

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 2, 2021

Sunday School and Bible Study - 9:00 am
+ Service of Holy Communion - 10:30 am +

Rev. Herbert C. Dolich, Pastor

One Pastor, Many Ministers

Lenna Harris- Music Director/Organist – Supply Organist, Carol Frace

Tim Schomaker – Assisting Minister

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.

*Congregation please stand as able

+ GATHERING +

Prelude: "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise" by Robert Williams, arr. by Cindy Berry

Welcome & Announcements

Stand as you are able

*Gathering Hymn: "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!" ELW 377



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture, now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Refrain

Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

***Greeting:**

P For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

P In the beginning was the Word,

C and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

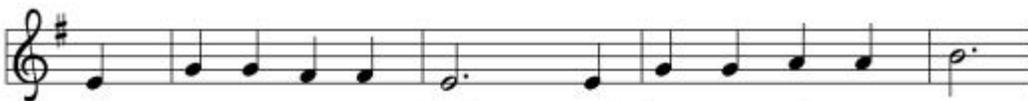
P In the Word was life,

C and the life was the light of all people.

P The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C and we have seen His glory, full of grace and truth.

***Kyrie:**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

***Gloria:**



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

***Prayer of the Day:**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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.

C Amen

Please be seated.

+ WORD +

First 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.

L The first lesson is from the 8th chapter of 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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:25-31

(Read responsively by full verse)

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

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

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

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

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, 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.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Second 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.

L The second lesson is from the 4th chapter of 1 John

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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able

***Gospel Acclamation:**



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***Holy Gospel – 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.

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter

C Glory to You, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 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."

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

Meditation

Time for reflection

+ RESPONSE TO THE WORD +

*Please stand as able

*Hymn of the Day: "Now the Green Blade Rises" ELW 379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en 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 he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your 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;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

*Apostles Creed – Confession and Forgiveness

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C We believe in Him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C Pray in the Holy Spirit.

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by Your Spirit so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C Amen

+ PRAYER +

***Prayers of Intercession:**

A 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.

A brief silence.

A God of all fruitfulness, You abide in Your church and Your church abides in You. Cleanse us by Your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to Your love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of Your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of Your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A You gather us with all the saints by the power of Your Spirit (*especially with Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria and those we name before You*). With them, may our hearts live forever in Your keeping. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to You, trusting in Your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

***Peace:**

P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please share our Lord's Peace with one another

Please be seated

Responding to God's Faithfulness with Giving: "More Love to Thee, O Christ" by William H. Doane

+ MEAL +

***Offering Prayer:**

A Let us pray.

A Blessed are You, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day You shower us with blessings. As You have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise You and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving:**

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 our thanks and praise.

***Preface:**

P It is indeed right, ... we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***Thanksgiving at the table:**

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,

We proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

To You, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in Your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

***Lord's Prayer:**

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

**C 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.

***Invitation to Communion:**

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Communion

P The body of Christ, given for you.

P The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Communion Canticle – “I Exalt Thee”

Verse 1 – I Exalt Thee Verse 2 – We Exalt Thee Verse 3 - Hallelujah

***Prayer after Communion:**

A Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection You send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish Your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Your Son’s resurrection, that we may show Your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C Amen.

+ SENDING +

***Blessing:**

P Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator strengthen you;

Jesus the beloved fill you;

and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.

C Amen

1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.

so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
 to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
 one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
 with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
 A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Extinguishing of candles

***Dismissal:**

A Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: "Triumphal March" by Edward Grieg

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Welcome to All Visitors who worship with us this morning. Jesus came to make God’s love known to our world. May your worship with us make God’s love known in your heart and in your life this day and always. We invite you to sign our Guest Register and introduce yourselves to the pastor after worship.

Bulletins are given to the Glory of God in honor of Lilly Bower for her love of music by Norma, Tom and Steve Dutt

Flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of Sydney Bower for her graduation by Norma, Tom and Steve Dutt

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers

Jessica Drennan, Lenny Nangel, Barbara Frace, Lenna Harris & JoAnne Keifer.

Please, take a few minutes to read through the prayer list and let the pastor know if any names should be added or removed.

This Week at Hope

Today - 05/02

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 9:00 AM

Worship of Word and Prayer- 10:30 AM

05/03 – Monday

Al-A-Non group 11:00 AM - Social Hall

05/04 - Tuesday -

AA 8:00 PM Social Hall

05/05 – Wednesday

Music & Worship Committee 9:30 AM

05/06 – Thursday -

AA 10:00 AM-Social Hall

AA Tatamy Women's Group 6:30 PM

Property Committee 6:30 PM

Forks of the Delaware Bottlers Club 6:30 PM

05/07 – Friday -

AA Al-A-Non 7:30 PM

05/08 – Saturday

05/09 – Sunday -

Sixth Sunday of Easter – Mother's Day

Sunday School (Fellowship Hall) and Adult Bible Study 9:00 AM

Service of Word and Prayer 10:30 AM

Birthdays this week

5-3 Abigail Warren

5-4 Rev. Charles Orem

5-7 Robert Meyers, Alexis Warren

5-8 Delbert Cressman

5-9 Cody Houck, Pat Pritchard

Anniversaries this week

5-5 Lisa & Scott Baur, Arlene & Ron Muschlitz, Linda & Gale Tucker

5-8 Deb & Chris Kravatz

“Hope – An Anchor for the Soul” Hebrews 6:19

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.

Announcements:

- The WELCA Mother's Day Luncheon will be held Wednesday, May 12th at 11:30 a.m. at Sal's Pizza Restaurant. All women of HOPE are welcome.
- The Nazareth Area Food Bank is now open and accepting donations. One of the hot items are peanut butter. You can also purchase a \$25 Giant Gift Card from Stan Smith to donate to the food bank.