

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter / No Communion - 5:00 pm

GREETINGS AND PRAYER

HYMN: LSB 483 *With High Delight Let Us Unite*

(Please rise)

CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

People: Serve the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.

Pastor: Know that the Lord is God.

People: It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of his pasture.

Pastor: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

People: Give thanks to Him and praise His name.

Pastor: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;

People: His faithfulness continues through all generations.

Pastor: Let us worship in the name of the Father,

People: Who has created us, now sustains us, and has seen to our salvation.

Pastor: And in the name of the Son.

People: Who has saved us by His blood and thrilled us by His Resurrection from the dead.

Pastor: And in the name of the Holy Spirit,

People: Who has brought us to faith and poured out on us His gifts.

Pastor: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord;

People: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION:

Pastor: While we rightly acknowledge the Lord is great and most worthy of praise, we must also acknowledge our rebellion against him and our failure to keep his will. For if we claim we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Therefore, let us confess together who we are that we might be cleansed of our sin and assured of our salvation.

People: Most merciful Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we daily sin against you in thought, word, and deed. We sin by the things we do, and by the things we leave undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your punishments now and in

eternity. But, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners! For his sake God has indeed forgiven your sins and calls you back into his Way. Your sins are forgiven, therefore go and serve the Lord.

SONG OF RESPONSE: LSB 804, vs. 1, 2, 6 *O Worship the King*

THE SALUTATION & COLLECT

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Pastor: Let us pray:

ALL: 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.

(Please be seated)

The FIRST READING: ACTS 8:26-40 [Philip uses the Scriptures to show Jesus to the Ethiopian.]

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian^[a] eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." ³⁰Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. ³¹"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" ^[37] ³⁸And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both 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 suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 4:1-11 ["...test the spirits to see whether they are from God..."]

¹Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. ⁴You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. ⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

The GOSPEL HYMN: *Before the Throne of God Above*

The HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 15:1-8 ["I am the vine; you are the branches."]

Pastor: The Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(Please be seated)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever

you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

The SERMON: Pastor Bruce Kischnick Theme: "Vine, Branches, Fruit" John 15:1-8

The OFFERTORY: LSB 687 vs. 1, 2 *Thine Forever, God of Love*

PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER

The BENEDICTION

The HYMN to DEPART: LSB 735 vs. 1, 2, 4 *Have No Fear, Little Flock*