

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Witness to Christ from Christ

May 2 & 3, 2015

AS WE GATHER

As the season of Easter continues, we discover that the risen Christ now lives in the baptized. It is as if we have been joined to His risen body, drawing life from Him like a living branch connected to a living vine. The result is bearing fruit for the kingdom of God. As we live by the promise of our Baptism and by the life-giving Word of God, so we invite and lead others to discover eternal life through God's Word and Sacraments. As Philip was led to preach the Gospel to an Ethiopian, so God blesses our witness one person at a time. Today we rejoice in the great love of God for us and for the whole world.

8:00 BELL PRELUDE *"Contemplation and Dance on KINGSFOLD"* –arr. Hart Morris

WELCOME

The Fourth Pledge "I Am A Church Member"

I will pray for my pastors every day. I understand that the pastor's work is never ending. His days are filled with numerous demands that bring emotional highs and lows. He must deal with critics. He must be a good husband and father. Because my pastor cannot do all things in his own power, I will pray for his strength and wisdom daily.

FELLOWSHIP GREETING

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #601 "All Who Believe and Are Baptized"

All who believe and are baptized Shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ, They are a new creation.
Through Christ's redemption they shall stand Among the glorious heav'nly band
Of every tribe and nation.

With one accord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Holy Spirit.
Help us in our infirmity Through Jesus' blood and merit.
Grant us to grow in grace each day That by this sacrament we may
Eternal life inherit.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *1 John 4:18, 19*

Pastor: There is no fear in love,

People: but perfect love casts out fear.

Pastor: For fear has to do with punishment.

People: We love because He first loved us.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 4:20; John 15:5*

Pastor: "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar." Let us repent of our lost condition and seek refuge in the mercy of God.

People: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. For the sake of Christ forgive me for my selfishness and refusal to walk in love. Draw me to love you, not only for your eternal gifts to me but because you are my God and my eternal King. Amen.

Pastor: Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches." Whoever abides by faith in Him receives forgiveness, life, and salvation. In the name 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This Is the Feast"

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Refrain This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.
Refrain

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, by the water of Holy Baptism you make us to live in Christ and He in us. As a branch connected to a living vine bears fruit, may the life of Jesus so dwell in us making us fruitful witnesses; 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)

5:00 BAPTISM of Emma Jane Stover

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Please refrain from taking photos during the worship service.

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST LESSON *Acts 8:26–40* (Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch)

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So 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, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. The 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. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When 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. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

EPISTLE *1 John 4:1–21* (Test the spirits. God is love.)

Dear 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. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but 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. You, 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. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We 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 recognized the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us; He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loves us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live 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. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

8:00 BELL ANTHEM

"In Christ Alone" - arr. Patricia Cota Bodhrán, Micah Joel Drengler

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 15:1–8* (I am the true vine.)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He 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. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain 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. "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. If 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. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #478 **"The Day of Resurrection"** *Rise for the last stanza*

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
The Passover of gladness, The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, From sin's dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over With hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light
And, list'ning to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful, Let earth its song begin,
Let all the world keep triumph And all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen, Their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord has risen, Our joy that has no end!

(Rise)

All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son,
All praise to God the Spirit, Eternal Three in One!
Let all the ransomed number Fall down before the throne
And honor, pow'r, and glory Ascribe to God alone!

SERMON

"Doing Nothing"

John 15:1-8

(Rise)

8:00 & 10:30 NICENE CREED *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS 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.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray to our gracious Father for ourselves, for the whole household of faith, and for all people as they have need.

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

8:00 & 10:30 THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(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 #571 “God Loved the World So That He Gave”

God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death; All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven’s heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son Forgives all sins which you have done; And, justified by Jesus’ blood, Your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer: Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.

Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

“Jesus, Name Above All Names” AGPS #145

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us blessed Redeemer, living Word.

Jesus, loving shepherd vine of the branches, Son of God
Prince of Peace, Wonderful counselor Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

Jesus, Way of salvation, King of kings, Lord of lords,
the way the truth, and the Life, Mighty creator, My Savior and friend.

HYMN #643 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Sent forth by God’s blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended. O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us
To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving To God ever living,
The tasks of our ev’ry day life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God our Father, we give you heartfelt thanks for your gifts of forgiveness of our sins, life, and salvation through this most glorious Sacrament. Grant that we may bear the fruits of your love in our life and forever; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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 #807 “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

When morning gilds the skies, My heart, awaking, cries,
“May Jesus Christ be praised!” When evening shadows fall,
This rings my curfew call; “May Jesus Christ be praised!”

When mirth for music longs, This is my song of songs;
“May Jesus Christ be praised!” God’s holy house of prayer
Hath none that can compare With “Jesus Christ be praised!”

No lovelier antiphon In all high heav’n is known Than “Jesus Christ be praised!”
There to the eternal Word The eternal psalm is heard:
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”

Ye nations of mankind, In this your concord find; “May Jesus Christ be praised!”
Let all the earth around Ring joyous with the sound: “May Jesus Christ be praised!”

Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,
Sing, “Jesus, Christ be praised!” God’s whole creation o’er,
Both now and evermore Shall Jesus Christ be praised!”

Preacher	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Lectors	Manley Hurst, Jodi Drew, Pam Akey
Acolytes	Madeline Matusewic, Jay Graf
Bell Choir Director	Matt Compton
8:00 Flute	Melissa Krieser
8:00 Hand Drum	Micah Wheeler
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller