

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00

May 2, 2021

Zion Lutheran Church Camas, Washington

Ministers: the entire congregation

Susan Dollinger, Associate Pastor

Pam Ensley, Youth Minister

Karen Rezabek, Praise Team

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Hours: Mon 8-12:00, Tues-Fri 8-5:00

“As a welcoming Body of Christ, we celebrate and share God’s saving grace for all.”

Prelude

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday’s image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ’s living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ’s life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Most merciful God,

C: ***we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. 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.***

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name Gary Rittor of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: O God,

C: ***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.***

Gathering Hymn “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” Number 836

1. Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love! Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

WORD

Bible Reading

Acts 8:26-40

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.)²⁷ 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 worship²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"³¹ He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.³² 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."³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.³⁶ 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?"³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.³⁹ 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.⁴⁰ 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.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: ***Thanks be to God.***

Responsive Reading

Psalm 22:25-31

L: From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

C: ***The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!***

L: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

C: ***For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.***

L: 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.

C: ***Their descendants shall serve the Lord, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.***

L: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

Bible Reading

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.⁹ 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.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.¹⁶ 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.¹⁷ 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.¹⁸ 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.¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.²⁰ 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: ***Thanks be to God.***

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C: ***Glory to you, O Lord.***

Gospel Reading John 15:1-8

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

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: ***Praise to you, O Christ!***

Children's Message Pam Ensley

Message Pr. Susan Dollinger

Hymn of the Day "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" v. 1, 2, 4 Number 631

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus,
thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us
with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2. Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit Into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest. Take away
the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its
beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
4. Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be; let us
see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee! Changed from
glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our
crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Apostles' 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all, especially those we remember aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always.

C: ***And also with you.***

“A New Commandment”

attr. Ancieto Nazareth

Prayer of Preparation

P: God of love,

C: ***you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
Receive our lives as a gift. Abide with us and send us in service to
a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.
Amen.***

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ***And also with you***

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: ***We lift them to the Lord.***

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy
kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our
as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.***

Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace, now and always. ***Amen.***

Prayer after Communion

P: Wellspring of joy,

C: ***through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the
hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your
love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.***

Benediction

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Creator, ☩Redeemer, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. ***Amen.***

Sending Song “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” Number 674

1. Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy; Bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain:

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around:
loaves abound! *Repeat*

2. Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.
Refrain

3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere!
Refrain

Postlude

SERVICE

Lector	Pam Ensley
Sound Tech	Reid Frank
Musicians	Pat Hagensen, Gary Ritter, Judy Swanson
Altar Guild	Marilyn Anderson, Amy McElhaney, Ursula Richards

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Text: Henry van Dyke; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven; HYMN TO JOY

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Text: Charles Wesley; Music: William Croft; ST. ANNE

"A New Commandment"

attr. Ancieto Nazareth

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Text: Fred Kaan; Music: Jamaican folk tune, adapt. Doreen Potter;

LINSTEAD

Text and music @ 1975 Hope Publishing Co.