

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER
May 2, 2021
GOD'S PEOPLE GATHERING

Prelude/Welcome/Announcements

Call to Worship

P: Lord you are a present help in trouble. **C: Come revive, Redeem, Restore.**

P: In our darkness, come as light. **C: In our sadness, come as joy; In our troubles, come as peace.** P: In our weakness, come as strength. Come Lord, to our aid. **C: Revive, Redeem, Restore us.**

-Tides and Seasons by David Adam.

Opening Hymn: No. 449 "We Know That Christ Is Raised"

Confession of Sin:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives all of our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **C: Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: 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. Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Lesson: Acts 8:26-40

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

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.

Here ends the first lesson. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:25-31

From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

C: The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!

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

C: For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.

Indeed, 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.

C: Their descendants shall serve the Lord, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, “The Lord has acted!”

The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson: 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.

Here ends the second lesson. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand in honor of the reading of the gospel. The Holy Gospel is taken from **John 15:1-8**

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “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

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.”

The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day No. 629 “Abide With Me”

Affirmation of Faith:

C: We believe in God above us, Maker and Sustainer of all life.

We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of compassion. He died forsaken; he descended into the earth to the place of death.

On the third day he rose from the tomb; he ascended into heaven to be everywhere present; and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire; life-giving breath of the church, spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.

From Iona Community; Scotland

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Mission Moment

Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray.

C: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING/WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION HYMNS: No. 471 “Let Us Break Bread Together”; 465 “As the Grains of Wheat”; 379 “Now the Green Blade Rises”

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

GOD’S PEOPLE SENT FORTH

Benediction

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father + and of the Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn No. 821 “Shout to the Lord” * Sing the song twice**

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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Welcome! Great to have you here! Thank you for choosing to worship with us here today. We practice open Communion at First Lutheran. If you believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, his body and blood shed for you, you are welcome to our table. Apple juice is available upon request.

The Worship Radio Broadcast today is sponsored in honor of McKenzie Dulas' 18th birthday by Dave & Ellen Dulas.

✠ **Continuing Prayer Concerns:** Dennis Hazelton, Val Carmondy, Janice Harkema, John Dubbelde, Sarah Meyer, Jeanine Olson, Barb Barduson and Mike Straw as they deal with health issues.

April Noisy Offering for "Lutheran Disaster Response"

The total Noisy offering amount given for "**Lutheran Disaster Response**" was \$230.53. Thank you for your support for the Lutheran Disaster Response.

This Week's Schedule – May 2, 2021

Today 9:30am Worship/Holy Communion at Church and live streamed

10:45am Adult Ed Book discussion

Wednesday 6:15pm Confirmation; 7:00pm Property Management meeting

Thursday "**National Day of Prayer**" ***Service will be held at Noon on the Courthouse lawn.***

Please bring your lawn chair.

Sunday "Mother's Day"

9:30am Worship/Holy Communion/2021 Senior Sunday at Church and live streamed;

Ministers Members of First Lutheran Church

Pastor Rev. Joyce Tollefson Capp

Organist Paul Henriksen

Sound Mark Zinnel

Reader Dave Dulas

Communion Assistant Chris Hollingsworth

Question of the Month for May 2021

What's the 1st question you want to ask in heaven? Please email your response to henriksen7@mchsi.com

FLCW Brunch Tuesday, May 18 at 10am in the Fireside Room

It will be Brunch with a breakfast casserole. Bring items that will complement that. We will be studying the May Gather devotional, "The Journey of Generations." Please bring a photo or memento of someone of another generation that is or was important to you. We will be sharing stories.

"Sunday School Roundup"

Wednesday, May 19, 5:30pm at the Southwest park - west of the Church

Food will be provided. We will share conversation about fall 2021 Sunday school/Children's Education ideas. ***Open to all families with children 3 years to 5th grade.***

Please call the Church office if your family will be attending to let us know how much pizza to order. In case of inclement weather, we will meet in the Fellowship hall.

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