



And the eunuch said, “See, here is water.  
What hinders me from being baptized?”

+ Acts 8:36b (NKJV)

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**May 2, 2021**



*Image: "Saint Philip Baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch" by Aelbert Cuyp (1620-1691), circa 1655, Public Domain*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today we hear Jesus say, “I am the vine, you are the branches.” He invites all to hear His call to come to a place of rest and refuge, saying, “Abide in Me.” So also, in the Epistle, Saint John connects the confession that Jesus is the Son of God with experiencing and coming to trust in the love God has for us—abiding in Jesus means abiding in God’s love even as God Himself abides in us.

This relationship of abiding in Jesus—He who is love incarnate—was experienced by the Ethiopian eunuch when, after hearing Philip declare to him the Good News about Jesus, was baptized into Christ. This is the fulfillment of the image that Jesus gives when He talks of the vine and the branches: Philip, as a branch on the vine of Christ, bears fruit in the baptismal regeneration of the Ethiopian; the eunuch himself becomes another branch and goes on to bear the fruit of our Lord as he lives in the Gospel of Christ.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
+Pastor Griebenaw

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## ✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

### HYMN OF INVOCATION: Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom

LSB 481

1 Scat - ter the dark - ness, break the gloom; Sun, re - veal an  
2 Bear - ing the stan - dard from on high As the Lamb of  
3 Ban - ners of tri - umph, be un - furled! Trum - pets, sound through -  
emp - ty tomb Shin - ing with joy for all our sor - rows,  
God to die; He who for us, so cruel - ly treat - ed,  
out the world! Cry - ing and sighs, give way to sing - ing:  
Hope and peace for all to - mor - rows, Life un - e -  
Lives a - gain— our foes de - feat - ed! Where is your  
Life from death, our Lord is bring - ing! Let there be -  
clipsed by doubt and dread: Christ has ris - en from the dead!  
sting, O death and grave? Christ has shown His strength to save!  
gin the ju - bi - lee— Christ has gained the vic - to - ry!

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*Stand – The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*
- C** Amen.
- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** who made heaven and earth. *Psalms 124:8*
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Psalms 32:5*

*Kneel (or remain standing) — Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

*Mark 16:16; John 1:12*

- C** Amen.

*Stand*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### INTROIT

Psalm 145:1-2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16

*The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.*



*(Antiphon)* A little while, and you will see Me no | longer; \*  
And again a little while, and you will | see Me.

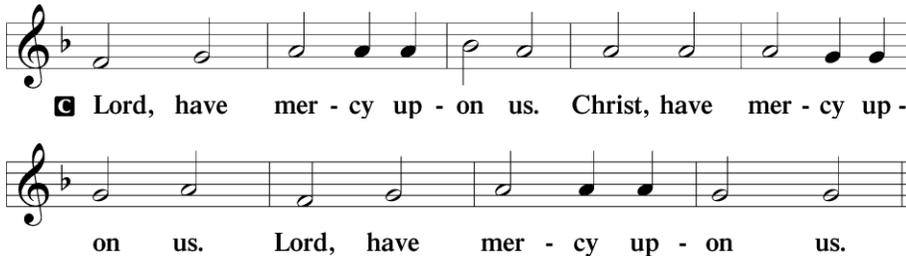
- 1 I will extol You, my | God and King, \*  
and bless Your name forever and | ever.
- 2 **Every day I will | bless You\*  
and praise Your name forever and | ever.**
- 8 The LORD is gracious and | merciful, \*  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.
- 10 **All Your works shall give thanks to You, | O LORD, \*  
and all Your saints shall | bless You!**
- 21 My mouth will speak the praise | of the LORD, \*  
and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and | ever.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning, \*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

*The antiphon is repeated.*

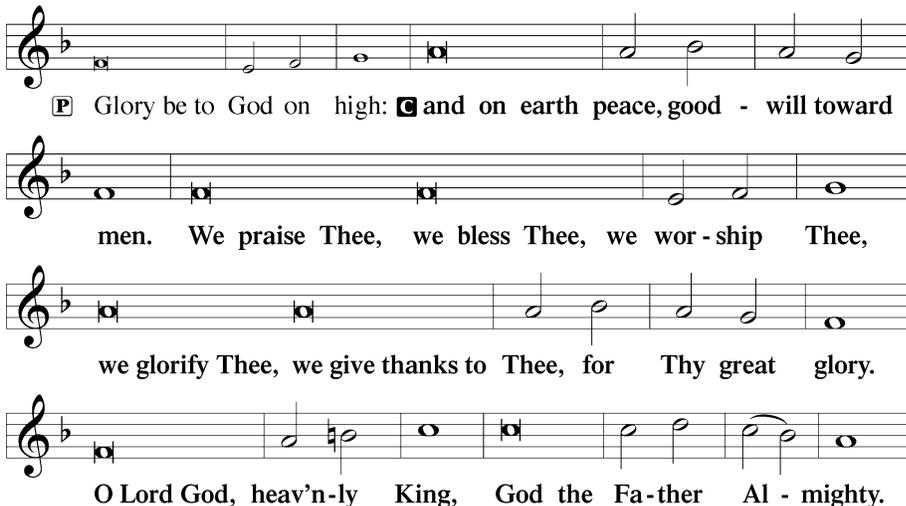
### KYRIE

Mark 10:47



### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** A - men.

*Sit*



## ALLELUIA & VERSE

Romans 6:9; John 14:23



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

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.

*The alleluias are repeated.*

## HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8 (NKJV)

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the fifteenth chapter.



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of 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. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

*Stand*

## NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace**

LSB 580



1 The Gos - pel shows the Fa - ther's grace, Who sent His  
2 It sets the Lamb be - fore our eyes, Who made the a -  
3 It brings the Sav - ior's righ - teous - ness To robe our  
4 It is the pow'r of God to save From sin and



Son to save our race, Pro - claims how Je - sus  
ton - ing sac - ri - fice, And calls the souls with  
souls in roy - al dress; From all our guilt it  
Sa - tan and the grave; It works the faith which



lived and died That we might thus be jus - ti - fied.  
guilt op - pressed To come and find e - ter - nal rest.  
brings re - lease And gives the trou - bled con - science peace.  
firm - ly clings To all the trea - sures which it brings.

5 It bears to all the tidings glad                      6 May we in faith its message learn  
And bids their hearts no more be sad;                      Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;  
The weary, burdened souls it cheers                      May we in faith its truth confess  
And banishes their guilty fears                      And praise the Lord, our righteousness.

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**SERMON**

*Rev. Griebenaw*

*After the sermon, the pastor may say:*

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 4:7*

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12

**C** Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

*Kneel (or remain standing)*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1–4)

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all God's people that as branches of the vine, all sin and dead works would be pruned and cut off from them; and that drawing life from the Son, they would continually produce the fruits of faith and good works, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the Church on earth, that she would be protected from all false teaching and the spirit of the Antichrist, and so always confess Christ come in the flesh and remain faithful to Him, the only true God, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all pastors and congregations, that they be guided in God's Word and ever increase in understanding, faith, and love for Christ, the Lamb of God led to the slaughter in our place and risen from the dead, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For our president and all in authority, that they may serve honorably and in accord with God's good order, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who bear the cross in suffering and affliction of mind, body, or soul, that they would ever look to the Lord and so fix their hearts where true joy is found, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who come to blessed Sacrament this day, that they may worthily eat of Christ's true body and most precious blood, abiding in this love of God, and God in them, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Heavenly Father, You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Hear and answer our prayers for the sake of Him who shed His blood for our redemption, Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

*The live-stream service concludes with the following:*

## LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:  
**C** **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.**

## CONCLUDING COLLECT

- P** Let us pray.  
O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence that because He lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come will be able to separate us from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

*Stand*

## BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.  
**C** **Amen.**

*The Divine Service continues with the Lord's Supper for those at the church. Please sing/read aloud the closing hymn and come by later for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.*

## CLOSING HYMN: Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

LSB 691



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en  
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er  
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern  
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,  
loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,  
and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,  
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.  
Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.  
Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.  
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

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✠ **SOLI DEO GLORIA** ✠  
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)

## SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! . . . He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

And Happy Birthday Leo! Can you believe that he is already FIVE YEARS OLD?! What happened that little boy that came with us to El Centro back in 2016?!

We had a really great time in San Diego for Leo's birthday! And I'm going to give you a virtual "slide show" of some of the highlights of the trip!



First, we have a picture of Leo with a Jaguar car! He is "roaring" like the jaguar on the car's badge. The funny thing is that this is only one of SEVERAL cars that Leo asked to be photographed next to (I have a sneaking suspicion that he might grow up to become a car salesman!).

We also made our way to Sea World for the first time. Leo got to pet some "baby sharks" (not really babies . . . just small, friendly sharks). Leo also picked out a present for Sam from the gift shop—a little stuffed puffin that Sam absolutely adores! Leo is really good at picking gifts for his little brother. Of course, we took the obligatory family picture at the entrance to the park.



We also made our way to the beach and got Leo to step into the water (Sam, not so much). Leo has been to the beach before but he didn't much care for it or the sand or the surf.

But this time, Leo couldn't get enough of the "big waves" and dancing/splashing-about in the water as it enveloped most of our legs (and pants).

I caught a beautiful shot of Holly and Leo standing on the shore and looking out to sea. Maybe he will decide to become a sailor like his dad—the ocean sings a sweet, sweet song.



Lastly, I hope you'll join me this week for our "Zoom" Bible Study on Tuesday at Noon as we study Psalm 40. And then tune-in or come by in-person on Wednesday night at 7:00pm for our short prayer service. Details for how to join the study are on our website, on our Facebook page, and sent by email to our electronic newsletter list.

Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebenaw