

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

In God's Vineyard  
April 28 & 29, 2018

### AS WE GATHER

In one of His several "I am" statements, Jesus says, "I am the vine. You are the branches." Inviting His hearers to a place of rest and refuge, He says, "Abide in Me." In the Epistle, John correlates confessing that Jesus is the Son of God with experiencing and coming to trust in the love God has for us. Abiding in Jesus means abiding in God's love. And God Himself abides in us. This relationship of abiding in Jesus, who Himself is love, was experienced by the Ethiopian eunuch when Philip told him the Good News about Jesus and the Ethiopian was baptized.

### WELCOME

"In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy,  
always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you  
for a reason for the hope that is in you;  
yet do it with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15, ESV)

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

#### OPENING HYMN #474 "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen" Stanzas 1-3

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever!  
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

#### Refrain:

**Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

Walking the way, Christ in the center  
Telling the story to open our eyes;  
Breaking our bread, Giving us glory:  
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. **Refrain**

Jesus the vine, We are the branches;  
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;  
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,  
Gift of the future now flowing to me. **Refrain**

(Rise)

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Praise the LORD!

**People: Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens!**

Pastor: Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

**People: Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp!**

Pastor: Praise Him with tambourine and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe!

**People: Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals!**

Pastor: Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!

**People: Praise the LORD!**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God who is gracious and merciful:

**People: We confess that we are sinful by nature and have turned away from abiding in your love. We have been enticed by our own desires and lured away from your love by the spirits of this age. Yet, greater is Jesus who dwells in us by faith than the spirit of the Antichrist who is in the world. For Jesus' sake, forgive our sins and bring us again to abide in your love.**

Pastor: God hears you and God loves you. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus 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.

**People: Amen.**

#### HYMN OF PRAISE #474 "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen" Stanzas 4,5

Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent:  
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.  
Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!"

Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. **Refrain**

City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,  
River of life, Saints and archangels,  
Sing with creation to God the I AM! **Refrain**

### **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

### **✠ WORD ✠**

#### **FIRST READING** *Acts 8:26-40*

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 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 before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and

the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

#### **EPISTLE** *1 John 4:1-21*

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

**CHOIR ANTHEM** (5:00) *“Psalm to the Savior”*

**CHOIR ANTHEM** (8:00) *“Go Tell” “Jesus Loves Me”* Grades 3K & 4K

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 15:1–8*

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

(Be seated)

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON HYMN #540 “Christ, the Word of God Incarnate”**

Christ, the Word of God incarnate, Lord and Son of Abraham;  
Christ, the radiance of the Father, Perfect God, the great I Am;  
Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished, Light and life You bring to all;  
Light our path with Your own presence, Grant us grace to heed Your call.

Christ, the living bread from heaven, Food for body, food for soul;  
Christ, the manna daily given, Nourish, strengthen, make us whole.  
Feed us with the food of heaven, Fore-taste of the feast to be;  
Quench our thirst with living water Springing up eternally.

Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant From the stump of Jesse’s tree;  
Christ, true vine, You nurture branches To bear fruit abundantly.  
Graft us into You, O Savior; Prune our hearts so we remain  
Fruitful branches in Your vineyard Till eternal life we gain.

Christ, our good and faithful shepherd, Watching all Your lambs and sheep;  
Christ, the gate that guards the sheepfold, Never failing vigil keep.  
When we stray, Good Shepherd, seek us, Find us, lift us, bear us home;  
Lamb of God, our shepherd, keep us; Let us hear Your voice alone.

Christ, the way that leads unailing To the Father’s home on high,  
Christ, the truth that frees the captive, Christ, the life that cannot die.  
Mediator to the Father, Sacrifice and great High Priest:  
Lead us to Your heav’nly mansions, There to share Your wedding feast.

Christ, the Alpha and Omega, Christ, the firstborn from the dead,  
Christ, the life and resurrection, Christ, the Church’s glorious head:  
Praise and thanks and adoration And unending worship be  
To the Father and the Spirit And to You eternally.

**SERMON**

*“In God’s Vineyard”*

**John 15:1-8**

(Rise)

**NICENE CREED**

(Be seated)

**OFFERING** *As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.*

**5:00 & 8:00 ADULT CONFIRMATION & RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

(Rise)

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the whole Church on earth and for all pastors, teachers, deaconesses, musicians and servants of Christ’s people, that the Holy Spirit would give us the joy of singing the new song, a hymn of resurrection victory in Christ, our Savior, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all those who received their first calls into the Holy Ministry, especially Noah Kegley along with his wife, Monica, that they may be blessed by the Holy Spirit and used mightily for the furtherance of Christ’s kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For our adult confirmands, Judi and Sheri, along with Sheri's family members Josh and Mason who join our Christian fellowship, that they may grow in God's grace in our St. Paul's family as we serve our Lord together, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For Miss Danielle Jackson as she considers the call extended to her to teach at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, that God may grant her wisdom, guidance, and peace and direct her into His perfect will, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the President, the Congress and all who make, administer or judge our laws, that our leaders may serve with integrity and for the common good and our citizens may be filled with service and industry, as well as peace with and love of our neighbors, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For our congregation, that God would make us a shining light in the darkness of our world, and that we would live daily in the hope, joy, and love of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For grace to acknowledge and be thankful for all God's good gifts, especially for Mike and Sandy celebrating 46 years of life together, that the Lord may bless them to live in His love and grace all their days, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who travel, for pregnant women and young mothers, for the lonely and afflicted, for those suffering from addiction, for those who mourn, and for those in need of healing, especially Pastor Bender, Junie, Carlene, RoseMarie, Tony, Nancy, Sue, Janet, Donna, Dolores, Pat, Cliff, Shirley, Gladys, Pat, Herb, Matthew, Russ, Arlene, Dorothy, John, Arlene, Jack, Shirley, Jonathan, Helen, Leonard and Sarah, that our heavenly Father would protect, nourish, sustain and restore them, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who come to the feast of Christ's body and blood this day, that preserved from unbelief and impenitence, they may receive forgiveness of all sin and experience a foretaste of the feast to come, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who have fallen asleep in the sure hope of the resurrection to eternal life, let us offer our praise to God, asking Him to give us our portion with all His saints in light, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

## THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

**People: Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI

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O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(Be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION** *Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.*

**HYMN #484 "Make Songs of Joy"**

**HYMN #636 "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"**

**HYMN #702 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"**

## COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

### CLOSING HYMN

**“Blessed Assurance”**

W&R #426

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

**Refrain: This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.**

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

#### Refrain

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

#### Refrain

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist/Grades 3K-4K (8:00)

Choir Director (5:00)

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Pastor Harold Bender

Marc Stefanic, Ben Reinhardt, Rachel Osell

Dante Militello, Olivia Kukor, Laura Quigley

Michelle Prince

Nancy Hoelke

### *Seminary Call Day Update*

## WELCOME PASTOR-ELECT

### NOAH KEGLEY

*On Tuesday April 24, 2018, the Seminarians at Concordia Seminary St. Louis received their first call to serve the Lord. We here at St. Paul's are blessed to receive into our midst, Noah Kegley, who will serve as Associate Pastor.*

*This summer, Pastor Kegley and his wife Monica, will join our St. Paul's family. Please keep them in your prayers during this exciting time.*

*Watch your weekly church bulletins for more details.*