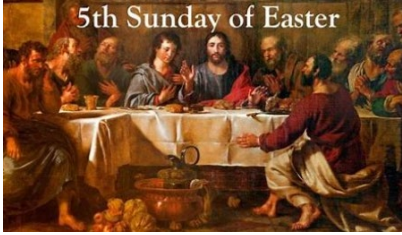


5th SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 28th, 2024 – 8:30 AM

WELCOME



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. 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.

- † Preacher – Chaplain Liz Lahti-Rosensaft
- † Officiant – Pr. Brian Griswold
- † Worship Leader – Earl Hem

WORSHIP

HYMN: When The Spirit Of The Lord

When the Spirit of the Lord moves within my heart, I will sing like David sang. **(Repeat)**
I will sing, I will sing, I will sing like David sang. **(x2)**

When the Spirit of the Lord moves within my heart, I will praise like David praised. **(Repeat)**
I will praise, I will praise, I will praise like David praised. **(x2)**

When the Spirit of the Lord moves within my heart, I will clap like David clapped. **(Repeat)**
I will clap, I will clap, I will clap like David clapped. **(x2)**

When the Spirit of the Lord moves within my heart, I will pray like David prayed; **(Repeat)**
I will pray, I will pray, I will pray like David prayed. **(x2)**

HYMN: You Are My All In All

You are my strength when I am weak
You are the treasure that I seek
You are my all in all

Seeking You as a precious jewel
Lord to give up, I'd be a fool
You are my all in all

Chorus

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,
Rising again, I bless Your name
You are my all in all

When I fell down, you pick me up
When I am dry, you fill my cup
You are my all in all

Chorus (x2)

Worthy is your name

Chorus:

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name

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CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Lord, you are the vine and I am a branch. You call me to abide in you, that I might bear fruit. I confess Lord, that more often than not, I do not abide in you. Forgive me Lord when I ignore you and help me to trust and abide ONLY in you.

God has given us Jesus as the vine, for apart from him we cannot live. Let him nourish your life with his resurrection power, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of his joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GOD'S HOLY WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

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? 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.

The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, 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.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them,

"The LORD has acted!"



HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of John 15: 1 - 8; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

[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."

The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

SERMON – Chaplain Liz Lahti-Rosensaft
"Abide with Me – The Best is yet to be."

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

✠ At this time, we also recognize those joining us via FaceBook Live, and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests you may have submitted for our worship.

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and all waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. We especially remember those from our families and community in greatest need of our prayers and your blessings.
(Please name names silently or out loud.) God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this congregation, for all who visit and care for one another, and for all who seek to share your love with the world.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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.



Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Invitation to Communion – The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

COMMUNION HYMN: Create In Me A Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, Oh God,
And renew a right Spirit within me.
Create in me a clean heart, Oh God,
And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, Oh Lord,
And take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
And renew a right Spirit within me.

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Closing Prayer - Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

Blessing - The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: Great Are Your Works

1) YOUR WORKS LORD (YOUR WORKS LORD) ARE AWESOME (ARE AWESOME) YOUR POWER (YOUR POWER) **IS GREAT.** 2X

CHORUS

2) YOU WILL REIGN (YOU WILL REIGN) FOREVER (FOREVER) IN POWER (IN POWER) **YOU WILL REIGN.** 2X

CHORUS

3) BECAUSE OF (BECAUSE OF) YOUR GREATNESS (YOUR GREATNESS) ALL THE EARTH (ALL THE EARTH) **WILL SING.** 2X.

CHORUS

CHORUS:

GREAT__ARE__YOUR WORKS__ LORD,
GREAT__ARE__YOUR DEEDS,
AWE --SOME IN POWER,
SO AWE--SOME TO ME.

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Dismissal: Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Barnegat Light NJ

Notes:
