

**WELCOME!**

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



*We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ, to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life, and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.*

*Please stand*

**HYMN 619 "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" (stanzas 1, 2, 7 and 8)**

**INVOCATION**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

P: Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come before God Who calls us to repentance.

God of life,

**C: by the resurrection of Your Son You make everything new.**

**Newness often scares us, and we confess to shutting our minds in fear. We have not listened to voices that challenge us. We have resisted the Holy Spirit moving us in new**

**directions. Our hearts are slow to believe Your promises.**

**Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear the new life You have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: People of God: Christ is alive, and death has lost its power.

Through the waters of baptism You have been born anew by the living word of God. Know that your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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.**

# KYRIE

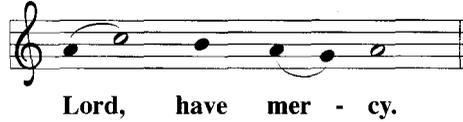
Cantor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation:**



Cantor: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation:**



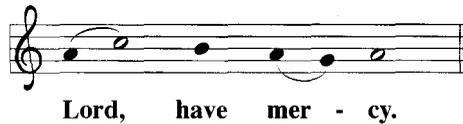
Cantor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation:**



Cantor: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation:**



Cantor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Congregation:**



# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister

S 149



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **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.

**C: Amen.**

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

Then 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.) 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 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?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 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. 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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

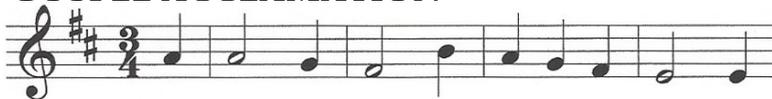
**SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 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. 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. 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. We love because he first loved us. 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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



le - lu ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

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

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

**Gospel: John 15:1-8**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

**ANTHEM**

Joseph Roff

*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. Abide in Me, and I in you.*

— John 15:4, 5

Heather Stewart, Jeanne Gusa,

Dr. Scott Hirth, Brady Stewart

**SERMON**

Pastor Seth Jersild

## HYMN 342 "There in God's Garden"

### APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Response:*

**P: ...Lord in your mercy,**

**C: Hear our prayer.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P. The Lord be with you.**

**C: And also with you.**

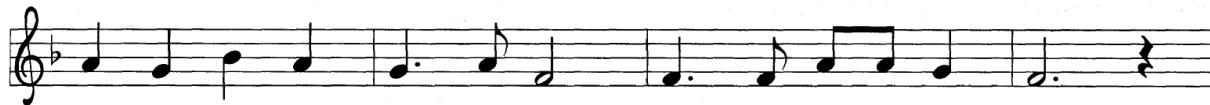
**P: Lift up your hearts.**

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

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

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

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

## **DISTRIBUTION**

Please follow the instructions from the pastor for distribution.

*Believing in the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the bread and wine of the Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sin, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to the Lord's Table.*

**ORGAN** Benedictus (Mass for the Parishes)      François Couperin

## **BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION**

**HYMN** 655 "Son of God, Eternal Savior" (stanzas 1, 3 and 4)

## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace, serve the Risen Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## FINISHING COMMUNION AT HOME AFTER CHURCH

### St. John's Lutheran Church, Grove City OH

For your safety and comfort in the next several weeks, we will be distributing pre-packaged communion kits to members during worship for everyone to take home, rather than eating and drinking in the church building.

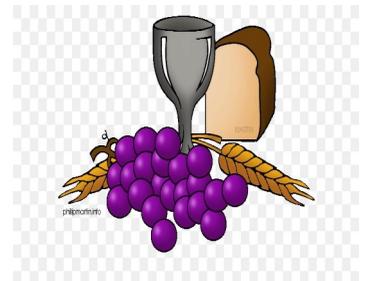
The bread and wine will be consecrated with the Words of Jesus during corporate worship, and will be ready to consume afterwards. However, since it is important to have the words of Jesus fresh in our ears before taking the sacrament, we strongly encourage you to use the following order of service once you get home.

First, unpeel the wafer(s) from the top of the package. Then unseal the juice and place the wafer and juice before you on a table, so that the elements are ready to be consumed.

Then, say the following aloud (or have someone in your group say it for everyone): *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."*

Now, partake of the wine and bread, trusting that the resurrected Lord Jesus is truly present in the sacrament **for you**, giving you the fullness of his forgiveness, life, and salvation.

After eating and drinking, we suggest saying the following prayer aloud (or have someone in your group say it for everyone): *We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy, you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith towards you and in fervent love for one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.*



# Listening for the Promise

## Weekly Devotional

### The Fifth Sunday of Easter

### May 2, 2021

“Philip...told him the good news about Jesus.”  
- Acts 8:35 -

The good news of the resurrection, that God defeated death, sin, and the devil by raising the crucified Jesus from the dead, leaps over all boundaries and overcomes all obstacles. Nothing can prevent the love of Jesus Christ for us from calling all to himself. Baptism is a tangible and visible activity of the Holy Spirit in the relentless reach of God’s salvation for the world.

One might think that it would be enough for the crucified Jesus to rise from the dead and then return to his fearful disciples and show himself to them. In that way their faith could be confirmed in him and see tangible proof that he is indeed the Son of God. Sorry, but that is not the case, it is not the end of the story, it is merely the beginning. Jesus, not only defeats death, but he immediately moves into the whole world. And not only that, Jesus enlists and commissions his disciples (and us too!) to move into the world in his name.

By the work of the Holy Spirit, somebody has to say something. Somebody has to preach and somebody has to explain the scriptures (vs. 30-31) to those who have not yet heard the good news. There are those, like the eunuch, that need to hear about the Holy Spirit breaking into the world, reaching out and embracing those who have not yet heard the truth of who God is and what God is up to in the world.

Tradition has said that the eunuch went back home and founded the church of Ethiopia. This church has endured centuries of persecution and is still spreading the good news of Jesus into the world. What if Philip had stayed home instead of going into the desert? What if you stay home? Who will go and tell?

**Let us pray:** *O God, we give you thanks not only for baptism, but for the Holy Spirit. We ask that your Spirit would shake us up and move us out from the confines of the church building. Nothing holds your Spirit back; let nothing hold us back. Bring to our limited minds awareness of all those who are in need of hearing the good news of your love for them. Help us to become engaged in your mission so that your will is done and your name may be known throughout the world. Amen.*