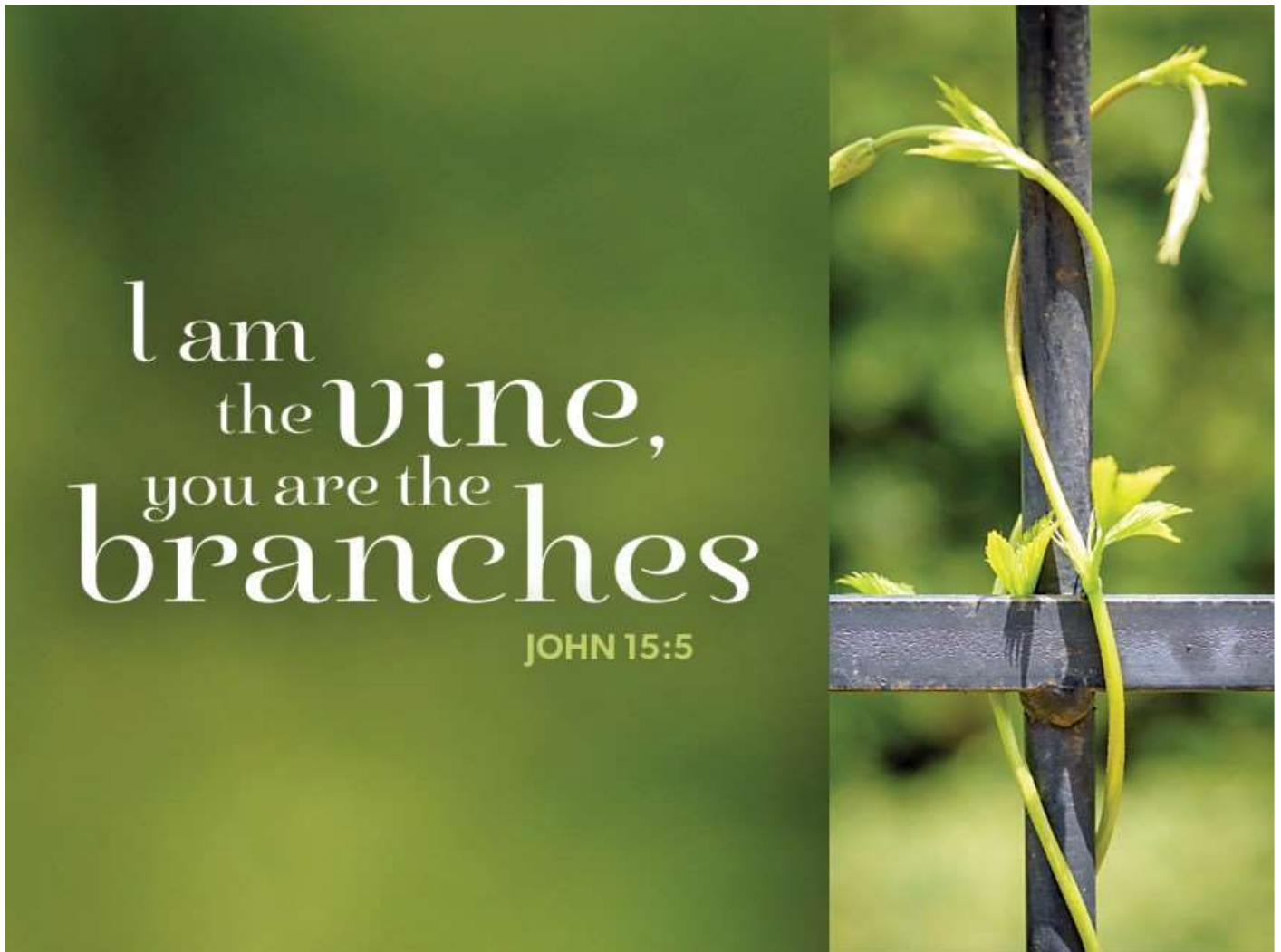




April 28, 2024  
Fifth Sunday Of Easter  
Zoom Participant Edition  
Holy Communion



*Inviting All to Thrive in God's Love and Grace*

# Gathering

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

## Welcome

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.  
**Amen.**

## \*Call to Worship

Friends, take a moment to pause in this place.  
**We come with minds busy, hearts full, and bodies restless.**

Come to the vineyard of God, knowing there is a place for you here.  
**We seek Christ, the vine of great love.**

Drink from the waters of life.  
**We thirst for God's grace.**

Come to the vineyard of God.  
**We come with all our burdens, all our to-do lists, all of us.**

Friends, it is time to enter the vineyard.  
**We are welcomed here just as we are.**  
**Amen.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

This time of confession is one that forces us to stop and be still, to confront the parts of us that we wish to hide away, the parts that we are ashamed to even speak aloud. Yet, we are loved by a God who knows the vines sometimes will be weathered, broken, and thirsting for something other than Christ. So let us come to this God with the whole of our lives, the good, the bad, and the holy, and confess. We do this first, in the silence of our own hearts.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Merciful One,  
you know when we are afraid to love; you know when we are too cowardly to show mercy. **Remind us again that perfect love casts out such fears. Surround us and strengthen us with your perfect love, even in the face of our imperfections. Imbue us with a love so strong, with such growth toward perfection, that we may cast aside our pride and embrace the power of love.**  
**Amen.**

Each of us are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ. We seek forgiveness because we seek to abide in Christ. We are called to be branches that bear much fruit.

The Holy isn't giving up on you nor is leaving you. There is still so much planned for you. Believe in the Gospel then, you are forgiven of your sins in the name of the † Risen Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Christ has come to us. Amen.**



1 All who are thirst - y for mer - cy, all who are thirst - y for  
 2 All who are thirst - y for heal - ing, all who are thirst - y for  
 3 All who are thirst - y for beau - ty, all who are thirst - y for  
 4 All who are thirst - y for jus - tice, all who are thirst - y for



love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,  
 touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,  
 truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,  
 peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,



come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

**\*Easter Dialogue**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain! Alleluia!

**He gives us new life and hope through his resurrection! Alleluia!**

Rejoice then, even in your distress.

**We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.**

God has claimed us as God's own.

**God has called us from our darkness into the light of his day.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**\*Now the Feast and Celebration**

## Refrain

*Congregation:*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,  
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and  
free-dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -  
er - more!

## Verse 1

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once  
slain, whose blood has freed and u -  
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of  
God. *to Refrain*

Verse 2

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and  
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ  
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

Verse 3

*Congregation:*

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to  
make us peo - ple of God; to make  
all things new. *to Refrain*

Let us pray.

O God,

**you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

*God Speaks to Us in Scripture Reading, Preaching, and Song*

## First Reading:

Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An 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.) <sup>27</sup>So 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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>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 silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As 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?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When 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. <sup>40</sup>But 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.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 21:25-31

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

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

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

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, 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.

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

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## **Second Reading:**

1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

<sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

<sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

## **\*Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

**\*Gospel:**

John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to John, the Fifteenth Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide 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. <sup>5</sup>I 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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children’s Lesson**

Rev. Kelsey Fauser

**Sermon**

Rev. Karley Fauser

**\*Hymn of the Day: ELW 449**

*We Know That Christ Is Raised*



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us confess our faith collectively with the Apostle's Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Prayers of Intercession & Sharing of Peace**

God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

*Pastor concludes after the Saints are read:*

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 peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please share a peace sign with your neighbor.*

## **MEAL**

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*God Feeds Us with the Presence of Jesus Christ*

### **Music at the Offering**

#### **\*Offertory**



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;  
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be  
gath - ered in - to one in you.

1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with-in our midst  
 2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

*to Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## \*Offering Prayer

Let us Pray,

Risen One,

**you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.**

**Amen.**

## \*The Great Thanksgiving

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
 that we should at all times and in all places  
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
 for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
 the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
 who in dying has destroyed death,  
 and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
 with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
 and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
 might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
 Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

It is Jesus, God incarnate, the Risen Christ,  
 who joins us together as a community of broken but hopeful believers:  
 loving what he loved  
 living what he taught, and  
 striving to be his faithful servants  
 in our time and place.

In this meal we remember Jesus, his promises,  
 and the price he paid for who he was, what he said, and what he did.

On the night before Jesus died,  
 he took a loaf of bread,  
 gave thanks, broke it, and said,  
 “Take and eat, whenever you do this, remember me.”  
 After supper, Jesus took the cup, and poured, saying,  
 “This is the new covenant, remember me.”

We do remember.

We remember his life of love, his friendship, his teaching, his dying, and his rising to life again.



In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

Holy Mystery, God the Spirit,  
we call on you to transform these familiar things,  
as you continually transform the world around us.

Bless this bread and this cup,  
the wheat and the grape,  
the farmer and the harvest,  
the seed and the sower.

So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community,  
we may taste and see your goodness.

In collective longing for a taste of your Kingdom on earth,  
we join together in echoing the prayer of Jesus:

**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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **\*Invitation to Communion**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## Lamb of God



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

### Communion Hymn 1: ELW 780

*Shepherd Me, O God*

### Communion Hymn 2: ELW 359

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

### \*Table Blessing & Post-Communion Prayer

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ that you have received, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray:

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.**

## **SENDING**

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*God Blesses Us and Sends Us in Mission to the World*

### **\*Blessing**

May God the vine grower tend you and make you fruitful;  
May † Christ Jesus abide in you and give you life;  
And may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with God's love.  
**Amen.**



Hymn ELW 367

*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has  
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he  
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## **\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Pstlude**

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