



KIMBALL MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 VANCE ST. KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081

April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:30 am

*Congregation responses in **Bold**.*

GATHERING MUSIC

*Give Us Clean Hands
Famous One*

*Charlie Hall
Chris Tomlin*

WELCOME

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray. 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.

LET'S TALK

Children's Time

Reading Acts 8:26-40

L A reading from the eighth chapter of Acts.

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.) 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 Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

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 St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C **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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor John Futterer

SONG OF RESPONSE

As the Deer

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✚ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C **Amen.**

P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Steadfast and faithful God,

C **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world’s violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

VERSE

1. As the deer pant - eth for the wa - ter, so my soul long - eth af - ter Thee.
 2. You're my friend and You are my broth - er e - ven though You are a King.
 3. I want You more than gold or sil - ver. On - ly You can sat - is - fy.

5

You a - lone are my heart's de - si - re, and I long to wor - ship Thee.
 I love You more than an - y oth - er, so much more than an - y - thing.
 You a - lone are the real joy - giv - er and the ap - ple of my eye.

CHORUS

You a - lone are my strength, my shield; to You a - lone may my spir - it yield.

14

You a - lone are my heart's de - si - re, and I long to wor - ship Thee.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

A With the people of God in Christ now and in every time, let us confess our faith.

**C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true
God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were
made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the
Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our
sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On
the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into
heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father
and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has
spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection
of the dead, and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church,
the world, and all those in need of good news.

*Prayer petitions will conclude: "God of grace,"
The congregation's response is: "hear our prayer."*

P Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your
abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C Amen.

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

A Following his resurrection, the Lord Jesus breathed peace upon his disciples. We share
in this peace of Christ in the Church today. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer
here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through
Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

We have two options for Communion during this time. You are free to come forward to receive the bread and pre-filled cups of wine from our clergy and lay assistants, returning to your seats after you've deposited the empty cup and following the guidance of our ushers; or you may continue to use the pre-packaged communion elements which are available from the ushers at the entrance to the Sanctuary. However you choose to receive Communion this morning, know that we are glad you're here for this Sacrament!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit let us pray, as Jesus taught.

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

P Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

You may receive the Elements as the words are said:

The Body of Christ given for You; The Blood of Christ shed for You.



VERSE

1. You are my strength when I am weak. You are the treas - ure that I
 2. Tak ing my sin, my cross, my shame, Ris - ing a - gain I bless Your

3
 seek. You are my all in all. Seek - ing You as a pre - cious
 name; You are my all in all. When I fall down, You pick me

CHORUS

6
 jew'l, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool. You are my all in all. Je - sus,
 up; When I am dry, You fill my cup; You are my all in all.

10
 Lamb of God, wor - thy is Your name! Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is Your

16
 name!

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The God of glory, ✝ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

A Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SENDING SONG

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

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VERSE

Lord, I lift Your name on high; Lord, I love to sing Your

4

prais - es. I'm so glad You're in my life; I'm so glad You came to

CHORUS

8

save us. You came from heav - en to earth to show the way,

11

from the earth to the cross my debt to pay; From the cross to the grave,

14

from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift Your name on high.