urge to control, sometimes through deeds and language which make others powerless.

Silent confession

May Jesus' commandment of love become
the chief desire of our hearts,
the source of all our thoughts
and the inspiration of our lives. Amen

EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS

Jesus invites us to dwell in him as he dwells in us and he tells us we have already been cleansed by the word that he has spoken to us. So, hear and believe the good news that through Jesus who dwells in us, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

OPENING SONG

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958

Text from Oxford Book of Carols © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved

APOSTOLIC 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.

SHARING THE PEACE

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

“This is the feast...”

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.*

*Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.*

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:*

*Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.*

*This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Please pick up the Communion elements off the table in the narthex if you did not as you entered the sanctuary.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

PREFACE

PREFACE RESPONSE

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

RECOGNITION OF FIRST COMMUNICANT – Kenlie Greenfield

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION - *We will consume the elements during the Words of Institution as instructed.*

COMMUNION BLESSING

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.

✠ WORD ✠

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

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.

SCRIPTURE 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

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.

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE SERMON

Pastor Bill Peters

SONG OF THE DAY

“Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!”

*Hallelujah! Jesus lives! He is now the Living One;
from the gloomy halls of death Christ, the conqueror, has gone,
bright forerunner to the skies of his people, yet to rise.*

*Jesus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mournful sigh?
He who died our brother here lives our brother still on high,
lives forever to bestow blessings on his church below.*

*Jesus lives! And thus, my soul, life eternal waits for you;
joined to him, your living head, where he is, you shall be too;
with the Lord, at his right hand, as a victor you shall stand.*

*Jesus lives! Let all rejoice. Praise him, ransomed of the earth.
Praise him in a nobler song, cherubim of heav'nly birth.
Praise the victor king, whose sway sin and death and hell obey.*

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763-1841; tr. Jane Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.

***NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

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.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

BLESSING

THREE-FOLD AMEN

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

***SENDING SONG** *"How Great Thou Art"*

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;*

*Refrain Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!*

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; Refrain*

*But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; Refrain*

*When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" Refrain*

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you..

Thanks be to God.

✠ **THANKSGIVING** ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use Tithe.ly (electronic giving).

Postlude



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“How Great Thou Art”

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989.

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

We Are the Branches

To encourage flowering and fruit production in vines, trees, and shrubs, most of us know that pruning is necessary. This isn't the easiest of work, nor does it make the pruned plant look all that great for a while afterward. Yet often what results after pruning is a plant that is more abundant, beautiful, and healthy than it would have been otherwise.

In our reading today, Jesus makes it very clear that he is the vine, his Father is the vine grower, and we, his disciples, are the branches on which fruit grows. Without the vine and the vine grower, the branches do not exist. Yet, often in our spiritual lives it seems as though we get these roles mixed up. We are wooed by the sense of accomplishment and value that comes from producing results of one kind or another, and we fail to acknowledge the source that makes that “fruit” possible.

However, in today's gospel, Jesus reminds us that our job isn't to produce results; it's to stay connected. “Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing,” Jesus says (John 15:5). Jesus is our source and strength; it is only by our connection to Jesus the vine that we the branches bear fruit that will last, such as love, compassion, forgiveness, hope, service, kindness, and patience.

To grow this kind of fruit, Jesus relates how necessary it is for us to be pruned occasionally. In other words, those things that are not of God in our lives have to be rooted out from time to time. The process of pruning isn't always the most enjoyable and can even include a good deal of pain, but it leads to lives that are whole and abundant. As we abide in Jesus, we are given the strength we need to endure the pruning process. We also experience the peace that comes from knowing that the fruit that will follow is for the glory of God.