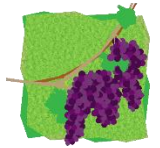


Holy Cross Lutheran
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2, 2021



AS WE GATHER One agricultural crop that is becoming better known in our days is the grape. Grapevines are everywhere in America, from New York and Virginia on the East Coast to California and Washington on the West Coast. Driving by a vineyard and seeing row after row of flourishing vines is a visually pleasant experience. Jesus speaks to the disciples and us that He is the true vine and we are the branches. He says that God looks for us to be fruit-bearing as we are grafted into our life-giving Lord. Through our worship together, we are nourished in fruitfulness by the Holy Spirit. Today, we welcome Pastor Robert Nowak as He proclaims the Good News of our Risen Lord and Savior.

† IN DOMINE JESU †

(In the Name of Jesus)

PRELUDE

WELCOME "This is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalm 118:24

GATHERING HYMN

"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

LSB 901

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so
3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep Thy
en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,
du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,
gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;
Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed
There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O
Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I
May Thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing
is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!
hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.
star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.

5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee;
Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee
While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.

Public domain

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

EASTER ACCLAMATION

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 34:8; 104:24, 31; 147:11

P: The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,

C: in those who hope in His steadfast love.

P: Taste and see that the LORD is good!

C: Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

P: O LORD, how manifold are Your works!

C: In wisdom have You made them all.

P: May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

C: may the LORD rejoice in His works.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy. Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

C: O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your Law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.

P: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C: Amen.

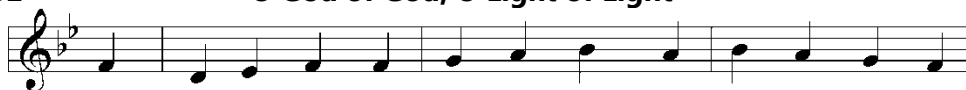
P: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“O God of God, O Light of Light”

LSB 810



1 O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and
2 For deep in proph-ets' sa-cred page, And grand in po-ets'
3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in
4 Then raise to Christ a might-y song, And shout His name, His



King of kings: To You in heav-en's glo-ry bright The song of
wing-ed word, Slow-ly in type, from age to age The na-tions
hate and scorn— These all are past, and now a-bove He reigns, our
mer-cies tell! Sing, heav'n-ly host, your praise pro-long, And all on



praise for - ev - er rings. To Him who sits up - on the throne,
saw their com - ing Lord; Till through the deep Ju - de - an night
King once crowned with thorn. Lift up your heads, O might - y gates!
earth, your an - them swell! All hail, O Lamb for sin - ners slain!



The Lamb once slain but raised a - gain, Be all the glo - ry
 Rang out the song, "Good - will to men!" Sung once by first - born
 So sang that host be - yond our ken. Lift up your heads, your
 For - ev - er let the song as - cend! Wor - thy the Lamb, en -



He has won, All thanks and praise! A - men, a - men.
 sons of light, It ech - oes now, "Good - will!" A - men.
 King a - waits. We lift them up. A - men, a - men.
 throned to reign, All glo - ry, pow'r! A - men, a - men.

Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together. **Risen and ascended Lord, You are the vine, and we are the branches. Apart from You there is no life. By Baptism, You have grafted us into Your gracious life. Cause Your Word to abide in us and make us fruitful to the glory of Your Father, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26–40

(Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)

L: ²⁶Now 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. ²⁷And 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 ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now 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. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And 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?" ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And 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. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 John 4:1–11

(An exhortation to lives of Christian love)

L: ¹Beloved, 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. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that

confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and 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. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore, they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We 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. ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In 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. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

Romans 6:9, John 14:23

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter. **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

(Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.)

P: ¹[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶If 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. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

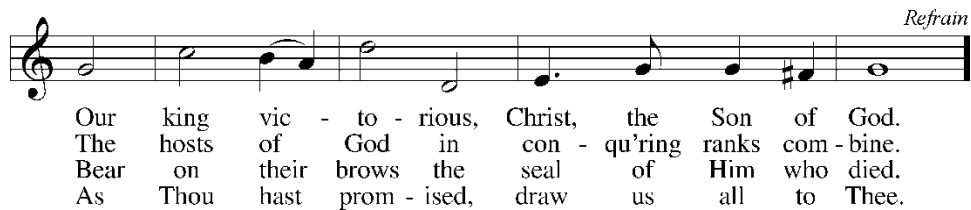
"Lift High the Cross"

LSB 837

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till
all the world adore His sacred name.

1 Come, Chris-tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,



5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

© 1997 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100013743. © 1974 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100013743.

SERMON

"The Mighty Work of the Gospel"

Acts 8:26-40

By: Pastor Robert Nowak

CONFESSION OF FAITH *The Second Article*

P: As we celebrate the risen Christ this Easter season, we now speak together the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding our Savior, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.

C: And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(after petitions, Pastor prays "Lord in your mercy" please pray, "Hear our prayer")*
(after all the petitions have been prayed, we commend all the prayers with these words)

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

† CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER †

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(In preparation for the Lord's supper, we pray the prayer 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.

THE PREPARATION *(please take your communion vessel in hand for our Lord's Words of Institution)*

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and after giving thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also after supper, He took the cup, and after giving thanks He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is My † blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also, with you.**

ONE BODY IN CHRIST *(As brothers and sisters in Christ, as one body we communion with the invitation of the following words)*

P: Take and eat this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ given into death for all your sin.

P: Take and drink this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sin.

P: The body and blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast, in the true faith, to life everlasting. Know that His peace, joy, love and forgiveness is yours now and forever. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray together. **Heavenly Father, we thank You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same and help us to rejoice in Your mercies that we grow daily as fruitful branches of Christ the Vine. Finally, in Your mercy, grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end. Amen.**

OFFERING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

P: 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.

C: Amen.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

SONG OF SENDING

"Cornerstone"

By: Hillsong Worship

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace and join Jesus on His mission! **C: Amen! We will! Amen!**

POST SERVICE MUSIC

reprisal

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

† SOLI DEO GLORIA †

(To God be the Glory)

HOLY CROSS HAPPENINGS

May 2 – May 9, 2021

WELCOME GUESTS AND MEMBERS! Welcome to the Lord's House. God bless you as hear the Good News today of His unconditional love! Jesus promised wherever two or three are gathered in His name, His presence is there. Jesus is here! We pray and know He will bless you with faith, hope, and love for your daily life through His Word and Spirit! If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to one of our ushers or greeters.

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS – "LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM. Please join us from 10:00 -11:00 am for a study of Luther's Six Chief Parts of the Small Catechism. We are using the 2017 newer Catechism that has new updates in teaching about the cultural context we now have in our country and world. We have a few extra copies of the Small Catechism if you need one. Please speak with Pastor Jim.

CLEAN UP DAY – Will be held Saturday, May 15 starting at 8:30am, if it is raining it will be postponed until the following Saturday, May 22, 2021. Please volunteer to help clean up the yard and church. More helpers make for quicker time.

INFORMAL PRAYER TIME – We will continue the informal time of prayer at Holy Cross on Wednesday evenings @ 7:00 pm.

Church Picnic Sunday, May 23! Our Pray&Play Event for May will be the church picnic. Pray for great weather so we can hold this outdoors! Plan to bring your own picnic foods and drinks and we can gather in small groups. Bring some outdoor game equipment to share (corn hole, frisbees, baseball/softball and glove toss, badminton...) so dress appropriately. If we have enough willing children/youth and adults we can again, have our kick ball game in the parking lot. (If I remember correctly, the adults won last time.???) 😊 Plan for a fun time, invite a friend or another family to join us. There will be registration for SS in the fall of 2021 as we look forward to more in person meeting with great anticipation!

HOLY COMMUNION: Starting Sunday, May 9, The Lord's Supper will continue to be offered to the congregation with the communion kits receiving the Lord's supper at your seated location. However, we will now also offer communion at the front of the sanctuary from the Pastor and Elder(s) for those who desire to come forward. Ushers will come to each pew/chair to motion you forward for communion if desiring to take **continuous flow communion.** Pastor and Elder(s) will disinfect/wash hands prior to distribution. Those wanting to come forward for communion will receive the bread (*the Lord's body*) as in the past from the Pastor distributing the bread into your hands. The Elder(s) will have trays of individual cups placed with an open space per cup of wine (*the Lord's blood*). We do ask that per family group or individual to still space 6 feet from each family group or individual as you are ushered forward. [NOTE: Those staying at their seats will commune first with the kits as the Pastor invites you to take the communion elements. Then, if comfortable in receiving communion by coming forward, please remember to lower your mask as you stop to receive into your hands the bread and then to walk to the Elder to take the wine. Thank you. We hope to include kneeling at the altar in the future, but at this time we still ask for your patience as we return gradually to our regular distribution practice. The Lord's blessings upon your communion with our Risen Savior, Jesus.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated today. Our belief and practice is Confessional. Jesus clearly teaches He is truly present in His supper in the bread and wine. We receive miraculously, in the gift of faith, His true body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. If this is your confession and you have been baptized and confirmed in our church body, please commune with us. If you have questions about communing, please wait to commune until receiving instruction in one of our communion classes. Thank you.

SERVING TODAY SUNDAY MAY 2, 2021 9:00 am

Guest Pastor: Pastor Robert Nowak
Elder/Communion Brit Weimer
Lector: Pam Hunter
Ushers: Dave Albrecht
Acolyte: Allie Wagner
AV: Judy Weimer
Offering Counters: Meg Batchelder & Michele Lein

SERVING SUNDAY MAY 9, 2021 9:00 am

Elder/Communion Dave Albrecht
Lector: Carol Albrecht
Ushers: Denny Case
Acolyte: Jonas Petrie
AV: Vivian Jobst
Offering Counters: Carol Albrecht & Pam Hunter

**CHURCH OFFICE REPORTS
RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

Contributions needed/month (General Fund): \$20,928.50
Contributions received in March 2021 \$17,504.57

SUNDAY, April 25, 2021 9:00 am ATTENDANCE

Worship: 49 Drive-up Communion: 4
Communion: 43 Sunday School: kids and adults
Zoom: 12 Voter's Meeting:

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|--|
| Sun. | May 2 | Fifth Sunday of Easter |
| | 9:00 am | Worship w/Holy Communion also via Zoom |
| | 10:00 – 11:00 am | Bible study and Sunday school |
| | 11:15 – 11:45 am | Drive-Up Communion |
| Mon. | May 3 | |
| | 5:30 pm | Elder and Chairman Zoom Meeting |
| Tue. | May 4 | |
| | 8:00 am | Men's Bible Study |
| Wed. | May 5 | |
| | 12:00 pm | Happenings Articles Due |
| | 7:00 pm | Informal Prayer in Sanctuary |
| Thurs. | May 6 | |
| Fri. | May 7 | |
| | 9:30 am | Cleaning Crew |
| Sat. | May 8 | |
| Sun. | May 9 | Sixth Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day) |
| | 9:00 am | Worship W/ Holy Communion also via Zoom |
| | 10:00 | Bible Study and Sunday School |
| | 11:15 am | Drive-Up Communion |



14085 Pike Lake Trail NE, Prior Lake, MN 55372 Phone: (952) 445-1779
Music & Choir Director: Mui Cheng; Praise Music Director: Becca Tutewohl
Office Ministry Assistants: Meg Batchelder and Dorene Oak
Pastor James Jobst: (612) 615-2939