



## **MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**

***1000 B Avenue • West Columbia • South Carolina • 29169 • 803.796.5948***

**9:35 AM — May 2, 2021 — Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Contemporary Worship Service**

## Setting Eight—Holy Communion

### INTRODUCTION

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

### PRELUDE

*"I Love You, Lord"*

**Klein**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Stand*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

**Holy God, you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

*"Take Me to the Water"*

**See Hymn Insert**

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### KYRIE

**p. 184**

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

*“Majesty”*

**See Hymn Insert**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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. **Amen.**

*Sit*

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**FIRST READING**

**Acts 8:26-40**

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

<sup>26</sup>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.) <sup>27</sup>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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer, so he does not open 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>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>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?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found him-

self at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

**PSALM HYMN**

*“In the Presence of Your People”*

**See Hymn Insert**

*Stand*

**GOSPEL**

**John 15:1-8**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**  
*Sit*

**SERMON**

*Stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!”* (verses 2 & 3)

**ELW 377**

**CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that God has created me and all that exists.**

**I believe that Christ died on a cross for my sin, conquered Death and was raised to new life on the third day. New life is mine because of Jesus’ words and work.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit in response to God’s overwhelming love. I believe that the Holy Spirit is here among us and lives within each of us. The Spirit continues to call people by the Gospel and creates and builds the Church of Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, I have the power to stand in strength against all adversity.**

**I believe that Jesus Christ has gone to prepare a place for me and will come again to take each of us to be with Him. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Sit*

**ANTHEM**

*“Come to the Water”*

**Foley/arr. Schrader**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING HYMN**

*“We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise”*

**See Hymn Insert**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

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.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**HYMN**

*“Eat This Bread”*

**ELW 472**

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.

**HYMN**

*“Eat This Bread”*

**ELW 472**

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.

**HYMN**

*“Eat This Bread”*

**ELW 472**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

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

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

#### COMMUNION

#### COMMUNION SONG

*“Lamb of God”*

ELW 336

*Stand*

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. **Amen.**

#### BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

#### SENDING SONG

*“Shout to the Lord”*

ELW 821

#### DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

#### POSTLUDE

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**Altar Flowers.** *Today’s Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of Natalie Cook’s graduation from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary given by her parents.*

**Processional Cross Flowers.** *Today’s Processional Cross Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Paul Jacobs & Gerald Shealy given by Steve, Doris & Kyle Rabon and Chris, Jenny & Beau Wright.*

**Lord Teach Us To Pray:**

*As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the following members of our church family, who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Ashlyn Baxter, Clara Conrad, Mickey Geiger, Jeremy Goings, Samuel Hilton, Bennett Plane, Kathy Risinger, Michael Rodgers, Abby Grace Roof, Evelyn Scyphers, Katelyn Shealy, Robert South, Kayla Sox, Elmer Sundlie.*

**Most Recent Prayer Concerns:**

Jeanie Jacobs, Sadie Howard, Herman Bouknight, Cheryl Hall, Mona Myers.

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:**

Lottie Gregg, Melvin Manus, Samuel Davis, Boyd Steele, Elise Harmon, Lucky Jones, Jennifer Brazell, Hazel Rauch, Matthew Hook, Mary Hamson, Ann Callison, Adele Rodgers, Faye Smith, Lisa Long.

**Family & Loved Ones of Mt. Tabor:**

Chuck Backman, Michelle Berry, Martha Hinson, Judith Gilmetti, Anne Moye, Linda Goodson, Isabelle Sundlie, Bill Hunnicutt.

**Members of Mt. Tabor Serving in the Military:**

Adam Davis, Andrew Hamson, Samuel Davis, Scott Hash, John Post.

**Family and Loved Ones Serving in the Military:**

Marcus Hayes, Tristan Mullen, Cory Fabian, Hayden Henneman, Edwin Taylor, Patrick Taylor, Edwin Torres, Josh Watson, Jacob Henry Burgan, Patrick Morris, Ben Barron, Barry Duncan, Michael Barfield, Adam Mintz, David Mathews.

**The Family Of:**

Catherine Holladay, Penny Timmerman, Tripp Hatley, Jane Eubanks.

*Please help us keep our prayer list up to date by calling the church office with any names to be added or removed. Otherwise, names remaining on the prayer list for more than 2 months will be removed.*

## FOR HOME SELF-STUDY & REFLECTION

### SECOND READING

**1 John 4:7-21**

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

### ***Worship Leaders***

*Rev. Wade T. Roof, III, Senior Pastor*

*Rev. Rus Stilwell, Pastor of Visitation*

*Vicar Gayle Nelson, Intern*

### ***Praise Band***

*Gale McLeod, Co-Director*

*Lindsey Ebener*

*Ricky Lusk*

*Irelou Moye, Co-Director*

*Ben Hall*

*David Moye*

*Beth Branham*

*Erin Hall*

*Ed Redmond*

*Leah Conrad*

*Vaughn Hall*

*Roxanne Rich*

*Clark Ebener*

*Jack Latham*