

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Testimony Weekend

April 28 & 29, 2018

5:00 pm & 8:15 am



AS WE GATHER

In one of His several “I am” statements, Jesus says, “I am the vine. You are the branches.” Inviting His hearers to a place of rest and refuge, He says, “Abide in Me.” In the Epistle, John correlates confessing that Jesus is the Son of God with experiencing and coming to trust in the love God has for us. Abiding in Jesus means abiding in God’s love. And God Himself abides in us. This relationship of abiding in Jesus, who Himself is love, was experienced by the Ethiopian eunuch when Philip told him the Good News about Jesus and the Ethiopian was baptized.

PRELUDE

Organ

RINGING OF THE BELLS - *We Prepare our hearts and minds for worship*



WELCOME

OPENING HYMN “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

LSB 700

**Love divine all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, Enter ev’ry trembling heart.**

**Breathe, oh, breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev’ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.**

**Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav’n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

(Please Stand)

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Christ is risen!

Men: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Christ is risen!
Women: *He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

Pastor: Christ is risen!
People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(If you would like private confession and absolution, please call the office at (314) 832-5600 to make an appointment with Pastor Clark)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen. Matthew 28:19b**

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8-9**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *[John 20:19-23]*
People: **Amen.**

[OR]

Seminary Student: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *John 1:12, Philippians 1:6*

People: **Amen.**

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE "This Is the Feast"

LSB 155

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, Whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, And honor, blessing, and glory are His. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Sing with all the people of God, And join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might Be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will.
People: Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

(Please Be Seated)



FIRST READING Acts 8:26–40 (Philip is sent to meet the Ethiopian eunuch to tell him The Good News about Jesus.)

²⁶ 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. ²⁷ 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 ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² 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. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” ³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ 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?” ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.



EPISTLE 1 *John* 4:1–11 (Test the spirits. God is love.)

¹Beloved, 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. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and 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. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We 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. ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In 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. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL VERSE “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

LSB 477, v. 1

**Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav’n and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim For the world’s salvation bled—
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.**



HOLY GOSPEL *John* 15:1–8 (Jesus is the vine. We are the branches.
Abide in Him and abide in love.)

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every 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. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶If 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. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**



I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Please Be Seated)

PRESENTATION OF CONFIRMATION VERSE TESTIMONIAL ESSAYS

<i>Saturday 5:00 pm:</i>	<i>Noah Matthew Clark</i>	<i>Proverbs 3:5-6</i>
	<i>Liam Brady Rabun</i>	<i>Revelation 21:6-7</i>
<i>Sunday 8:15 am:</i>	<i>Sophia Rose LaBrier</i>	<i>1 John 4:19</i>
	<i>Anna Marie Muhlke</i>	<i>Matthew 5:16</i>
<i>Sunday 11:00 am</i>	<i>Jordan Elizabeth Ingrham</i>	<i>John 8:32</i>
	<i>Nathanael Kenneth Mays</i>	<i>Psalms 16:8</i>
	<i>Gavin Victor Schulz</i>	<i>John 14:6</i>



HYMN OF THE DAY “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” LSB 633

**At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!**

**Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast—Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!**

**Where the paschal blood is poured, Death’s dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel’s hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!**

**Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!**

**Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell’s fierce pow’rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!**

**Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!**

**Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!**

**Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!**



SERMON

(Please Stand)



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray together in Christ Jesus for all people according to their needs. Lord Jesus Christ, You are greater than all and have been given the name that is above every name. Grant us discernment to test all spirits. Tune our hearts to listen to Your voice, and draw us away from the voices that clamor to deceive us according to the spirits of this age. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Gracious King, Your kingdom is greater than all, and Your rule is limitless and unbounded. Grant that the rulers of the kingdoms of this world would bow their knees to Your gracious reign, seeking only the knowledge of Your will and the power to carry it out. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Great Physician, Your healing power is greater than all the technology of human invention. Be at work for good through the vocations of all healthcare professionals, workers, and caregivers that those who suffer any affliction of body, mind, or spirit, [*including . . .*], would know the nearness of Your presence and experience the joy that comes from abiding in Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

(Special Petitions)

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Christ Jesus, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

(Please Be Seated)



GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

(Please Stand)

OFFERTORY “What Shall I Render to the Lord” *Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19 LSB 159*

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,

In the courts of the Lord’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.



✠SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT✠

We believe Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christian to eat and to drink. If you are a communicant member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation, please feel free to commune with us. If not, please speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, our duty, and our delight to give You thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty God, but chiefly do we praise You for the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, whose death has paid the price of our sins and whose life bestows upon us everlasting life. With angels, archangels, with Peter and Paul, and with all the saints in light, we join in praising Your name and singing their unending hymn:

SANCTUS *Holy, Holy, Holy Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

LSB 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 162

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 162

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to 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. *Matthew 6:9–13*

PAX DOMINI *The Peace of the Lord John 20:19*

LSB 163

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

People: **Amen.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

(Please Be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS “Our Paschal Lamb, that Sets Us Free” *LSB 473*

**Our Paschal Lamb, that sets us free, Is sacrificed.
O keep The feast of freedom gallantly;
Let alleluias leap:**

**Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Again Sing alleluia, cry aloud: Alleluia! Amen!**

**Let all our lives now celebrate The feast
Let malice die. Let love grow strong anew, and great,
Let truth stamp out the lie. Refrain**

**Let all our deeds, unanimous, Confess Him as our Lord
Who by the Spirit lives in us,
The Father’s living Word. Refrain**

“Oh Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High” *LSB 544*

**O love, how deep, how broad, how high, Beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take Our mortal form for mortals’ sake!**

**He sent no angel to our race, Of higher or of lower place,
But wore the robe of human frame, And to this world Himself He came.**

**For us baptized, for us He bore His holy fast and hungered sore;
For us temptation sharp He knew; For us the tempter overthrew.**

**For us He prayed; for us He taught; For us His daily works He wrought,
By words and signs and actions thus Still seeking not Himself but us.**

**For us by wickedness betrayed, For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death; For us He gave His dying breath.**

**For us He rose from death again; For us He went on high to reign;
For us He sent His Spirit here to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.**

**△ All glory to our Lord and God For love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore Forever and forevermore.**

“Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain”

LSB 865

**Lord, help us ever to retain The Catechism’s doctrine plain
As Luther taught the Word of truth In simple style to tender youth.**

**Help us Your holy Law to learn, To mourn our sin and from it turn
In faith to You and to Your Son And Holy Spirit, Three in One.**

**Hear, us, dear Father, when we pray For needed help from day to day
That as Your children we may live, Whom You baptized and so received.**

**Lord, when we fall or go astray, Absolve and lift us up, we pray;
And through the Sacrament increase Our faith till we depart in peace.**

(Please Stand)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

LSB 164

**Thank the Lord and sing His Praise, tell ev’ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia!**



BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

LSB 166

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

LSB 805

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Organ

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