

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

1100 Las Gallinas Avenue, San Rafael, CA 94903

Telephone: (415) 479-1334

www.lcsr.com

www.facebook.com/lcsr

PASTOR TOM HURLEY



April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

“THE TRUE VINE”

*Whoever you are...
Wherever you are in your JOURNEY OF FAITH...
YOU are WELCOME here!*

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Welcome

Gathering Music:

Our celebration begins with this morning's pre-service music selection. Use this time to prepare your heart for worship by reading and meditating on the lessons for today.



Invocation and Prayer

Leader: Jesus, in the Gospel of John, makes another “I am” statement. I am the true vine. Jesus compares the Father to a gardener who prunes branches to make them more fruitful. Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. We must remain in each other to bear fruit. Indeed, if the branch does not remain in the vine, it will be thrown away into the fire and burned. It is to the Father’s glory to bear much fruit.

Pastor: We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

All: We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

Leader: The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

All: We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, and productive.

Leader: If we abide in Christ, then Christ’s words will abide in us.

All: We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.

Leader: We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. Amen!

Leader: Let us pray: Heavenly Father, we are the people that were yet unborn when the Psalmist exclaimed: *“future generations will be told about the Lord.”* Help us love one another, for when we do so, we are loving You. Holy Spirit, we dare ask You to help us love more fervently, to love when love is hard to do, and to remember that when we love, it is only possible because You first loved us. Jesus, apart from You we cannot bear fruit for the kingdom. Abide in us for the sake of Your church, and help us be Your love-filled disciples. When we see violence, help us also see the sadness of Your heart, and seek to be Your peacemakers in our everyday lives. Help us listen closely to Your Word, even as You listen closely to our prayers. **Amen.**

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

Leader: We thank You, gracious God, for Jesus Christ the true vine, with His roots eternally grounded in You. We rejoice that by grace we have been grafted into Him, to be branches on a vine which bears the loveliest of all the fruits of earth. Yet we confess that all is not well with the way we live.

All: **Please forgive us when we have been the ones to introduce disease into the vine, preferring it's contamination to the vigor of health. Forgive us our tendency to wander instead of growing on the framework You provide, for being content and proud of, a few sparse or undersized fruits, for the apathy which lets us go through some seasons without bearing any fruit. Have mercy on us. Please do not lose patience or sever us from the true vine. Rather heal our diseases, discipline, and train our wandering tendrils, prune our unfruitful branches, and cut away our diseased ones.**

Pastor Jesus said: *"If you reside in me, and my words reside in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you."* We have asked for forgiveness and correction. It has been truly done for us. It is being done for us. And it will be done for us. **Amen!**



Hymn: "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" LW# 126 vs. 1, 4, 5, 6 & 7

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD *(SCRIPTURE READINGS ON PAGE 7-8)*

First Reading: Acts 8:26 – 40

Reader: This is God's Word
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7 – 21

Reader: This is God's Word.
All: **Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Reading: John 15:1 – 8


Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.
All: **Praise to You, O Christ.**



Song: "Abide With Us, Our Savior" LW #287 vs. 1, 2, 3 & 6

Message: "The True Vine" – Pastor Tom Hurley

WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS

 **Apostles Creed – (All speak together)**

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.

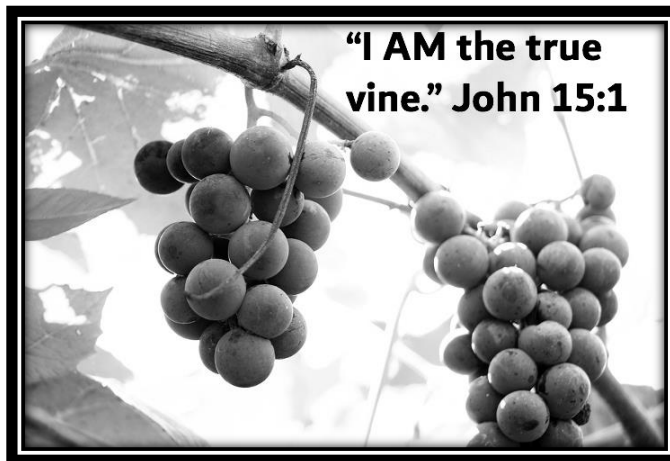
 **The Prayers – Congregation response, “Hear our prayer.”**

Offering – The offering plate is by the door as you exit today.

 **Lord’s Prayer:**

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.



WE GO OUT TO SHARE GOD'S GRACE

Closing Litany: Poem: Connected to the Vine of Christ © By M.S.Lowndes

Leader: We must stay connected to the vine of Jesus Christ,

All: The very source of our faith and the meaning for our lives.

Leader: For we will produce much fruit as we draw from the vine

All: The nourishment of the Lord, which feeds our souls and minds

Leader: For the Lord wants us to be reflecting Jesus the Christ

All: So the world will clearly see the love of God inside.

Leader: We need to allow the Lord to take our branches and prune

All: The part that's become withered so we'll continue to bloom.

Benediction

Pastor: If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. Amen!

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with His favor and give you peace." Amen.



Closing Hymn: "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" – LW #218



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT FORUM – Join us Monday mornings at 9:30 on ZOOM. Look for the ZOOM invitation in your email each Sunday afternoon.

SERVING IN THE LORD'S FIELD TODAY:

Lay Leader: Judy Montoya
Comm. Assistant: **No Comm.*
Ushers/Greeter: Nelson & Shirley Gremmels
Reader: Diana Goebel
Altar/Pre-Post Clean: *Daina Vitols**
Counter: Shirley Gremmels
Fellowship: Diana Goebel

SERVING IN THE LORD'S FIELD NEXT SUNDAY:

Lay Leader: Dwayne Warren
Comm. Assistant: Dwayne Warren
Usher/Greeter: Chuck & Elfi Bakken
Reader: Nancy Warren
Altar/Pre-Post Clean: Marcia Hurley
Counter: Chuck Bakken
Fellowship: Dwayne & Nancy Warren

**No Communion on these Sundays. Altar person will fill the candles on the Altar, change and light the hanging candle.*

BIRTHDAY: None

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: None

SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Joseph Worthington (*Grandson of the Bakken's*), Esteban Ramirez (*Grandson of Mercedes See*), and 1st Lt. Charles Gremmels: Charles' squadron are in Korea for a 9 month deployment. His unit is assigned to the DMZ and are deployed to the watchtower area (*Son of Tom & Kevin Gremmels and Grandson of Nelson & Shirley*).

SURGERY/ILLNESS/PRAYER REQUEST:

Warren Family – Prayers of comfort with the passing of Xanthia Warren.

Shane – Needs prayer for burns on 30% of his body (*John Surinchak*).

Jeanette Genovese – She is recovering from hernia surgery (*Ken Benson's daughter*).

Steve Hendricks – Prayers of comfort, he's been diagnosed with liver cancer (*Diana Goebel's brother*).

Mike Gremmels – Continued prayers for recovery.

Fern Johnson – Continued prayers for her asthmatic condition.

Carmen Roncancio – Prayers for her health and prays for the finances of her great grandson, Gabriel, and his father, Daniel.

Lance Desmond – Prayers for a kidney transplant, as he continues dialysis.

Jules Schindler – He is suffering from dementia and hallucinations.

Elena Schindler – Prayers for her as she takes care of Jules.

Ken Benson – Continued healing from cancer.



First Reading: Acts 8:26 – 40

Angels continue to play a major role. Philip is instructed by an angel to go to the desert road, where he meets an Ethiopian eunuch. The eunuch is reading from the book of Isaiah about a man being led like a sheep to the slaughter. Philip explains the passage and tells the man about Jesus. The eunuch believes and Philip baptizes him. And then the Holy Spirit takes Philip away to where he will continue to preach the Gospel.

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth.³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?”³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?”³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7 – 21

The Apostle John uses the word “love” multiple times. He starts out warning of false prophets with instructions on how to recognize the Spirit of God. And then he writes of love, the love of God, loving each other, how God showed His love, God loved us first. His love is made complete in us, we can rely on the love of God, love drives out fear. Indeed, God is love.

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.¹¹ Dear

friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. ¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

Jesus, in the Gospel of John, makes another “I am” statement. I am the true vine. Jesus compares the Father to a gardener who prunes branches to make them more fruitful. Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. We must remain in each other to bear fruit. Indeed, if the branch does not remain in the vine, it will be thrown away into the fire and burned. It is to the Father’s glory to bear much fruit.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

