

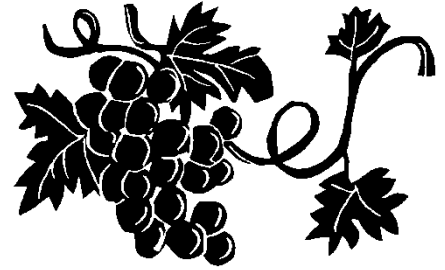


John 15

WELCOME

Good morning and welcome to worship at Faith Lutheran!

The celebration of the resurrection in the Christian Church historically continues for a “week of weeks” or forty nine days from Easter Day until the Festival of Pentecost. On this fifth Sunday of Easter Jesus presents himself to us as the *living vine*. If we are connected to our risen Lord, we live a fruitful life by faith. If we are ever cut off from the vine, we can only wither and die. May his Word and sacrament make each of us fruitful “branches” as we live our lives in his forgiveness and to his eternal glory.



It is a privilege to worship with you today. We pray your time spent here proves a blessing for your life. Please come again!

OUR FACILITIES

Our restrooms are located just to the left of the tower entrance. A family restroom is also available there. The members of Faith believe that families should be allowed to worship together. If your young one needs some “time out,” we have an audio-equipped children’s room just outside of the church doors to your right. If you need anything during the service, please feel free to ask an usher.

LISTENING ASSISTANCE & LARGE PRINT MATERIALS



Large print service folders and hearing assistance devices are available from an usher at your request. Our sanctuary is equipped with a hearing assist T-loop. If your hearing assist device is T-coil equipped you may switch to T-coil so sound can be transmitted directly to your hearing assist device.

OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

Faith Lutheran Church still observes the biblical and historical practice of member communion. (This is also often referred to as “close” communion.) If you are not currently a member of our congregation, we would kindly ask that you speak with one of our pastors before communing. We look forward to talking about this very important issue with you!

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O Lord – our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter – we are assembled in your presence to hear your holy Word and receive your precious sacrament. We pray that you would open our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of your Word we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus, and grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Jesus’ sake. Amen.



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

“Growing Together in the Eternal Gospel”

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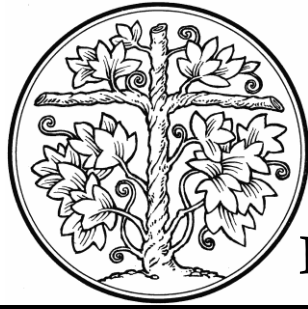
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Third Sunday of Easter

May 1-2, 2021

Trusting in the Resurrection Faith Puts God's Word to Work!

COVID 19 ACCOMMODATIONS – Following the research and recommendations currently available Faith worship leaders are choosing to significantly reduce the total amount of singing by the entire assembly during the course of each service and also abbreviate our time gathered together. Worship as we've known it and prefer it will return in its full vibrancy when the pandemic is over.

OPENING HYMN

“This is the Three-fold Truth”
Christian Worship (Red Hymnal) # 406:1-3

1 This is the three - fold truth on which our
2 Made sa - cred by long use, new - mint - ed
3 On this we fix our minds as, kneel - ing

faith de - pends; And with this joy - ful
for our time, Our lit - ur - gies sum
side by side, We take the bread and

cry wor - ship be - gins and ends:
up the hope we have in him:
wine, take him, the Cru - ci - fied:

Refrain

Christ has died! Christ is ris - en! Christ will come a - gain!

Stand

Minister [M]: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (+) and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Congregation [C]: **And also with you.**

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise. (CW # 406:4-5)



4 By this we are up - held when doubt or
5 This is the three - fold truth which, if we



grief as - sails Our Chris - tian faith and
hold it fast, Chang - es the world and



love, and on - ly grace a - vails:
us and brings us home at last:

Refrain



Christ has died! Christ is ris - en! Christ will come a - gain!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

Following the Spirit's leading, Philip shared the message of Christ's victory with an Ethiopian eunuch resulting in his baptism.

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 eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, 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.

³²The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the 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. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" 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.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 67 (CW page 91)

Refrain: Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.

May God be gracious to us and bless us*
and make his face shine upon us;

May your ways be known on earth,*
your salvation among all nations.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy,*
for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

Refrain: Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.

Then the land will yield its harvest,*
and God, our God, will bless us.

God will bless us,*
and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,*
as it was in the beginning,*is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain: Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.

NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 3:18-24

By empowering us to believe in Jesus and love one another, the Spirit assures us of our standing with God.

¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. ¹⁹This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

²¹Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²²and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

VERSE OF THE DAY

St. John 14:6

C: Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

M: I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

C: Alleluia!

Stand

GOSPEL

St. John 15:1-8

A life of acts of love gives evidence of faith in Christ, as those fruits grow out of fellowship with Christ and mark us as disciples.

¹"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, and I will 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 a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not remain in me, he is 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 given you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be Seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

“With High Delight Let Us Unite”

Christian Worship # 168



1 With high de - light Let us u - nite In songs of sweet
2 True God, he first From death has burst Forth in - to life,
3 Let prais - es ring; Give thanks and bring To Christ our Lord



ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, Each take your part,
all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my Shall van - quished lie;
ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed By word and deed



Sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To set us free
His death has been death's un - do - ing. "And yours shall be
To ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So shall his love



For - ev - er, he Is ris'n and sends To all earth's
Like vic - to - ry O'er death and grave," Said he, who
Give us a - bove, From mis - er - y And death set



ends Good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
gave His life for us, life re - new - ing.
free, All joy and full con - so - la - tion.

SERMON

based on the Gospel
Pastor Greg Hermanson

What Is Our Relationship With Jesus?

+ He is our entire life +

+ He makes us clean, strong, joyous and fruitful +

After the sermon, the congregation stands to confess:

THE NICENE CREED

(Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.)

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

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,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian* 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.

*(*The original text here reads "catholic," a word meaning "universal." The Church consists of all believers in heaven and on earth, of every time in history.)*

Be seated

OFFERTORY *(a musical piece played during the gathering of the offering)* & **OFFERING PRAYER**

During the Covid crisis our preference is to gather our offerings electronically or through the mail but for those who do choose to bring offerings with them to worship there is a large offering basket at the main worship area doors for you to drop in your offerings later as you are dismissed from worship.

If you are not a member of Faith, we do not want you to feel obligated to participate in the offering. (God desires cheerful givers - not gifts based on a sense of guilt or obligation.) We gather our offerings during worship, because the Bible teaches that giving is *an act of worship*. Most of our church and school ministry is carried out by what is given in weekly worship offerings. May the Lord bless you, and may he use every one of our offerings to him as a blessing to many others.

Stand

C: We come, O Lord, inheritors from those whose work is done.
Lord, make us now contributors to years beyond our own.
Let faith's enkindled flame not fail; Let love's best gifts increase.
Let hope in Christ's sure Word prevail till earth and time shall cease.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

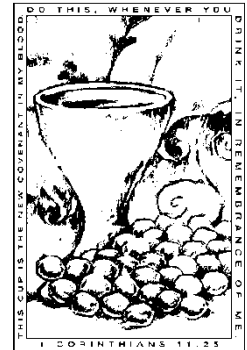
LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
M: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them up to the Lord.
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.
M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -

va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION

no hymns will be sung during distribution

*Please note that during the COVID crisis we are practicing a **continuous distribution** pattern.*

Please follow the direction of the ushers and the markings on the floor.

Please extend your hand for the host to be dropped into it.

Please proceed to the tables with the individual cups to carefully choose your own while refraining from touching others.

Please place your used cup in the receptacle provided before returning to your seat.

One “dismissal blessing” will be spoken for all who have received the sacrament at the conclusion of distribution.

Stand

THANKSGIVING

M: Now may this body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ (+) strengthen and keep you in the one true faith unto life everlasting. Go in peace.

C: **Amen.**

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: **His mercy endures forever.**

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **We proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

Christian Worship # 141:4-5



4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy!
5 Fa - ther, who the crown shall give,



This a - lone can sin de - stroy;
Sav - ior, by whose death we live,

From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, New - born
Spir - it, guide through all our days, Three in

souls in you to be. Al - le - lu - ia!
One, your name we praise. Al - le - lu - ia!

If you are new to Faith and have not yet introduced yourself to one of our pastors, please feel free to do so after any worship service. If you would like to receive updates or more information, visit faithantioch.org and click on **Contact Us**.

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