



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

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.

Gathering

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

*Announcements, followed by
Prelude.....A time for silent reflection*

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.

Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have probably all heard the saying, "April showers bring May flowers." We may also recall the joke that some of us heard in elementary school--"If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?" The answer is, Pilgrims!

As I was driving one day in April between Hokah and Houston, Minnesota, I noticed the tree that I wrote about in one of my March letters. This time, instead of shamrocks and basketballs, the tree was decorated in umbrellas to represent April showers. (See photo. If you look closely, there are a few shamrocks remaining, too.) But the question in my mind was--what will the month of May bring?

For those of us attending worship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, the month of May is bringing a return today, to inside, in-person worship services that follow COVID-safe practices! We thank God for the vaccines that many of us have already received, that allow us to more safely gather together. And, we thank God that the vaccines are now even more accessible to those 16 years of age and older! Many of the vaccine locations in our area are starting to offer walk-in appointments. With this in mind, if you have not yet been vaccinated, now is the time to do so. Together, we can help stop the spread of the Coronavirus, and protect one another from harm.

May will also bring a special blessing of our high school graduates on May 16, and the Annual Meeting on May 23. We will also remember on Sunday, May 30 (the day before Memorial Day) those who have passed away during the last year.

As we look to the month of May, and to the future of our high school graduates, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and all of us, let us join together in worship giving praise and thanks to God.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy

CALENDAR FOR MAY, 2021

Sun., 2 nd	Worship Service	9:00 am
Sun., 9 th	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Mother's Day	
Sun., 16 th	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Graduate Recognition	
Sat., 22 nd	Outdoor Work Day	9:00 am
Sun., 23 rd	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Annual Meeting to follow	
Sun., 30 th	Worship Service	9:00 am
Mon., 31 st	Memorial Day	

Wilton American Legion Post #508 Schedule for Memorial Day

(Following times are approximate)

9:30 AM	St. John's Catholic Cemetery
9:45 AM	Hillside Cemetery
10:00 AM	Highway 131 Bridge
10:15 AM	St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery
10:30 AM	South Ridge Lutheran Cemetery
10:45 AM	Cal Day Cemetery
11:00 AM	Dorset Ridge Cemetery

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

***KYRIE**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Judy Bever, Darlene and Paul Babbitt, Pam Eaton, Lisa Rhodes, Alrita Ornes, Tessa Klipstein, Bud Osteboe, Jim Finer, Jerry Nading, Rhett Flaten, Marty Arndt, Roger Wilchinski, Judy Lydon

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Robert Cale, Seth Tormoen, Danelle Dougherty

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People, Pastor: Cathleen Morris, Pianist: Nalani Bever, Reader: Larry Ballwahn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 23, immediately following the worship service. Please plan to attend.

Items for the Annual Report should be to the office no later than Friday, May 14. Thank you. The report will be available on May 16.

We will recognize our high school graduating seniors on Sunday, May 16. Scholarship recipients will be announced. The following students are graduating:

August Arndt	Brookwood High School
Kaden Brandau	Brookwood High School
Deacon Erdman	Brookwood High School
Lailah Eckes	Brookwood High School
Krista Cook	New Lisbon High School
Emma Gruen	Royall High School

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

Benediction

Sending Hymn

“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!



1 Christ is ris-en! Shout Ho-san-na! Cel-e-brate this day of days!
2 Christ is ris-en! Raise your spir-its from the cav-erns of de-spair.
3 Christ is ris-en! Earth and heav-en nev-er-more shall be the same.



Christ is ris-en! Hush in won-der: all cre-a-tion is a-mazed.
Walk with glad-ness in the morn-ing. See what love can do and dare.
Break the bread of new cre-a-tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des-ert all-sur-round-ing, see, a spread-ing tree has grown.
Drink the wine of res-ur-rec-tion, not a ser-vant, but a friend.
Tell its grim, de-mon-ic chor-us: “Christ is ris-en! Get you gone!”



Heal-ing leaves of grace a-bound-ing bring a taste of love un-known.
Je-sus is our strong com-pan-ion. Joy and peace shall nev-er end.
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho-san-na, ev-'ry-one!

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*Canticle of Praise

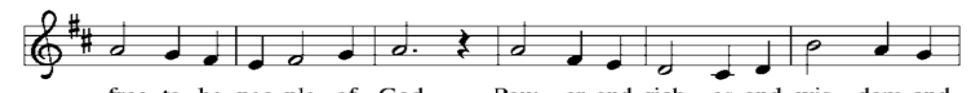
“This is the Feast”



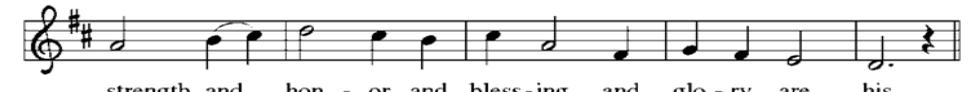
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



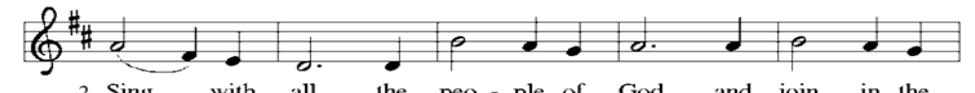
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



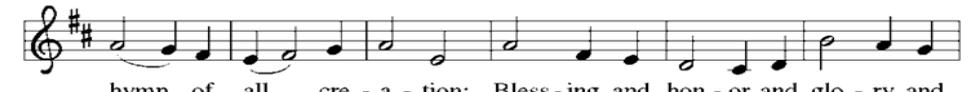
strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-cr. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

*Prayer of the Day

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

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

P: The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ’s table.

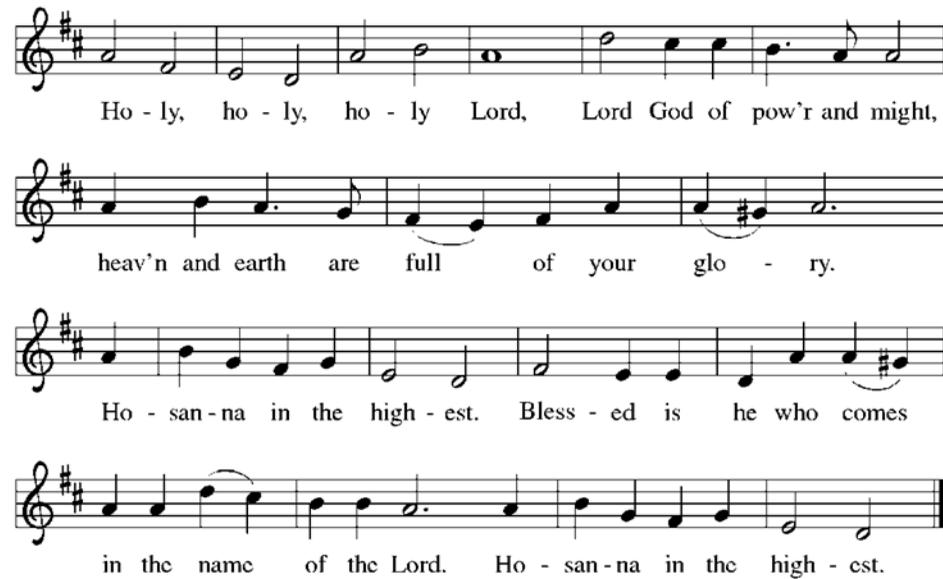
“Lamb of God”

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Wellspring of joy,
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.**

“Holy, Holy, Holy”



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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 trespasses, 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.

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, 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 snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.
²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise!
May your hearts live forever!**
²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.
²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, 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.

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

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

SECOND READING

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

1 John 4:7-21

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

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

OFFERING

Offering plates are located as you entered the church.

*Offertory Prayer

God of love,
**you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

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 our Lord our God.

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

NICENE CREED

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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic 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.

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation

GOSPEL READING



The gospel according to John 15:1-8

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹"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."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

*Hymn

"With High Delight Let Us Unite"

EASTER

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With High Delight Let Us Unite

1 With high de - light let us u - nite in
 2 True God, he first from death has burst forth
 3 Let prais - es ring; give thanks, and bring to

songs of great ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, all
 in - to life, all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my now
 Christ our Lord ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed by

bear your part, sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To
 van - quished see; his death has been death's un - do - ing. "And
 word and deed to ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So

set us free for - ev - er, he is ris'n and sends to
 yours shall be like vic - to - ry o'er death and grave," says
 shall his love give us a - bove, from mis - er - y and

all earth's ends good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
 he, who gave his life for us, life re - new - ing.
 death set free, all joy and full con - so - la - tion.