



WHAT'S LOVE GOT  
TO DO WITH IT?

---

1 JOHN 4:1-11

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 28th, 2024

# *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

*8 am and 11 am Worship Service*

## **As We Gather**

When Jesus uses the image of the vine and speaks of vineyards, He is choosing something very familiar to His hearers. Viticulture is well known around the world. More than eighteen million acres worldwide is used for growing grapes—from Panama to Tajikistan to Zimbabwe! Today, the cultivation of vineyards is still an important agricultural component in both Israel and the Jordan, lands where Jesus walked and taught. Life in the vineyard is vital! As branches grafted to the Vine that is Christ, we are vitalized by His power. As we worship, God’s life-supporting power infuses us! It is time to continue growing!

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **This Joyful Eastertide**

**LSB 482**

This joyful Eastertide  
Away with sin and sorrow!  
My love, the Crucified,  
Has sprung to life this morrow: **Refrain.**

ref Had Christ, who once was slain,  
Not burst His three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
But now has Christ arisen,  
arisen, arisen;  
But now has Christ arisen!

Death’s flood has lost its chill  
Since Jesus crossed the river;  
Lover of souls, from ill  
My passing soul deliver: **Refrain.**

My flesh in hope shall rest  
And for a season slumber  
Till trump from east to west  
Shall wake the dead in number: **Refrain.**

Public domain

## **Invocation**

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

**O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

**Amen.**

As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant 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.

**Amen.**

## Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

**LSB 457 (vs. 4)**

△ Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!  
Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Public domain

## Service of the Word

### Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. 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; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### First Reading

**Acts 8:26-40**

***(Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)***

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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 <sup>28</sup> and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

<sup>31</sup>And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>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.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>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?”<sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## Epistle

**1 John 4:1-11**

*(An exhortation to lives of Christian love.)*

<sup>4</sup> Beloved, 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. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> and 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. <sup>4</sup> Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We 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.

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In 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.

<sup>10</sup> In 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. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## Gospel Processional Celtic Alleluia

## Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8

*(Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.)*

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

*Glory to You, O Lord.*

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to You, O Christ.*

## Celtic Alleluia

### Apostles' Creed

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.

## O Love, How Deep

**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.

Public domain

**Message**

***Pastor Nathan McCarty***

**Prayers of the Church**

## **Service of the Sacrament**

**Preface**

***LSB 194***

The Lord be with you.  
***And with thy spirit.***

Lift up your hearts.  
***We lift them up unto the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
***It is meet and right so to do.***

**Proper Preface**

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## Sanctus

LSB 195

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna. hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He  
That cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

## The Words of Our Lord

### The Peace

The peace of the ☩ Lord be with you always.  
*Amen.*

### Agnus Dei

LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.

### Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise

LSB 680

Thine the amen Thine the praise  
Alleluias angels raise  
Thine the everlasting head  
Thine the breaking of the bread  
Thine the glory Thine the story  
Thine the harvest then the cup  
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the life eternally  
Thine the promise let there be  
Thine the vision Thine the tree  
All the earth on bended knee  
Gone the nailing gone the railing  
Gone the pleading gone the cry  
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly Thine the yes  
Thine the table we the guest  
Thine the mercy all from Thee  
Thine the glory yet to be  
Then the ringing and the singing  
Then the end of all the war  
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.

Thine the kingdom Thine the prize  
Thine the wonder full surprise  
Thine the banquet then the praise  
Then the justice of Thy ways  
Thine the glory Thine the story  
Then the welcome to the least  
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night  
No more dying only light  
Thine the river Thine the tree  
Then the Lamb eternally  
Then the holy holy holy  
Celebration jubilee  
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

© 1983 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission.

## Dismissal

### Post-Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

Holy Father, we ask You now, by this blessed food and drink, to deliver Your Church from every evil, to teach it to love You perfectly, and make it truly one, even as this bread was made from many grains of wheat to become the carrier of the body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the wine was drawn from the fruitfulness of many grapes. Grant that we ever abide as branches of the Vine, Christ Himself, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

### Blessing of God's People (Benediction)

#### Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

*LSB 465*

Now all the vault of heav'n resounds  
In praise of love that still abounds:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!  
Repeat their song of glory here:  
"Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift He brings,  
Therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Now still He comes to give us life  
And by His presence stills all strife.  
Christ has triumphed! He is living!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;  
Set heart and will on things above  
That we conquer through Your triumph;  
Grant grace sufficient for life's day  
That by our lives we truly say:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Adoring praises now we bring  
And with the heav'nly blessed sing:  
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"  
Be to the Father and our Lord,  
To Spirit blest, most holy God,  
All the glory, never ending!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

© 1958 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100010499

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

# Family Contemporary

9:30 am Worship Service

## Welcome and Announcements

### Invocation

### Opening Song of Praise

### First Reading

**Acts 8:26-40**

*(Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)*

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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 <sup>28</sup> and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup> And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> 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.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup> And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> 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?” <sup>38</sup> And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### Epistle

**1 John 4:1-11**

*(An exhortation to lives of Christian love.)*

<sup>4</sup> Beloved, 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. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> and 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. <sup>4</sup> Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

<sup>5</sup> They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.

<sup>6</sup> We 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.

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In 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. <sup>10</sup> In 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. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## Holy Gospel

*John 15:1-8*

*(Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.)*

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

*Glory to You, O Lord.*

<sup>15</sup> “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every 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. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> I 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. <sup>6</sup> If 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. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to You, O Christ.*

## Apostles' Creed

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.

## Praise Song

## Message

*Pastor Nathan McCarty*

## **Confession and Absolution**

Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

**O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

**Amen.**

As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant 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.

**Amen.**

## **Holy Communion**

### **Distribution Song(s)**

### **Prayers**

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **Blessing of God's People (Benediction)**

### **Closing Song of Praise**

## **Acknowledgments**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.