

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

May 2, 2021

10:00 a.m.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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 *Prelude in G Major*

J.S. Bach; Karen Sande, organ

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

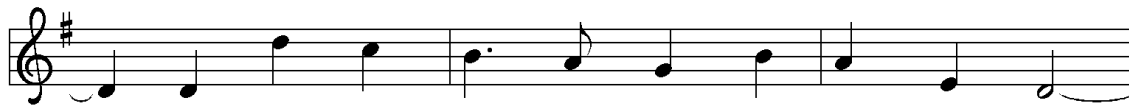
To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #449 *We Know That Christ Is Raised*



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

FIRST READING Acts 8:26-40

read by Greg Hilliard

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.

SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-21

read by Jill Hilliard

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION


Refrain




I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



⁴ Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know. *Refrain*

GOSPEL *John 15:1-8*

The Holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

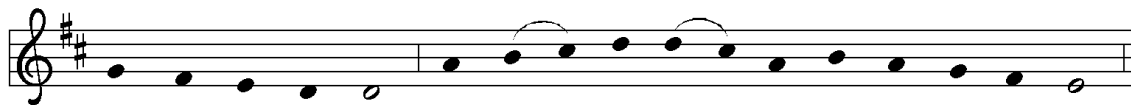
Jesus said: ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY #402 *Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ*



1 E - ter - nal Spir - it of the liv - ing Christ, I know not how to
 2 Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day; help me to see your
 3 Come with the vi - sion and the strength I need to serve my God and



ask or what to say; I on - ly know my need, as deep as life,
 pur- pose and your will, where I have failed, what I have done a - miss;
 all hu - man - i - ty; ful - fill - ment of my life in love out-poured:



and on - ly you can teach me how to pray.
 held in for - giv - ing love, let me be still.
 my life in you, O Christ, your love in me. A - men.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This year our GIFT Sunday, Middle School and Confirmation conversations have used the NE MN Synod Journey theme, "Deeply Rooted in a Boundless God", which helped us explore our identity in Christ by using the metaphor of a tree with deep roots. This creed was the foundational statement of the theme.

Boundless God, remind us:

**WE ARE Created by an ever-present, loving God,
 Deeply rooted in Christ Jesus,
 Equipped to be resilient amidst change,
 Grounded in community,
 Free to struggle, grow and expand,
 Compelled to reach out in response,
 Renewed in hope each day.**

God, speak these words to us today, plant them within us,
 that we may find our identity in you. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hear us, O God.
 Your mercy is great.

or

Bless we the Lord,
 Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to **218-325-9525** with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Largo from Violin Sonata #3 in C Major*

J.S. Bach

prerecorded by Kristin Sande, violin; Karen Sande, piano

OFFERING PRAYER

God of love,
you call us into beloved community and welcome all to your table.
Receive our lives and all that we offer that together we might extend your reign.
In the name of the Risen One.
Amen.

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

By God's great mercy we have been given a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

We've made it to Easter;
We have been strengthened, carried and raised through another year—
Fed by Christ through word, song, glimpses of God in creation and one another, and this bread for the journey. We eat it with joy and thanksgiving.
Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed; alleluia!

HYMN #816 *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life*



1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a
2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a
3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
length; such a strength as makes his guest.
part; such a heart as joys in love.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In the hope of new life in Christ, we pray:

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.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

FISHING BLESSING

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN #674 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*



- 1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
- 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
- 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace, sent as joyful witnesses to this good news.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *Fugue in G Major*

J.S. Bach; Karen Sande, organ

MINISTERS All People of First Lutheran Church

PASTOR The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman

PASTORAL INTERN Logan McLean Strike

PROGRAM STAFF Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate
Karen Sande, Director of Music
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship

MUSICIANS Barb LaMaster, Beth Storaasli, Dave LaMaster, Mark Knutson and Michael Fuchs, singers; Kristin Sande, violin

VIDEO TEAM Shania Krause, David Sproat, Dale Stahl, Sam Weston

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER Stacie Curnow

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*The Sanctuary is open for quiet prayer and reflection each Wednesday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Use the Superior St. entrance door leading directly into the Sanctuary.*

First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land.

We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

faithlovecommunity
First Lutheran Church

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