



Central Lutheran Church  
The 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.*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Carillon

## **PRELUDE**

*Gigue and Minuet*

Elizabeth Jacquet de la Guerre

## **WELCOME**

## **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 is poured into the baptismal font]

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.**

## HYMN #379 Now the Green Blade Rises *(sung by cantors)*



1. Now the green blade ris - eth from the bur - ied grain,
2. In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain,
3. Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ri - sen grain,
4. When our hearts are win - try, griev-ing or in pain,



Wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
Think - ing that nev - er he would wake a - gain,  
He that for three days in the grave had lain,  
Thy touch can call us back to life a - gain,



Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:  
Quick from the dead my ri - sen Lord is seen:  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:



Love is come a - gain like wheat that spring-eth green.

## GREETING

The grace of our risen 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.**

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

<sup>26</sup>An 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.) <sup>27</sup>So 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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now 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. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As 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?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When 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. <sup>40</sup>But 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 life. **Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*Psalm 150*

César Franck

Cantors

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

<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 life. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Handbells

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 'Handbells' instruction. The melody is written on a single line. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia,' are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,'. The third staff concludes the piece with lyrics 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!'. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some notes beamed together and others held as half notes.

Cantor: *I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them, bear much fruit. Repeat antiphon*

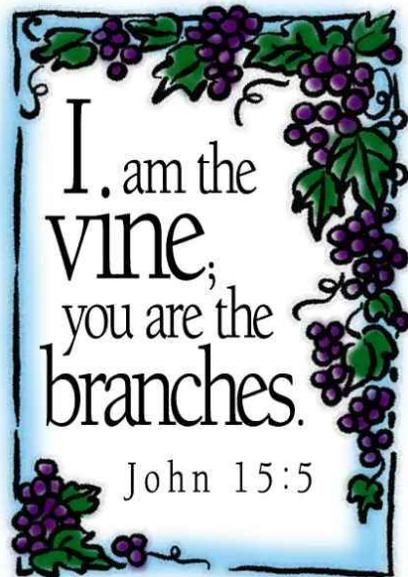
## **GOSPEL John 15:1-8**

The Gospel according to John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter. **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**

Pastor Laurie A. Jones



## HYMN OF THE DAY #403 Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her  
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch-es of the  
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the  
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our  
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

## NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us profess our Christian faith.

**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**

*During the petitions there will be an intentional pause so you can silently add your prayers to the prayers of the church, the world, and all people in need.*

## **PEACE**

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

## **ANTHEM**

*I Am the Vine*

Patterson

David Gustafson, Tenor with Cheryl Denise, Oboe

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
Lift up your hearts.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And al - so with you.  
We lift them to the Lord.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of two columns of music. The left column contains four staves of music, and the right column contains two staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

## PROPER PREFACE

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 ever-living 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 all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea, and all their creatures, with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name:

## SANCTUS

Organ

Ho - - - ly, ho - - - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
high-est. Organ Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Hosan-na in the high-est.

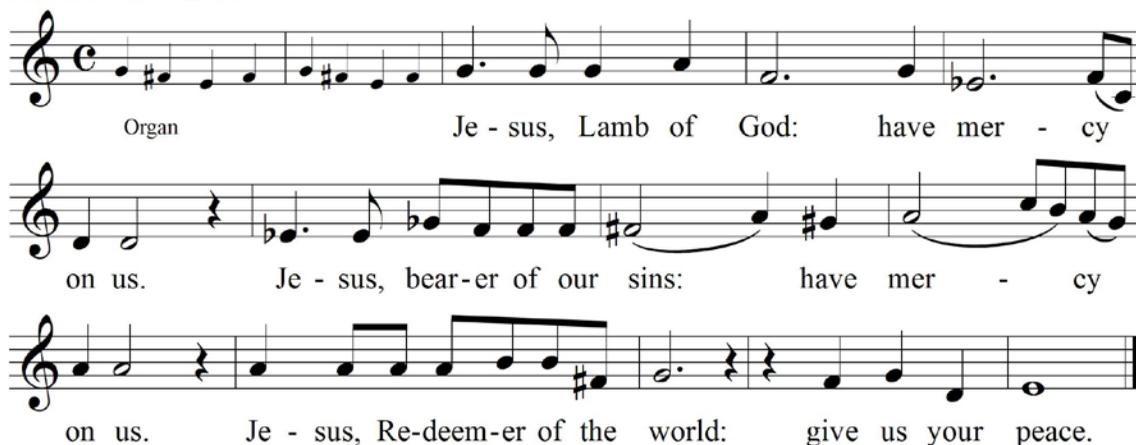
## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

## LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray together the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us:

**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.**

## LAMB OF GOD



Organ Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy  
on us. Je - sus, bear-er of our sins: have mer - cy  
on us. Je - sus, Re-deem-er of the world: give us your peace.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

### BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.**

# HYMN #385 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

Cantors

1. Good Chris - tian friends, re-joyce and sing! Now is the  
 2. The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of  
 3. Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry That love, that  
 4. Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, And sing to -

tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:  
 song to strew his way; Let all the world re-joyce and say:  
 life which can - not die, And sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
 day with one ac - cord, The life laid down, the life re - stored:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

## BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



## DISMISSAL

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

*For those of you worshipping with us in person we invite you to remain seated through the Organ Voluntary, after which there will be a clear signal that we are no longer broadcasting. However, if you choose to leave, we ask that you please depart the sanctuary in silence.*

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY *Carillon Sortie* Henri Mulet(1878-1967)

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## Today's Worship Leaders

Presider: Pastor Laurie A. Jones

Assisting Minister: Vicar Ben Nickodemus

Organist/Choirmaster: Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook

Associate Organist: Dr. Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers

Cantors: Leah Burian, Naomi Castro, Alyse Jamieson,

Blake Balmeseda, Dylan Bunten, David Gustafson, John Shields

Door Monitors: Meg Hicks and Janice Stine

Tech Support: Thomas Stine and Ted Hicks

## The readings for next week are:

Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17