

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

*Jesus Christ Is the True Vine Who Bears Much Fruit in Us*

# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California

*May 2, 2021*

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

- **Bathrooms** are located in the fellowship hall. A changing table is located in the women's bathroom.
- A worship monitor is to the right as you exit. We encourage children of all ages to participate in our worship. Please bring them into the service. We have a nursery room with toys, books, and other items that you can use with your child.
- Before you leave, please sign our guest register. Located on the lectern in the entryway.

## CONNECTION CARDS

Take a moment to fill out the Connection Card. If you have a private prayer request, comment, or question, write it on the back side place the completed card in the collection plate or hand it to an usher.

## WORSHIP THEME

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 that we read of 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.

# COMMON SERVICE

## OPENING HYMN

*Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening* | CW 283



1 Speak, O Sav - ior; I am lis - t'ning, As a ser - vant  
2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near you And to lis - ten  
3 Lord, your words are wa - ters liv - ing Where I quench my  
4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; Let your words in



to his lord. Let me show re - spect and hon - or  
to your voice! Let me ev - er love and fear you;  
thirst - y needs. Lord, your words are bread life - giv - ing;  
me take root. May your Spir - it e'er be near me



To your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, That each day, my  
Let your Word still be my choice. Man - y hard - ened  
On your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, your words will  
That I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly



whole life through, I may serve and fol - low  
sin - ners, Lord, Flee in ter - ror at your  
be my light Through death's cold and drear - y  
sing your praise, From my heart glad an - thems



you. Let your Word e'er be my plea - sure  
Word, But to all who feel sin's bur - den  
night; Yes, they are my sword pre - vail - ing  
raise, Till my high - est praise is giv - en



And my heart's most pre - cious trea - sure.  
You give peace and words of par - don.  
And my cup of joy un - fail - ing.  
In the end - less joy of heav - en.

*Please stand*

## INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**LORD, HAVE MERCY – *Kyrie***



**C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy**



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

## ABSOLUTION

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✚ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of



God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;



you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,



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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

O God, you make the minds of your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what you have commanded and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen**

*Be seated*

## THE WORD

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### FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26–40

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning home at a loss after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. This gospel unites him to something even greater than Jerusalem. He is baptized and returns rejoicing.*

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip: “Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is the desert road.<sup>[a]</sup>) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. There was an Ethiopian man, a eunuch and high official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to worship in Jerusalem <sup>28</sup>and was sitting in his chariot on his way home, reading the prophet Isaiah aloud.

<sup>29</sup>The Spirit told Philip, “Go and join that chariot.”

<sup>30</sup>When Philip ran up to it, he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you’re reading?”

<sup>31</sup>“How can I,” he said, “unless someone guides me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>Now the Scripture passage he was reading was this:

**He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,  
and as a lamb is silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.**

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

## Who will describe his generation?

### For his life is taken from the earth.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch said to Philip, “I ask you, who is the prophet saying this about— himself or someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Philip proceeded to tell him the good news about Jesus, beginning with that Scripture.

<sup>36</sup>As they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The eunuch said, “Look, there’s water. What would keep me from being baptized?” <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>38</sup>So he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him any longer but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>Philip appeared in<sup>[a]</sup> Azotus,<sup>[a]</sup> and he was traveling and preaching the gospel in all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## PSALM OF THE DAY

*Psalm 67 / CW p.91*

### *Refrain*



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

### *Psalm tone*



May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face shine upon us;  
may your ways be known on earth,  
your salvation among all nations.  
May the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you rule the people justly  
and guide the nations of the earth.

### ***Refrain***

Then the land will yield its harvest,

and God, our God, will bless us.  
God will bless us,  
and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

### ***Refrain***

As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;  
for he knows how we are formed,  
he remembers that we are dust.

Our days are like grass, like a flower of the field;  
the wind blows over it and it is gone.

But the LORD's love is with those who fear him  
from everlasting to everlasting.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### ***Refrain***

## **SECOND LESSON**

1 John 4:1–21

*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.*

<sup>4</sup> Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

<sup>2</sup> This is how you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> but every spirit that does not confess Jesus<sup>a</sup> is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming; even now it is already in the world.

<sup>4</sup> You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are from the world. Therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are from God. Anyone who knows God listens to us; anyone who is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of deception.

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> God’s love was revealed among us<sup>in</sup> in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice<sup>in</sup> for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in<sup>in</sup> us and his love is made complete in us. <sup>13</sup> This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and we testify that the Father has sent his Son as the world’s Savior. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God—God remains in him and he in God. <sup>16</sup> And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. <sup>17</sup> In this, love is made complete with us so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment, because as he is, so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; instead, perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment.<sup>in</sup> So the one who fears is not complete in love. <sup>19</sup> We love<sup>in</sup> because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If anyone says, “I love God,” and yet hates his brother or sister, he is a liar. For the person who does not love his brother or sister whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.<sup>in</sup> <sup>21</sup> And we have this command from him: The one who loves God must also love his brother and sister.

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

John 14:6

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia.**



**C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!**

*Stand*

**THE GOSPEL**

John 15:1–8

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love would bear fruit, for apart from him, they could do nothing.*



**C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!**

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be<sup>[a]</sup> my disciples.

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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

## NICENE CREED

*Stand*

**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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

*Be seated*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Chief of Sinners Though I Be* | CW 385



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his  
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Com - fort to a  
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
5 Strength - en me, O gra - cious Lord, By your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
wound - ed heart: Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
all to me. All my wants to him are known;  
and your word. When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty, Love that found me—  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
All my sor - rows are his own. Safe with him in  
Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am his and he is mine!  
won - drous thought!— Found me when I sought him not.  
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.  
earth - ly strife, I a - wait the heav'n - ly life.  
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

## SERMON

John 15:1-8



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 your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

*Be seated*

## OFFERING

*The offerings of the members of Christ Lutheran are gathered at this time. Guests need not feel obligated to give an offering.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Stand*

M: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

**C: Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

**C: Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.**

M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

**C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.**

M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

**C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.**

M: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

*Special prayers and intercessions.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

**C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **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 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 SACRAMENT

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### PREFACE

M The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

M Lift up your hearts.

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

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is good and right so to do.**

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, *and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life.*

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** *Sanctus – sanctus means “holy.” Used as early as the second century, this canticle was in wide use among Christians by the fourteenth century.*



**C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:**



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION** - *The Words of institution both proclaim the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's Supper.*

**M** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ☩ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD – *Agnus Dei*



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - - men.

*Be seated*

## DISTRIBUTION

*Participation in the Sacrament is an expression of a common faith. Our guests today who are not members of a congregation in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (or a church in fellowship with the WELS) are invited to speak with the pastor to learn how you might receive the sacrament with us in the future.*

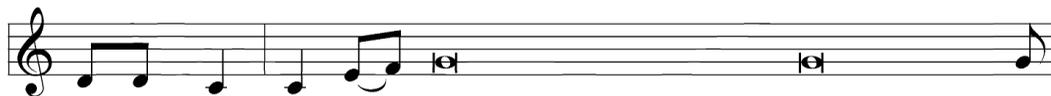
## THANKSGIVING

*Stand*

## SONG OF SIMEON – *Nunc Dimittis*



**C:** Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing



to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-



pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

**M:** O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C:** And his mercy endures forever.

**M:** We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

### THE BLESSING

**M** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



**C:** A - men. A - men. A - men.

*Be seated*

# CLOSING HYMN

*From Greenland's Icy Mountains* | CW 571



1 From Green-land's i - cy moun - tains, From In - dia's  
 2 What though the fra - grant breez - es Blow soft o'er  
 3 Can we whose souls are light - ed With wis - dom



cor - al strand, Where Af - ri - ca's bright foun - tains  
 dis - tant isles, Though ev - 'ry vis - ta pleas - es,  
 from on high, Can we to those be - night - ed



Roll down their gold - en sand, From man - y an an - cient  
 Yet sin the land de - files. In vain with lav - ish  
 The lamp of life de - ny? Sal - va - tion! Oh, sal -



riv - er, From man - y a palm - y plain, They call us  
 kind - ness The gifts of God are strown; The hea - then  
 va - tion! The joy - ful sound pro - claim Till each re -



to de - liv - er Their land from er - ror's chain.  
 in their blind - ness Bow down to wood and stone.  
 mot - est na - tion Has learned Mes - si - ah's name.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, abr., alt.  
 Tune: MISSIONARY HYMN (76 76 D) Lowell Mason, 1792–1872.

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