

REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

4955 W. 158TH Street Oak Forest, IL 60452

708-687-2432

5th Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

9:30 A.M.

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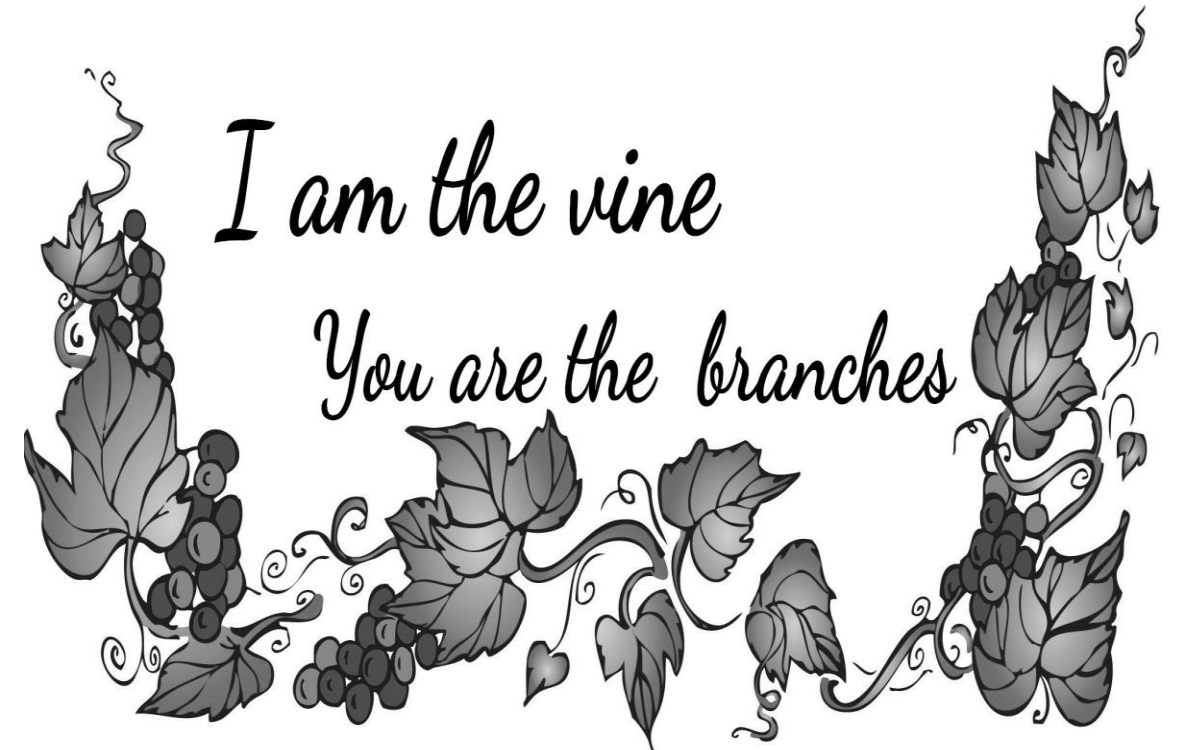
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I am the vine

You are the branches

Rev. Soren Flessen

Organist/ Piano~ Amy Ogarek

Office Administrator~ Deb Frawley

Music Coordinator~ Jan Strojny

Ministers- The People of Redeemer's



Are given to the Glory of God!

Dates are still available for altar flowers. Sign up today!

Sending Song:

“Thank You, Lord”

- 1** Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord,
I just want to thank you, Lord.
- 2** Been so good, been so good, been so good,
I just want to thank you, Lord.
- 3** Been my friend, been my friend, been my friend,
I just want to thank you, Lord.
- 4** Love, you Lord, love you, Lord, love you, Lord,
I just want to thank you, Lord.

Announcements & Sharing

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!



Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer *(spoken)*

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 to Holy Communion

P: The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.
(Please remain standing)

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Song: **"Lamb Of God"**

**Refrain: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy on me.
 Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, have mercy on me.**

Blessing after Communion

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Risen, Living Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

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. **Amen.**

Blessing

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, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



5th Sunday of Easter

“Discovering Christ’s community through building relationships”

May 2, 2021

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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:

“Change My Heart, O God

Welcome

(Please stand as able)

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

P: We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

“God is Love”
God is love. God is love;
let us love one another as God first loved us.
God is love. God is love. God is love.

Kyrie/ Hymn of Praise: People sing refrain:

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

The Prayer of the Day

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.**

(Please be seated)

The First Reading is from the 8th Chapter of Acts

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.

²⁶An 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?

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offertory Prayer

P: 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.**

(Please stand as able)

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,....., we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Nicene Creed:

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 worshipped 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

(Please be seated)

Prayers of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

P: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song:**“Baptized and Set Free”**

- 1 We are people created, chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently, in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more. Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing, and wholeness and more.**
- 2 We are fed and we're nourished, filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed.
For whatever the need, God is greater indeed:
endless ocean, always deeper than all of our need.**
- 3 We are nourished by water, all living things,
and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home, may your presence be known:
precious river, ever-flowing, now carry us home.**
- 4 Now with praise and thanksgiving, we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free! From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water, baptized and set free!**

The Second Reading is from the 4th Chapter of 1 John

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.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

P: Word of God. Word of Life.
(Please stand as able)

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 15th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

Holy 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.

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!
(Please be seated)

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

(Please stand as able)

Sermon Hymn: "Jesus Calls us; O'er the Tumult"

- 1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding, saying, "Christian, follow me":**
- 2 As of old Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.**
- 3 Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."**
- 4 In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."**
- 5 Jesus calls us! By your mercy, Savior, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.**