

# Sunday, May 2, 2021

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

### ELW Service of the Word



#### ***Introduction***

*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.*

## **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.

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.**

## **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.**

## **KYRIE**

*Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy.*

*Christ, have mercy: Christ, have mercy.*

*Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy.*

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

**Glory to God in the highest; and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **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.*

## **FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40**

A reading from 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." (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.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,**

**who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,**

**whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

### **SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21**

A reading from 1 John.

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

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So 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. <sup>17</sup>Love 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. <sup>18</sup>There 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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those 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. <sup>21</sup>The 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, Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **GOSPEL: John 15:1-8**

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide 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. <sup>5</sup>I 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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON**

#### **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 INTERCESSION**

On this fifth Sunday of Easter, let us unite in Christ to pray for all in any need, responding to each petition with the words "Make us one in you." *A brief silence.*

God of triune mystery, as you have formed your church to be one fruitful vine, strengthen our churches and our ecumenical connections with Christians across the street and around the globe. *A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O loving God: **Make us one in you.**

As you blessed Philip the evangelist, nurture our missionaries and theologians, our seminaries, our Sunday schools, and all adult discussions of the faith. *A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O enlightening God: **Make us one in you.**

As you brought the Ethiopian eunuch to baptism, lead all Christian communities to welcome people of each sexual identity, every skin color, and all national backgrounds.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O embracing God: **Make us one in you.**

As you created an earth with countless forms of plant and animal life, train us to honor and maintain the bountiful earth that you intend for us and future generations. *A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O creating God: **Make us one in you.**

As you have provided food and drink for humankind, give to all persons wisdom in their use of wine, and strengthen recovering alcoholics in maintaining their sobriety. *A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O empowering God: **Make us one in you.**

As you call humankind to live in love with one another, bring peace to nations, to neighborhoods, and to homes. Protect the oppressed and the vulnerable in every land, show us the path to nonviolence in all things. *A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O reconciling God: **Make us one in you.**

As you have promised to hear the cries of all the needy, listen now to the countless people around the world who are suffering from sickness, from the coronavirus, from injustice, from abuse, from starvation. Hear our pleas for India. We pray especially for. . . . *A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O healing God: **Make us one in you.**

As you have sustained each of us in your love, receive now the silent petitions of our hearts. *A longer period of silence.*

Hear our prayer, O abiding God: **Make us one in you.**

We remember those who have died in the faith, especially today Athanasius the theologian and those we name in our hearts. As you have promised to bring your people into your strong and tender embrace, preserve us until we enter with all the saints into your everlasting mercy.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O eternal God: **Make us one in you.**

Into your hands, O living God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **THANKSGIVING**

### **OFFERING**

As forgiven and reconciled people, we offer ourselves and our gifts to God. **Amen**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

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.**

### **CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING**

**Salvation belongs to our God**

**and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

**Great and wonderful are your deeds,  
O God of the universe; just and true are your ways,  
O Ruler of all the nations.**

**Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
and blessed is the one whose name is the Word of God.  
All praise and thanks to you, holy God!**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Praise to you, O God, for your Word of life:

creating a wondrous universe,

Psalm 92:5

proclaiming freedom from captivity,

Exodus 5:1

becoming the song of your people.

Psalm 118:4

We praise you, O God, for your Word.

**We praise you, O God, for your Word.**

Your Word is made flesh among us:

with Mary in the garden, you call us by name.

John 20:16

With Thomas beholding your wounds, you call us to believe.

John 20:17

With sheep of others folds, we are gathered by your voice.

John 10:16

Your Word names our death and our life:

John 5:24

a seed that falls into the earth and dies,

John 12:24

rain and snow that come down from heaven to water the earth,

Isaiah 55:10

a vine in which we abide.

John 15:5

Through your Word, you appoint us to bear fruit, fruit that will last.

John 15:16

We bless you, O God, for your Word.

**We bless you, O God, for your Word.**

By your living Word, we are witnesses of these things.

Luke 24:48

Breathe into us your Holy Spirit.

John 20:22

Open our minds to understand the scriptures.

Luke 24:45

Give us wisdom to declare what we have heard,

what we have seen with our eyes,

what we have looked at and touched with our hands

concerning the word of life.

1 John 1:1

Fill us with strength to love, not in word or speech alone,

but in truth and action.

1 John 3:18–7 –

With every creature in heaven and on earth

and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them,

Rev 5:13

we join in the hymn of all creation, as

we thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word.

**We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## **SENDING**

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BIRTHDAY PRAYER** (Layne)

Watch over your child(ren)\_\_\_\_, O Lord as (his/her/their) days increase; bless and guide (him/her/them) wherever (he/she/they) may be. Strengthen (him/her/them) when (he/she/they) stand(s); comfort (him/her/them) when discouraged or sorrowful; raise (him/her/them) up if (he/she/they) fall(s); and in (his/her/their) heart(s) may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of (his/her/their) life (lives); through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **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.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**