

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- VBS Director Needed for dates 7/26, 28, 30
- Graduating Members, Sam Williams and Kristen Lintvedt from College
- 12 hour Prayer vigil May 16th?

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 34:8; 104:24, 31; 147:11*

P: The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him,
C: in those who hope in His steadfast love.

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good!
C: Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

P: O Lord, how manifold are Your works!
C: In wisdom have You made them all.

P: May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
C: may the Lord rejoice in His works.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

Silence for self-reflection

P: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

C: O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your Law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.

P: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.
C: Amen.

P: As you believe, so let it be. It is my joy that through Christ our sins are forgiven, and that the love of God sustains this time forth and forevermore. Let us go now forth in this love as His forgiven people.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

HYMN OF PRAISE No. 474 "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Risen and ascended 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.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING *Acts 8:26–40* (Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 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 before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way

rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 John 4:1–11* (An exhortation to lives of Christian love)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Romans 6:9, John 14:23*

L: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

C: Alleluia. If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 15:1–8* (Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.)

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in

you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN No. 575 "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

SERMON "The Abiding Fruit" *John 15:1-8*

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: 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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of all creation, for You graciously invite us to call upon You with all boldness and confidence. Gathered at Your Table, grant that we receive Your body and blood, fully trusting in Your promises that are fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Unite us to Christ the Vine that we live as fruitful branches and finally grant us a foretaste of the feast to come. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SELF-REFLECTION (In preparation of receiving the Sacrament, let us take this moment of silence for self-reflection)

1. Are you baptized in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
2. Do you know you are a sinner in need of God's grace?
3. Do you believe Jesus died to atone for your sins?
4. Do I believe that God offers His forgiveness through the "real" presence of Jesus, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine?
5. Do you seek to amend your sinful life?

If you have answered "Yes" to all of these questions you are *encouraged* to come. Jesus said, "Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

P: Let us now approach the table of the Lord with sincere hearts, joyfully receiving His promised presence, in, with and under the elements of bread and wine.

P: Merciful Lord,

**C: we do not presume to come to this Your table, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Your table.**

**But You are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink His blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed, through His most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

P: Remember us in Your kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

C: And also with you.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: With the very words of Christ we consecrate and partake of this sacred meal.

P: 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."

(Let us eat together the body of Christ.)

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 cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

(Let us drink together from the cup of salvation, the blood of Christ shed for our sins.)

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same and help us to rejoice in Your mercies that we grow daily as fruitful branches of Christ the Vine. Finally, in Your mercy, grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

C: Amen.

BLESSING OF THE LORD *Numbers 6:24–26*

P: 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.

HYMN No. 921 “On What Has Now Been Sown”

SENDING

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.